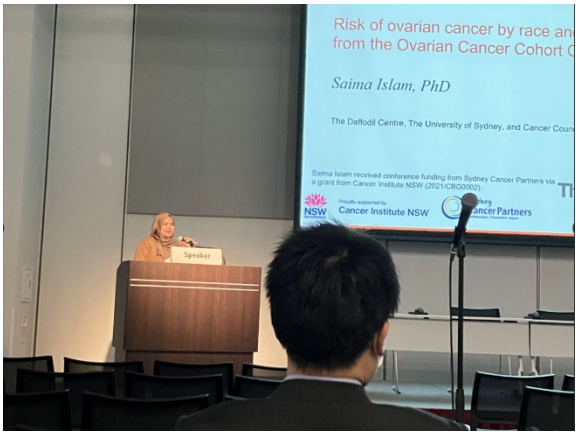
Name: Dr. Saima Islam

Position & Affiliation: Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, The Daffodil Centre, The University of Sydney, and Cancer Council NSW

Full Reference: Islam S, Townsend MK, Trabert B, Tworoger SS and Merritt MA on behalf of the Ovarian Cancer Cohort Consortium. *Risk of ovarian cancer by race and ethnicity: Results from the Ovarian Cancer Cohort Consortium.*

Conference Name: The 36th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japan Epidemiological Association & The 3rd Joint Scientific Meeting with the IEA Western Pacific Region
Location: Nagasaki, Japan
Dates: 28-30 January 2026
Presentation Type: Oral presentation



Dr Saima Islam presenting her research at the conference.

The 36th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japan Epidemiological Association (JEA) and the 3rd Joint Meeting with the International Epidemiological Association Western Pacific Region convened in Nagasaki, gathering over 1,000 experts across epidemiology and public health. Featuring plenary lectures, symposia, and networking events, the conference focused on “Epidemiology and Global Issues: Addressing Diversity, Complexity, and Inclusion,” exploring responses to infectious diseases, climate change, health inequities, methodological advances, and interdisciplinary research. The keynote speaker of the conference Dr. Satoshi Kaneko from Nagasaki University, was among the notable speakers, emphasised that modern health challenges are shaped by complex, interconnected global forces such as pandemics, climate change, conflict, and misinformation, requiring epidemiology to evolve beyond traditional linear models. He highlighted that diversity and inclusion are not optional values but essential scientific foundations for producing equitable, trustworthy, and future-ready epidemiological evidence in an increasingly disrupted world.

Attending this conference enhanced both my scientific knowledge and collaborative connections. Key scientific insights included the growing significance of life-course epidemiology and the need for harmonising exposure and outcome variables across international studies to improve comparability and statistical power. One highlight was participating in the Asia Cohort Consortium team general meeting in person for the first time, which gave me a great chance to discuss my current project directly with cohort investigators and explore including new cohorts in the study. Meeting members face-to-face encouraged deeper scientific discussions and helped spark new collaborations to broaden the project's scope.

The outcomes of the conference are highly relevant to Sydney Cancer Partners members, emphasising the value of multi-cohort collaboration, harmonised data analysis, and a life-course approach to epidemiology. These advances enable more robust and generalisable research findings, which are critical for translational cancer research. Improved causal inference and methodological rigour provide a stronger foundation for developing better screening, prevention, and early detection strategies, ultimately supporting risk-based and personalised patient care. By reducing disparities in cancer outcomes and strengthening evidence-based policy, these insights enhance

clinical decision-making and help ensure that patient care across the network is continually improved and informed by the latest research.

As a cancer researcher, attending this conference was a valuable and eye-opening experience. It inspired new ideas for future research and provided important perspective on how my work fits within the evolving international cancer research landscape. Engaging with leading epidemiologists and consortium members broadened my understanding of methodological innovation and collaborative opportunities in cancer research. I am sincerely grateful to **Sydney Cancer Partners** for sponsoring my attendance and supporting my professional development through this opportunity.