

Message from the President

We Nurture Exceptional Research-minded Medical Individuals Who Think Flexibly and Consider Multiple Perspectives

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 4,031 graduates from the Medical Course and 1,201 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.

At the same time, 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, which began to be used with students enrolled in AY 2015.

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.

Asahikawa Medical University Hospital is an advanced treatment hospital with sophisticated and diverse medical functions. 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 have also started the full-scale operation of emergency response vehicles in order to save the lives of local people and to offer junior residents opportunities to develop as medical professionals.

As a key regional hospital, Asahikawa Medical University Hospital includes a regional cancer care coordination core hospital, a hepatic disease care liaison hospital, and a perinatal medical center. We are noted as being an advanced medical center in Hokkaido.

The graduates of our university play a crucial role in accomplishing the mission of Asahikawa Medical University Hospital. This April, 36 more graduates of the Medical Course joined our hospital as doctors and 34 more graduates of the Nursing Course joined as nurses.

Ever-progressing medical science and medical care as well as advances in computer and robotic technology make it possible to develop new diagnoses and treatments. These techniques are expected to improve drastically in the future. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine will soon be taken for granted.

Japan's population has been aging at the fastest pace in the world. People over the age of 65 account for 25 percent of all citizens and the nature of medical care required is changing. It is predicted that medical care and medical systems will differ drastically from what they are today.

We are determined to nurture exceptional research-minded medical individuals who can think flexibly and consider multiple perspectives 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 fulfil our goals of giving hope to the precious lives in our care.



President
YOSHIDA Akitoshi