

# 1. Outline of Research Activities in 2003



This institute engages in original, advanced R & D activities. According to the mid-term plan, our research activities include 5 project studies (low-dose radiation effects research project, space radiation biological effects and protection project, clinical trials for heavy ion therapy, research on advanced imaging technologies supporting frontline medical care, studies on radiation emergency medicine), one frontier-type research project (radiation genomics (RadGenomics) project), one brain-functional study, and 20 basic studies.

In this financial year, almost all NIRS researchers performed their research activities very smoothly, because they have become familiar with new systems that were introduced when NIRS became an independent administrative institution in 2001. Although some problems interfered with research, such as budget shortages, we have overcome these difficulties.

The results for our research groups in 2003 fiscal year are shown in this text by research leaders. Judging from the number and quality of presentations at scientific meetings, and in research papers and reports, it can be concluded that our research was active, and that much progress was achieved this year. We hope you will recognize that our institute pursues high-level research activities after reading this annual report.

A total of 237 original papers have now been published by NIRS staff members, for an average of 1.2 papers per researcher.

This institute conducts comprehensive research and development, and returns the results obtained to society through collaboration and personnel exchanges with domestic and overseas research institutions, universities, and industries. For example, NIRS contributes to the international health physics community by sending experts to the meetings of UNSCEAR, ICRP or IAEA, and other organizations. We also organize many training courses on radiation protections and applications for researchers, engineers, medical workers, and disaster prevention personnel. We make efforts to update the curriculums into which new research results are incorporated, by employing feedback from our researchers.

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