

Hitoshi Oshitani MD, MPH, PhD

Prof. Oshitani is a professor of Department of Virology, Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine in Sendai, Japan. Before joining Tohoku University, he was a regional advisor of the World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) in Manila, the Philippines from 1999 to 2005. During his tenure in WHO/WPRO, he was responsible for communicable disease surveillance and response program. He led a WHO regional response team for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and avian influenza H5N1 since 2004. He has also worked as a technical expert for Japan International Cooperation (JICA) in Zambia from 1991-1994. His main research interest is epidemiology and control of viral infections, particularly influenza. He has been actively involved in field researches on infectious diseases not only in Japan but also in other Asian countries such as the Philippines and Mongolia. He has established a research center on emerging and reemerging diseases at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) in the Philippines