

U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka

# Naval Branch Health Clinic Sasebo Japanese Fellowship Program



## Site Director's Welcome



**Capt. Carol Ellsworth**

**NMRTU Sasebo**

**Officer in Charge**

Thank you for your interest in working with us at Branch Health Clinic Sasebo. Our scope of care is to provide primary and comprehensive outpatient care to our active duty military members and their families, as well as to military contractors and civilians. We provide direct support to forward-deployed naval forces and to active-duty sailors assigned to Commander, Fleet Activities Sasebo. Our mission is to provide quality medical care to our beneficiaries and keep our operational forces medically ready.

We look forward to welcoming you to our great team!



**Lt. Cmdr. Kaiser Sultani**

**NMRTU Sasebo**

**Fellowship Program Site Director**

Thank you for your interest in our Branch Health Clinic Sasebo! NMRTU Sasebo provides exemplary medical care to a full spectrum of patients, including children, adults, expecting mothers, and the elderly. In addition to improving medical English, our goal is to familiarize our Fellows with military medicine and U.S. medicine. We want to provide a valuable experience and ensure you experience the wide variety of medical specialties that our enterprise has to offer.

I've had the unique opportunity of practicing my profession in seven different countries and firmly believe that good health care is a universal language and has no boundaries. I am passionate about paving the way forward. As an optometric physician and medical officer at NMRTU Sasebo, I hope to facilitate a rewarding fellowship for you. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help make the experience better.



**Dr. Katsushi Suenaga**

**NMRTU Sasebo**

**2024-2025 Fellowship Program**

## **NMRTU Sasebo Fellow**

Fellows can play an integral role at NMRTU Sasebo. The Fellowship program can forge a vital partnership between Japanese and American health care professionals. The primary mission of the Fellowship is to educate Fellows about Western medicine, evidence-based practice, and patient-centered care. A secondary mission is for Fellows to act as liaisons and translators with Japanese hospitals during the transfer of acutely ill American patients. The liaison role bridges gaps in cultures and standards of care, and is immensely rewarding to the Fellows and meaningful to the American patients. The NMRTU Sasebo staff speak English during patient care. Most of the staff will be stationed in Japan for two to three years. NMRTU Sasebo medical providers are rarely proficient enough in Japanese to communicate patient information to them effectively. Fellows are constantly challenged to speak English, as well as understand cultural differences between the Japanese and NMRTU Sasebo patients. Service members and military families come from all over the world – not just America – providing significant racial, language, religious, and cultural diversity that you may not be accustomed to when practicing medicine in Japan. NMRTU Sasebo staff are always available and happy to assist with questions about a particular problem regarding English (conversational, medical, or military). We are confident that every Japanese Fellow will see an improvement in English proficiency by the end of their time here.

## **Call Schedule and Expectations**

The Fellow will be on call for urgent or emergent patient transfers every other weekday and every other weekend. The Fellow is expected to carry the phone at all times during the 24-hour duty. Most daytime (Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.) transfers from the clinic, if not emergent, will be handled by the medical translators. A transfer requires a Fellow to attend the patient, discuss the case with the attending doctor, a patient evaluation (history and physical), notify the anticipated accepting facility to secure a Japanese accepting physician, and accompany the patient to the hospital. The majority of emergent patients are sent to Sasebo City General (SOGO) Hospital, which is approximately a four-minute ride away. This on-call duty will take precedence over any other tasks. If called, the Fellow is expected to locate the patient and facilitate the transport as quickly as possible.

## **Rotations**

Although Fellows are not credentialed to independently care for patients at NMRTU Sasebo, they actively participate in patient care with an attending doctor throughout each rotation. Fellows are offered many opportunities to practice history taking, physical exams, presentations, scribing, and participate in procedures alongside the attending doctor in accordance with the United States laws and regulations. Fellows will do most rotations at NMRTU Sasebo, but can expect to rotate through other military facilities, NMRTU Iwakuni and NMRTC Yokosuka. The Academic Coordinator will take the Fellow's preferences into deep consideration when setting up the Fellow's rotation schedule. Available rotations are listed below:

Family Medicine	Audiology
Internal Medicine	Urology
Inpatient Care	Orthopedics
Obstetrics	Podiatry
Pediatrics	Active Duty Medicine
General Surgery	Optometry

Emergency Medicine/Trauma  
Anesthesia  
Radiology  
Pathology

Physical Therapy  
Behavioral Health (Psychology)  
Neurology

### **Medical Home Port**

Medical Home Port is an interdisciplinary health care team that works in partnership to provide comprehensive and coordinated care. Many of the rotations are in this department and is where Fellows spend a significant amount of time. Each workday, Fellows will be assigned a provider; patients start being seen at 7:40 a.m. There is a MHP morning huddle on Mondays and Fridays at 7 a.m., where everyone in primary care gathers and to discuss updates, plans, and other relevant clinic information. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, the corpsmen meet with providers at 7:05 a.m. to review the schedule. Lunch is generally from noon to 12:40 p.m. Afternoon clinic is generally 12:40-4 p.m. Extended hours clinic is Monday-Friday, 4-8 p.m. Weekend clinic is Saturday-Sunday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Providers may have the Fellow see each patient with them or every other patient, depending on provider efficiency and patient desire. This is a teaching facility, and patients understand that students will sometimes interact with the patients. However, most providers will ask the patient for permission for the Japanese Fellow to see them with the provider present.

### **Teaching Conferences and Educational Forums**

- Didactics  
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, noon-1 p.m.  
Lectures, conferences, medical group discussions, or trainings led by Fellows or clinic providers.
- Annual Sasebo Joint Medical Conference  
A great opportunity to formally present a case in English to medical staff from NMRTU Sasebo, local Sasebo hospitals, and the Japan Self-Defense Forces.
- Monthly medical exchange with SOGO Hospital Residents  
Knowledge and linguistic medical exchange with local medical residents. Focused on familiarizing Japanese residents to military medicine.
- Life Support Certifications  
Basic Life Support (BLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) are available to interested Fellows.
- Quarterly Code Blue Drill