

Japan's contribution to nuclear medical research

Mahbubur RAHMAN,* Junichi SAKAMOTO* and Tsuguya FUKUI**

**Department of Epidemiological and Clinical Research Information Management,
Kyoto University Graduate School of Public Health*

***Department of General Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology,
Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine*

We investigated the degree of Japan's contribution to the nuclear medical research in the last decade. Articles published in 1991–2000 in highly reputed nuclear medical journals were accessed through the MEDLINE database. The number of articles having affiliation with a Japanese institution was counted along with publication year. In addition, shares of top-ranking countries were determined along with their trends over time.

Of the total number of articles (7,788), Japan's share of articles in selected nuclear medical journals was 11.4% (889 articles) and ranked 2nd in the world after the USA (2,645 articles). The recent increase in the share was statistically significant for Japan ($p = 0.02$, test for trend). Japan's share in nuclear medical research output is much higher than that in other biomedical fields.

Key words: MEDLINE, nuclear medicine, share of articles, research productivity