Prof. Yoshiharu Yonekura, MD, PhD

Prof. Yoshiharu Yonekura is a member of the Science Council of Japan, President of the National Institute of Radiological Sciences (NIRS), and Professor Emeritus, University of Fukui.

Prof. Yonekura received his MD in 1973 and PhD in Medical Sciences in 1980, both from Kyoto University. After he was trained in Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, he was engaged in scientific and clinical activities in the field of Nuclear Medicine and positron emission tomography (PET). After graduated from Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine in 1980, he spent two years at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in US, where he had a chance to make the first report of PET imaging of cancer patients with F-18 fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG). He also spent additional six months at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in US, and returned to Kyoto University in 1983 to start a new PET project, mainly focusing on the clinical application of PET imaging.

In 1995 he moved to Fukui as Professor of Biomedical Imaging Research Center at University of Fukui, and conducted various research projects related to brain science and tumor diagnosis. His major scientific achievements during this period include functional neuroimaging and molecular imaging with PET and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), particularly focusing on the development of new functional imaging methods to quantitate biomedical parameters noninvasively.

He contributed to more than 380 peer reviewed articles, and received Kuhl-Lassen lecture award from the Society of Nuclear Medicine in 2001.

After he moved to the current position at NIRS in 2006, he has been committed to the national and international activities of radiation protection. He has been a member of ICRP Committee 3 since 2005, and served as a chair of the task group on radiation protection in ion beam radiotherapy (TG87). Since 2007, he has served to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) as Representative of Japan.