

U.S. Naval Hospital Yokosuka

Branch Health Clinic Sasebo

Japanese Fellowship Program



Site Director's Welcome



CDR Richard Bly
BHC 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 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!



CDR Kermit Salivia, MD
BHC Sasebo
Fellowship Program Site Director

Thank you for your interest in our Branch Health Clinic Sasebo! BHC Sasebo provides exemplary medical care to a full spectrum of patients which includes active duty military, children, adults, expecting mothers, and the elderly. In addition to improving medical English, our goal is to familiarize our Fellows with military medicine and the U.S. medical system through a wide range of clinical experiences including shadowing visiting specialists from USNH Yokosuka, working with clinic providers, and actively engaged in emergency patient care with our host nation medical partners. The fellowship program is very important to me. I was previously stationed on board the USS DENVER (LPD-9) as the ship's Senior Medical Officer (SMO) from 2010 to 2012 here in Sasebo. Our fellows serve as the voice of the physicians from the ships and the clinic speaking on behalf of their patients. rewarding fellowship for you. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help make the experience better.



Ali Oyama, MD

BHC Sasebo

2026-2027 Fellowship Program



Natsuki Fukuda, MD

BHC Sasebo

2026-2027 Fellowship Program

BHC Sasebo Fellow

Fellows can play an integral role at BHC Sasebo. The Fellowship program can forge a vital partnership between Japanese and American healthcare professionals. The primary mission of the Fellowship is to educate Fellows regarding Western medicine, evidence-based practice, and patient-centered care. A secondary mission is for Fellows to act as a liaison and translator with Japanese hospitals during the transfer of acutely ill American patients. The liaison role bridges gaps in cultures and standards of care, and it is immensely rewarding to the Fellows and meaningful to the American patients. The BHC Sasebo staff speak English during patient care. Most of the staff will be stationed in Japan for two to three years. Rarely are the BHC Sasebo physicians proficient enough to communicate patient information in Japanese. Fellows are constantly challenged to speak English as well as understand cultural differences between the Japanese and BHC Sasebo patients. Military family and Service members 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. BHC 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.

Expectations

Most daytime (0730-1600, Mon-Fri) 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 4 minute ride away. This will take precedence over any other tasks. If called, the Fellow is expected to and facilitate the transport as quickly as possible.

Rotations

Although Fellows are not credentialed to independently care for patients at BHC 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 laws and regulations of the United States. Fellows will do most rotations at BHC Sasebo, but can expect to rotate though other military facilities, BHC Iwakuni and USNH Yokosuka, too. The Academic Coordinator will take the Fellow's preferences into deep consideration when setting up the Fellow's rotation schedule. Available rotations listed below:

Family Medicine	Audiology
Internal Medicine	Urology
Inpatient Care	Orthopedics
Obstetrics	Podiatry
Pediatrics	Active Duty Medicine
General Surgery	Optometry
Emergency Medicine/Trauma	Physical Therapy
Anesthesia	Behavioral Health (Psychology)
Radiology	Neurology
Pathology	

Medical Home Port

Medical Home Port (MHP) 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 this is where Fellows spend a significant amount of time. Each workday, Fellows will be assigned a provider and patients start being seen at 0740. There is a MHP morning huddle at 0700 on Mondays and Fridays where everyone in primary care gathers and discusses updates, plans, and other relevant clinic information. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the corpsmen meet with the providers at 0705 to review the schedule. Lunch generally is 1200–1240. Afternoon clinic is generally 1240-1600. 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 sometimes students will interact with the patients. However, most providers will ask the patient for permission for the Japanese Fellow to see them with the provider.

Teaching Conferences and Educational Forums

- Didactics
Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 1200-1300.
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 Japan's Self Defense Force.
- 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) Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) and Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) are available to interested Fellows.
- Quarterly Code Blue Drill



“TOP DOC competition”





“Sasebo City Disaster Drill”



“English Class”



