

Hitoshi Oshitani, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D., holds the position of professor of the Department of Global Health and Infectious Diseases at Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine. From 1999 to 2005, prior to his tenure at Tohoku University, he served as a regional advisor at the World Health Organization (WHO) Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) in Manila, the Philippines. His responsibilities included supervising efforts related to emerging diseases, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and avian and pandemic influenza. Additionally, he provided his technical expertise to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Zambia from 1991 to 1994.

Dr. Oshitani's primary research interests lie in the epidemiology and control of viral infections, with a particular focus on respiratory viruses like COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial viruses. His research group undertakes collaborative projects in Japan, the Philippines, Zambia, and Peru.

From 2020 to 2023, Dr. Oshitani was a key member of the COVID-19 advisory board for the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Japanese Government Subcommittee on Novel Coronavirus Disease Control.