We Nurture Highly Ambitious Medical Individuals Who Contribute to Regional and Global Medicine

Asahikawa Medical University was founded at the behest of the national government in November 1973 as the first national medical university to be established to improve regional medical services and welfare, and reduce urban/rural medical-care differences.

Since it was founded, Asahikawa Medical University has produced 4,130 graduates from the Medical Course and 1,255 graduates from the Nursing Course, many of whom are employed at the vanguard of community medicine, research institutes, and administrative bodies.

To nurture individuals who can contribute to medical care in Hokkaido, we set aside approximately half the quota for the Medical Course for the selective medical school admission policy, which is open to prospective students from Hokkaido. As a result, 60% of newly registered students are from this prefecture. The graduates of our university play a crucial role in accomplishing the mission of Asahikawa Medical University Hospital. This April, 42 more graduates from the Medical Course joined our hospital as doctors and 37 more graduates from the Nursing Course joined as nurses.

In recent years, the conception of medical care, especially in regional medicine, has been changing. We can no longer make a clear local-global distinction and must be strategic in providing medical care to both local communities and people around the world. We have been advancing the training of medical specialists who not only meet local needs, but can serve the needs of people worldwide.

Medical education in Japan, like other educational branches, is becoming globalized and must meet the standards of international educational accreditation, so we designed a new curriculum starting from the 2015 academic year.

We have introduced a new type of entrance examination, the Admissions Office Entrance Examination for the International Medical Professionals Course, and admitted ambitious students to our university who are determined to contribute to global medicine. We will train our students to globalize our university to benefit the international community.

Asahikawa Medical University Hospital is an advanced treatment hospital with sophisticated and diverse medical facilities. For example, we are equipped with a heliport for an air ambulance covering the northern area of Hokkaido and we are a cooperative base hospital for the Air Ambulance Project. Asahikawa Medical University Emergency and Critical Care Center is also available 24 hours a day for emergency medical needs. We also operate emergency response vehicles in order to save the lives of local people. This also offers junior residents opportunities to develop as medical professionals. As a key regional hospital which coordinates with other hospitals, Asahikawa Medical University Hospital includes a regional cancer care core hospital, a hepatic disease care hospital, and a perinatal medical center. We are noted as being an advanced medical center in Hokkaido.

Asahikawa Medical University Hospital accepts about 1,600 outpatients per day on average, with more than 2,000 on busy days. The parking lot can become completely full, especially in winter when piles of snow take up space. To make our hospital more patient-friendly, we have been expanding its parking lot enough to allow for another 200 cars and are constructing a building comprising pharmacies and a café. This construction will be complete this fall.

Collaborating with six hospitals in Hokkaido (Japanese Red Cross Kitami Hospital, Hokkaido Prefectural Kitami Hospital, Engaru-Kosei General Hospital, Furano Association Hospital, Fukagawa Municipal Hospital, and Rumoi City Hospital), we have been utilizing the cloud. In this ground-breaking advanced medical practice, medical specialists in our hospital use their smartphones and tablets and analyze patient information that our collaborative hospitals have uploaded to the cloud, so that they can provide our partner hospitals with advice on diagnoses and treatment plans and judge whether ambulance transportation to our hospital is necessary. Cloud-based medical practice is conducted by the Departments of Surgery, the Department of Ophthalmology, and the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine. It is providing quicker treatments for patients suffering from acute diseases. We will continue to advance our diagnosis system by combining artificial intelligence (AI) with our 22-year telemedicine-related experience and strive for a world in which everyone can receive quality medical service anytime and anywhere. We believe this is how Asahikawa Medical University uniquely contributes to the world.

We are determined to nurture exceptional research-minded medical individuals who can think flexibly and consider multiple perspectives and who can deal with the full gamut of medical needs required by regional communities.

We, as a think tank in the local community, aspire to solve various problems around us, applying our strengths and expertise.

Looking ahead to the next decade, we are optimistic we can fulfill our goal of giving hope to the precious lives in our care.