

Asahikawa Medical University Advisory Committee of Experts Established

In December 2019, in order to adhere to our service regulations, we established the Asahikawa Medical University Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is to review our administration and promote compliance so that our university is fair and just, obtains more social trust and contributes to regional medicine.

The members of the committee are an external lawyer, advisors to the president of our university, and the director of our hospital. Attended by our consulting lawyer as an observer, the first meeting of the committee was held on January 27, 2020.

For transparency, the committee will announce summary reports on the discussions.

Hokkaido Science and Technology Award Granted

Dr. AZUMA Nobuyoshi, professor of the Division of Vascular, Respiratory and Surgical Oncology at the Department of Surgery, won the Hokkaido Science and Technology Award.

Acute aortic diseases must be treated surgically or intravascularly as soon as possible. The sooner care is provided, the more likely it saves lives. Hokkaido is a large place however, and the number of hospitals that can provide such medical care is limited and quick access to facilities is an issue.

To solve this problem, Dr. AZUMA noticed that cloud-based medical practice can be clinically applied to patients with acute aortic diseases. Doctors in remote core hospitals send compressed CT images to the cloud, our cardiovascular surgery specialists look at them, make decisions about operations, and can start the operation (if needed) as soon as the patient has arrived. He has further applied this medical practice to other vascular diseases such as lower limb ischemia and venous thrombus, and to surgical diseases such as those in pediatric surgery that fewer doctors specialize in.



Introduction of External Interviewer System into our Entrance Examinations

We introduced the external interviewer system into the recommendation entrance examination. Its introduction was carried out based on what local communities wish our entrance examination to be. Reform of our university to make it more open to local communities has been accelerated mainly by the Integrated Medical Educational Center (which was established in April 2019 and renamed the Center for Integrated Medical Education and Regional Symbiosis in May 2020) for collaboration and enhancement in medical education at various levels, such as admission into our university, educating undergraduate students, and providing post-graduate clinical training.

President YOSHIDA Akitoshi Won an Ito Foundation Award

President YOSHIDA Akitoshi won an award presented by the Ito Foundation for his enthusiastic research into ocular circulation studies, his almost 40-year effort developing a new invention: the world's first fully automated Doppler OCT flowmeter, and his devotion to reducing urban/rural medical-care disparities for a quarter of a century as the world's leading authority in telemedicine.

This award is given to those with outstanding research achievements and future visions in medicine, pharmacy, and dentistry who work for universities and research institutes in Hokkaido.



Grand Opening of the Animal Laboratory for Medical Research after Renovation

The Animal Laboratory for Medical Research started operation in June after one of its buildings, Kurodake (Building K), was renovated and the other building, Asahidake (Building A), was built last spring. The laboratory is important in that it is designed to be pathogen free and is equipped with an area where mice and rats are kept and experimented on. To be more specific, it allows us to keep disease-model mice in a clean, stable environment, and to conduct various experiments such as infection experiments using immunodeficient animals and reproductive engineering experiments to produce genetically modified animals. It is also made a safer and more appropriate environment by centralizing the care of the animals. We will keep medium- and large-sized animals and expand the area for experiments.

While the grand opening was delayed and the operation is limited due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, all the faculty members are working hard to make the laboratory more convenient.



Plan to Establish International Medical Educational Institute

Our university is planning to establish the International Medical Educational Institute in which we will train and equip medical professionals from abroad with our country's advanced medicine. The institute will provide trainees with both dry labs (virtual training with surgical simulators) and wet labs (surgical training with animals), and it will be equipped with high-performance operating rooms, ICUs, and medical imaging technology for advanced medical training. Unlike typical national university hospitals, the institute will be managed in a flexible and elastic manner in a way similar to that of a private company. Our plan for the International Medical Educational Institute will accelerate our university's progress and will help our university continue our contribution to the northern part of Hokkaido.

Establishment of Stroke Center

In emergency medicine, stroke-related diseases including cerebral infarction can affect patients' lives seriously, depending on how soon medical treatment is provided.

Since our country's approval of the Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Control Act in 2018, we have been determined to serve local communities as stipulated in the act and, in December 2019, we established the Stroke Center. It allows multiple staff members to work for a short period of time and maintains its steady working system 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

We have been performing thrombectomy, a widely known treatment method for cerebral infarction that has been proven effective by large-scale research. We will utilize the Stroke Center to further enhance our 15-year team for stroke, collaborating with the department of neurosurgery, the division of cardiology, nephrology, pulmonology and neurology, the department of emergency medicine, and the department of physical medicine and rehabilitation and, as a university hospital, to provide high quality medical services.



Our Hospital Recommended as a Japan International Hospital

Having been reformed and strengthened as a globalization activity, in September 2019, our hospital was recommended as a Japanese International Hospital by the incorporated association Medical Excellence JAPAN (MEJ), which fosters medical institutions in Japan to accept inbound patients, assesses hospitals in their willingness and efforts, recommend those that satisfy criteria as Japan International Hospitals, and offer, in collaboration with the Japanese government, information about the recommended hospitals and their medical services.



Accreditation of the Japan Accreditation Council for Medical Education

In July 2019, the School of Medicine at Asahikawa Medical University was evaluated and audited by the Japan Accreditation Council for Medical Education (JACME) in order to assure the quality of our educational system. We were certified that we satisfy the global standards for Basic Medical Education. The accreditation period is for seven years, from February 1st, 2020 to January 31st, 2027.

The report of the evaluation results by JACME and our self-evaluation report are posted on our website at <http://www.asahikawa-med.ac.jp/bureau/kikaku/tenken.html#03n>. We will update our efforts to develop our education system every year.



Other

- Notification of Academic Records to Students' Guardians (since 2013)
- Course Available in the Postgraduate Clinical Program Admission for Junior Residents to be Admitted into Graduate School (since 2013)
- Clinical Professors in Charge of Groups of Students in the Medical Course (since 2013) and Clinical Professors as Advisors (since 2014)
- Construction of the Forwarding System Using the CT Scanning System in Emergencies (since 2013)
- Participation in Taisetsu Anshin *i* Medical Network (since 2014)
- Introduction of Annual Salary Scheme to 10% of the Faculty Members (since 2015)
- Selected as a Base of the Project for Establishing an Open-access-based Center for Sustainable Creation of New Medical Technology for Translational Research Network Program (since 2017)
- Support for Working Cancer Patients by the Cancer Support Center and Public Employment Security Office (since 2017)
- Mentor System (since 2018)

See Telemedicine Center on page 40 for more information about the remarkable activities taking place there.

