



*All Activities for Cancer Patients*

# **The impact of cancer on adolescent and young adult survivors' work-related issues**

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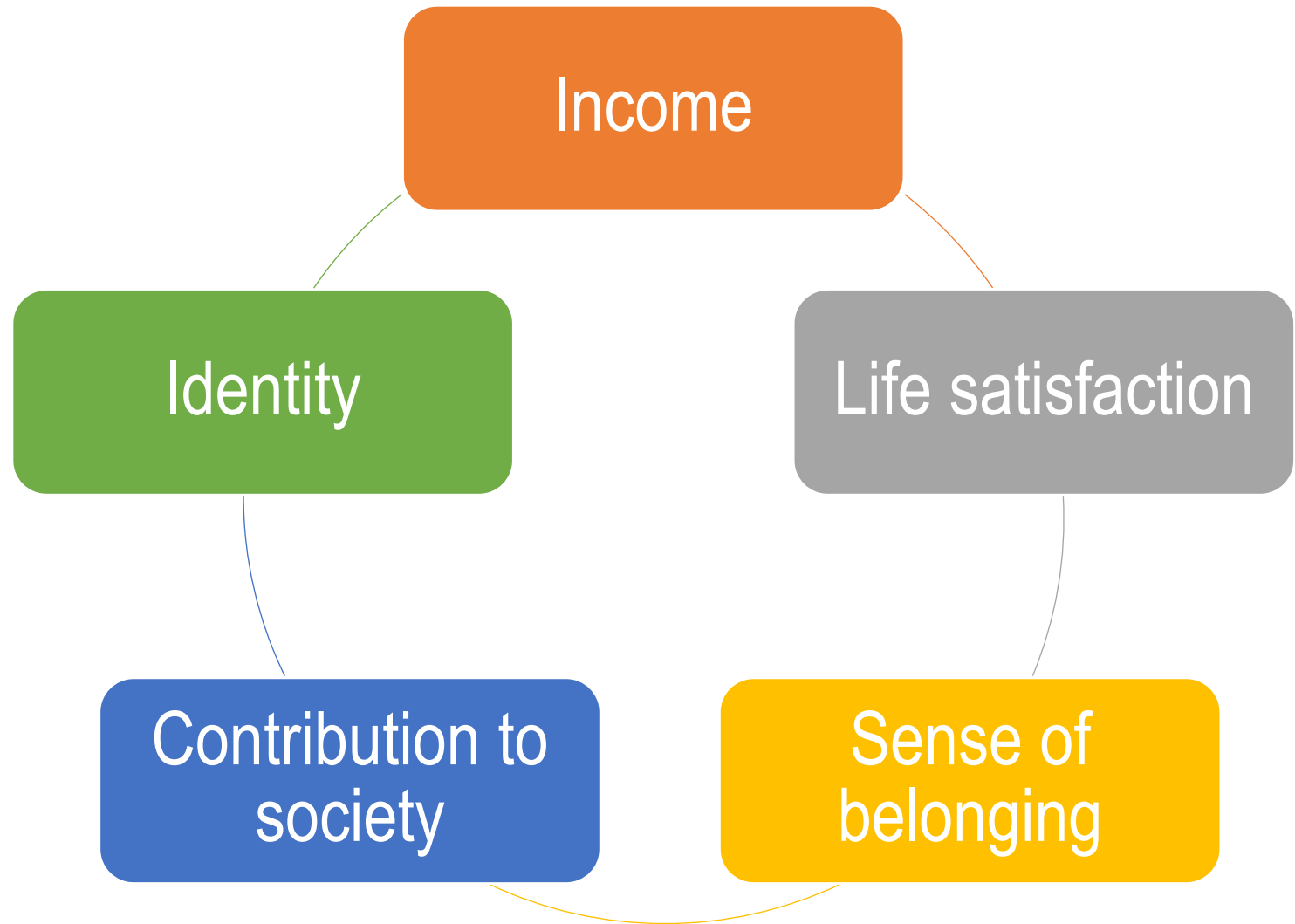
# Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Miyako Takahashi, MD, PhD

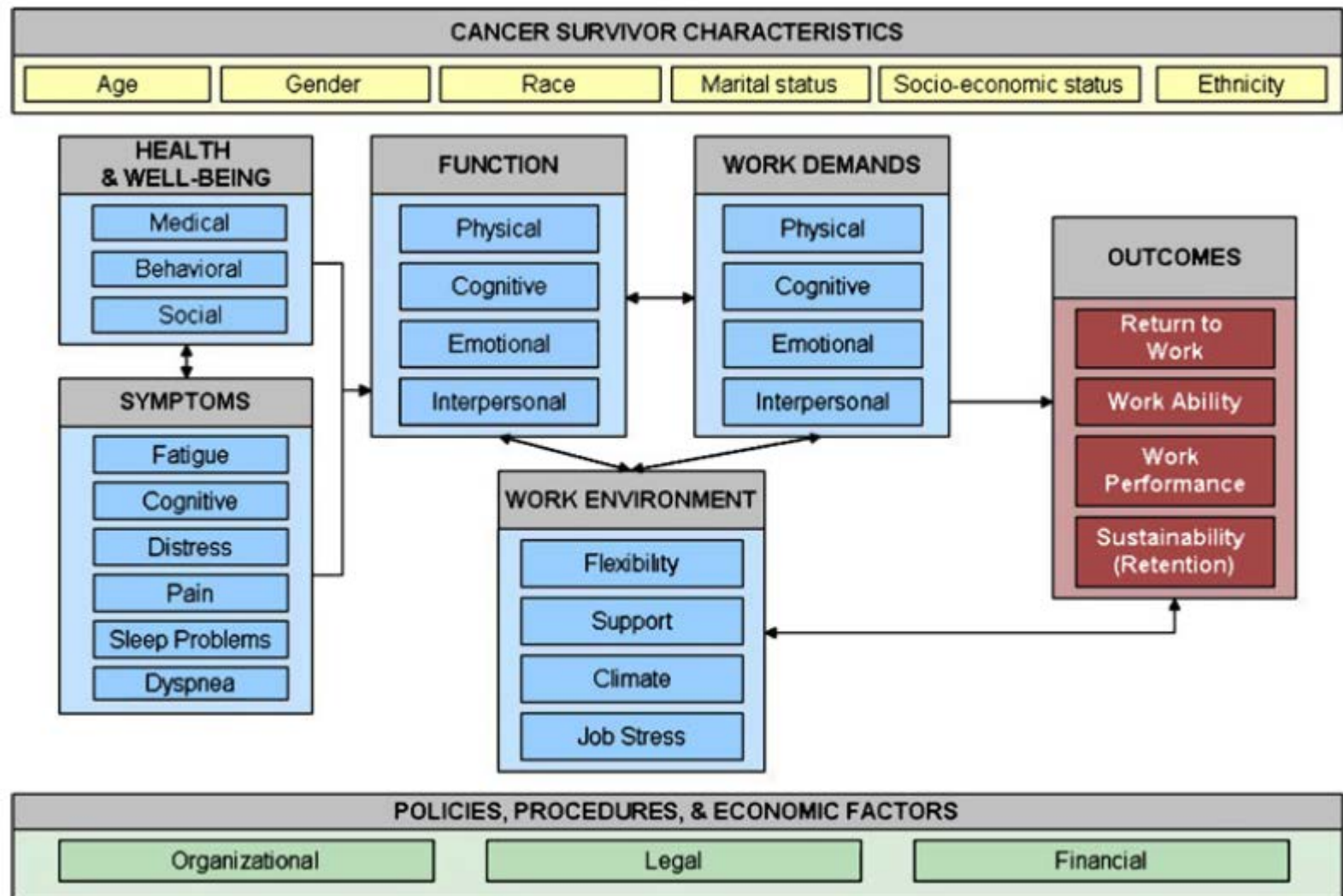


Has no real or apparent  
conflicts of interest to report.

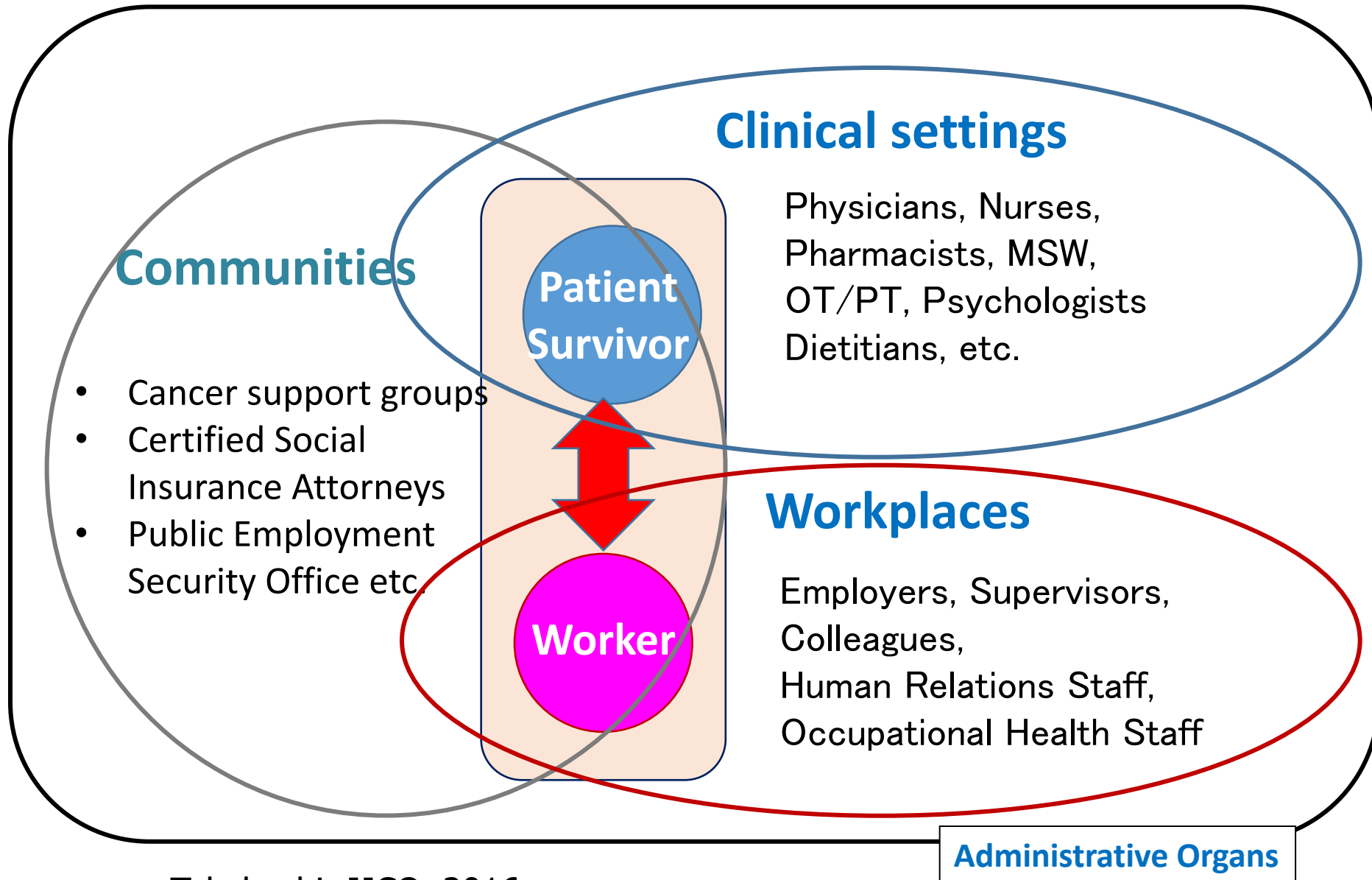




# Conceptual Model of Cancer and Work



# Fields and Players that Surround Working Survivors



# Cancer Survivors and Work in Japan (all generations)

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- ~1 million people newly diagnosed with cancer each year in Japan
- 1 in 3 people are of normal working age (15–64 years old)
- 20%–40% of working survivors resign from work because of their diagnosis (Yamagiuchi, 2013; Saito, 2014; Takahashi, 2017)
- 40% leave their jobs even before they begin treatment (Takahashi,2017)
- 24% has been asked about work-related issues by healthcare providers (Takahashi,2017)
- Return to work rate differs according to cancer site (Endo,2015)
- Supervisors who have not worked with cancer survivors are pessimistic about providing supportive environment to return to work (Eguchi, 2017)

# Push for Working Survivor-related Policies in Japan

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## For employers

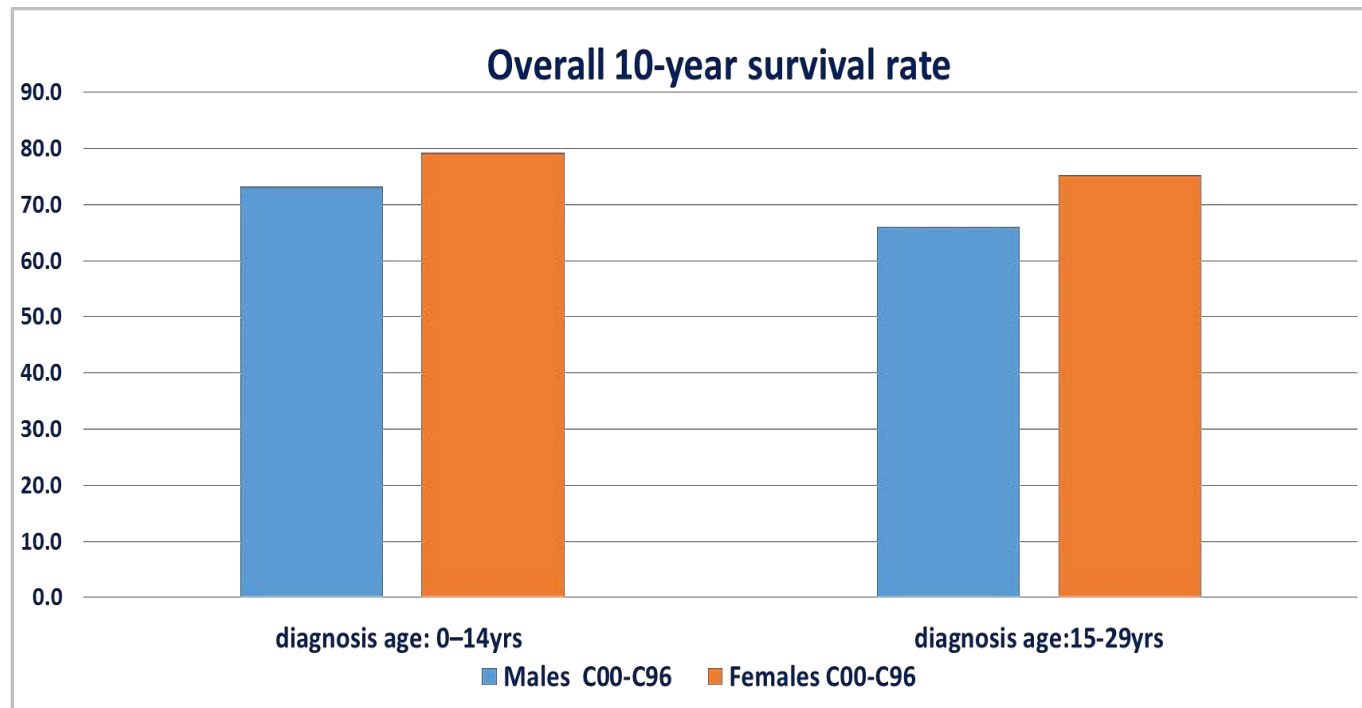
- 2012: In the Basic Plan to Promote Cancer Control Programs (2nd phase) “support for working survivors” was newly incorporated as an issue requiring particular attention
- 2016: Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare issued guidelines for business owners and HR personnel to promote support for cancer survivors in the workplace
- 2016: Revised Cancer Control Act requested that business owners make efforts to maintain employment of people with cancer

## Activities in hospital settings

- 2013: Collaboration began with licensed social insurance attorneys and career consultants
- 2016: Collaboration began with public employment security office personnel

# Childhood and AYA Cancer Survivors in Japan

- Cancer incidence in AYA generation (15–39 years old) in Japan: 21,400 per year
- **Overall 10-year survival rate**
  - Childhood cancer (0–14 years old): **over 70%**
  - AYA cancer (15–29 years old): **~70%**
- **80% of childhood cancer survivors are working (Ishida, 2014)**





# AYA Cancer Survivors and Work

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## First-time job seeking

- Poor readiness to work
- Short interval from treatment and job seeking

## Returning to work and career development

- Early phase of career development

- Financial toxicities as well as financial dependence
  - Delayed progress of academic and professional career development
- Reduced self esteem, self confidence, and sense of independence

# Study 1: Systematic Review of Childhood and AYA Cancer Survivors and Work

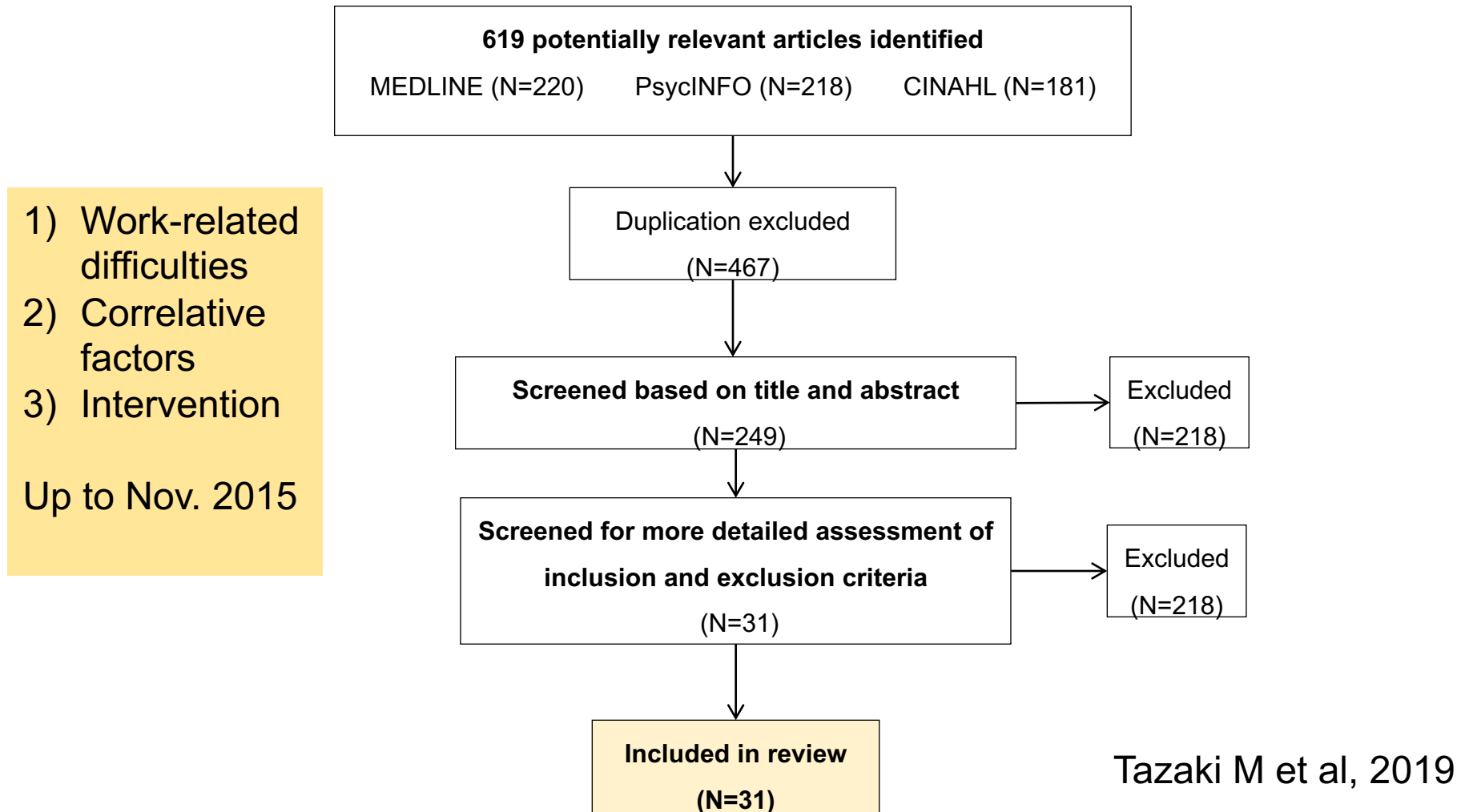


Figure: Flowchart of study selection process

# Study 1: Systematic Review of Childhood and AYA Cancer Survivors and Work

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- Out of 31 studies, only 4 focused on AYA
- 20 from North America, 8 from Europe, 3 from Asia
- Difficulties common with adults
  - Lower % of working survivors
  - Increased days of absence
  - Lower income
  - Lower work performance
- Difficulties specific to childhood and AYA identified
  - Higher % of survivors who have never worked
  - Lower % of survivors with professional work
  - Age of starting work was delayed

# Study 2: Job seeking

## (Qualitative Interviews: Takata Y et al, 2018)

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- Aimed to reveal illness-related difficulties during job-seeking by childhood and AYA cancer survivors and their work-related unmet needs
- Semi-structured interviews with 9 survivors (male: 3, female: 6)
- Median age at interview: 29 years old (range: 23–29)
- People diagnosed with cancer at 0–22 years old
- Adults ( $\geq 20$  years old) at time of study
- Those who sought regular employment

### ◆ Difficulties related to cancer

- ✓ Dilemma of cancer disclosure
- ✓ Insensitive reactions
- ✓ Insufficient information and support for applicants with chronic illnesses
- ✓ Physical problems

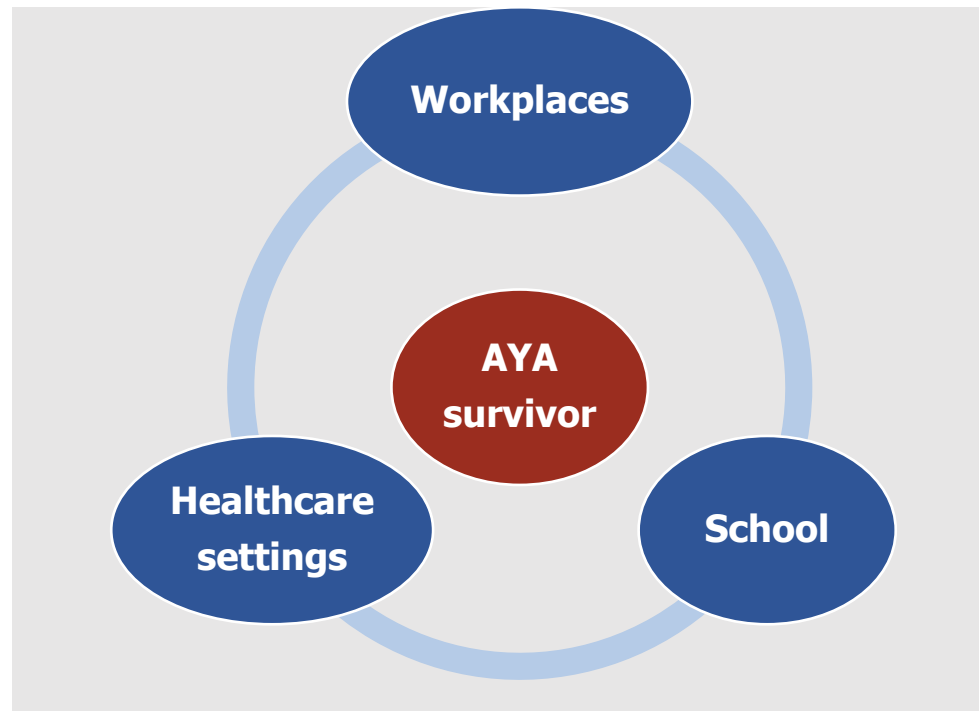
### ◆ Work-related unmet needs

- ✓ Improved employer understanding of CAYA cancer
- ✓ Opportunities to know other survivors' job-seeking and work experiences
- ✓ Places where survivors can interact
- ✓ Information on employers' views on cancer survivors
- ✓ Improved recruitment systems

# Implications for Research and Practice

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- Focus on AYA age group
- Both first-time job seeking and RTW
- More research worldwide
- Sample representatives and credibility issues
- Mixed methods and “mixed team” !



# Peer Support Activities for AYA Cancer Survivors in Japan

# STAND UP!!

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## 協賛企業

■大原薬品工業株式会社様



■ゴールドリボンネットワーク様



認定NPO法人  
ゴールドリボン・ネットワーク

■樋口宗孝がん研究基金様



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## お知らせ

[フリーペーパー9号発行と8号PDF掲載について](#)

# Peer Support Activities for AYA Cancer Survivors in Japan



The image is a screenshot of the GanNote website. At the top, the logo "がんノート" (GanNote) is displayed on the left, and navigation links "インタビューを探す" (Find an interview), "がんノートについて" (About GanNote), "開催予定・会場" (Upcoming events/Venues), and "ご支援について" (About support) are on the right. Below the header is a collage of ten photos of cancer survivors. A central white box with a colorful dotted border contains the text "がん経験者の情報を 今、闘病中のあなたへ。" (Information for cancer survivors, for you who are currently fighting cancer). Below the collage, the text "がんノートは、 がん経験者によるがん経験者のためのインタビュー情報サイトです。" (GanNote is an interview information site for cancer survivors, by cancer survivors) is displayed.

がんノート

インタビューを探す • がんノートについて 開催予定・会場 ご支援について

がん経験者の情報を  
今、闘病中のあなたへ。

がんノートは、  
がん経験者によるがん経験者のためのインタビュー情報サイトです。

**Gan Note** – an interview program for survivors and by survivors



# Peer Support Activities for AYA Cancer Survivors in Japan



**Gan Note** – an interview web program for survivors and by survivors



# Peer Support Activities for AYA Cancer Survivors in Japan



**Gan Note** – an interview web program for survivors and by survivors

# Website for AYA Cancer Survivors

AYA世代のがんとくらしサポート

HOME



このサイトについて



心とからだ



生活



家族・恋人



体験談



アンケート



お問い合わせ

<https://plaza.umin.ac.jp/~aya-support/>

## AYA世代って？

思春期から30代までの年代を、「AYA世代」と呼ぶことがあります。英語のAdolescent and Young Adultの頭文字をとった呼び方です。このサイトは、AYA世代にがんと診断された方に向けた、くらしのサポートサイトです。

このサイトでは、病気や治療そのものというより、それらがAYA世代がん経験者の心、からだ、くらしに与える影響や、対応するときのヒント、人生との向き合い方のアドバイス、そして同様の経験をした「先輩」の体験談を紹介しています。

このサイトが、あなたのくらしとこれからの人生に、少しでもお役に立てば幸いです。



本サイトは、利用者のみなさまのご意見を活かして改善していきます。  
利用者アンケートにご協力をお願いいたします。



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