

Recent Activities

Enrichment of Education

Loan for Students

In order to help students concentrate on their studies without the burden of financial stress, we offer the following four types of financial support.

(i) Special Tuition Loan for Undergraduate Students

The special tuition loan was created in April 2011 for the undergraduate students that have difficulty completing tuition fees and thus may be expelled from school. In this system, money for unpaid tuition fees is loaned.

(ii) Loan for Students in the Medical Course

The loan system for students in the Medical Course was created in April 2011. 70,000 yen is loaned every month, and if they belong to our hospital as postgraduate clinical trainees or remain in service after postgraduate clinical training, the amount of the loan reimbursement is reduced according to the period of affiliation (counted by month) at our hospital.

(iii) Loan for Students in the Nursing Course

The loan system for students in the Nursing Course was created in April 2008. Every month, 35,000 yen is loaned and if they are employed at our hospital as full-time nursing staff immediately after graduation from our university, the amount reimbursed is reduced according to the period of affiliation (counted by month) at our hospital.

(iv) Loan for Graduates

The loan system for graduates was created in April 2011. 100,000 yen is loaned every month. So that they can concentrate on their studies for the doctor/nurse national examinations without the burden of financial stress.

Grant-in-Aid for Undergraduates' Globalization

In April and May in 2010, the following two grant-in-aid systems were created: Grant-in-Aid for Undergraduates' International Activities (such as academic exchanges with universities abroad and volunteer activities in other countries) and Grant-in-Aid for Undergraduates' Study Abroad (including language programs at universities abroad). These systems are intended to provide financial support to undergraduate students and promote their globalization, which enables them to contribute to the international society as doctors and nurses in the future.

Agreement Reached in Exchanging Liberal Arts Credits among Seven National Universities in Hokkaido

In order to enhance the quality of liberal arts education, national universities in Hokkaido formed the Consortium of National Universities in Hokkaido for Liberal Arts Education and, in February 2014, reached an agreement that the credits of liberal arts that undergraduates earned through distance learning, etc., can be exchanged among the national universities.

After trial use in the second semester of 2014, bi-directional distance learning based on the credit exchange system was started full scale, enabling our students to take liberal arts classes offered at other universities and enhancing the quality of liberal arts education.

Agreement Reached in Educating International Students Prior to Admission into the Seven National Universities in Hokkaido

In February 2014, in order to throw open the door to excellent international students and to enhance their education, the seven national universities in Hokkaido reached an agreement to educate international students prior to the official school start. It was trialed in March 2014, and finding it effectively supported international students, it was followed by a program for international undergraduate students in March 2015 and one for international graduate students in September 2015.



Clinical Professors in Charge of Groups of Students in the Medical Course

Beginning in 2013, clinical professors are assigned to be responsible for groups of the first and second year students in the Medical Course.

Each class of first and second year students is divided into groups of smaller numbers and each group is assigned a clinical professor giving advice about career plans. Its purpose is to establish students' interactions with clinical professors, which helps them to think

carefully about their career plans through this communication. In AY 2015, each group held exchange meetings twice.

Clinical Professors as Advisors

In December 2014, in order to reinforce the student support system, a clinical professor was assigned as an advisor to each of the grades from the first to third year students.

The advisors, cooperating with other professors in charge of the same grade and the Career Plan Support Committee, deal with students' various concerns.

Affiliation Agreement with Hospitals in Neighboring Towns

In order to stipulate ways in which we will cooperate to provide healthy and secure lives to the people in Furano, Fukagawa, and Engaru, neighboring towns, by improving regional welfare and ensuring a stable medical system for regional medicine, we signed an affiliation agreement with Furano City and Furano Association Hospital in March 2014, with Fukagawa Municipal Hospital in April 2015, and with Engaru Town and Engaru-Kosei General Hospital in January 2016.

Enactment of the 2015 Curriculum for the Medical Course

While education in the Medical Course has been based on the Medical Education Model Core Curriculum suggested by Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology as well as characterized by subjects we uniquely offered, in 2015, we introduced a new curriculum, the 2015 Curriculum, the purpose of which was to provide an outcome-based education. The enrichment of the clinical clerkship, and further promotion of educational reformation complies with Basic Medical Education: WFME Global Standards for Quality Improvement.

Establishment of Clinical Research Support Center

In order to encourage clinical research activities, the Clinical Research of Investigational Drugs and Therapeutics Center was reorganized into the Clinical Research Support Center, whose goal is, by conducting independent clinical studies and company-led clinical trials and developing effective and safe medical and pharmaceutical products, equipment, technology, and treatments, to contribute to advances in medical science and medical care as well as to ensure the reliability of data obtained through research activities, ethics, and quality control. Aiming to assist in

high-quality independent clinical studies and company-led trials, the Clinical Research Support Center is comprised of the following seven sections: (1) Section of Coordination and Consultation (2) Section of Biostatistics (3) Section of Quality Control (4) Section of Data Management (5) Section of Experimental Drugs and Medical Equipment Management (6) Section of Quality and Reliability (7) Section of Clinical Study Administration.

Enlargement and Renovation of Asahikawa Medical University Library

In order to improve the functionality of the library, to reallocate space, and to reduce users' stress caused by the limited availability of study space in the library, the reconstruction of Asahikawa Medical University Library was conducted. During the first period of reconstruction beginning in August 2013, the library was enlarged. The second period began in August 2014 with the rebuilding of the original building, and was completed in February 2015. The original building now includes an earthquake-proof reading room and the library is furnished with thermal insulation, LED lamps, and high-efficiency equipment to save energy.



Admissions Reform

AO Entrance Examination for High School Students in Hokkaido

In 2009, we abolished the previous admissions office entrance examination and introduced a new one with 35 places open exclusively to high school students in Hokkaido. We aim to find students with a strong willingness to contribute to regional medicine in Hokkaido. The number of places was increased to 40 in the following year, and this type of entrance examination was named the AO Entrance Examination for High School Students in Hokkaido.

Recent Activities

Selective Admission Policy for Transfer Students

Since AY 2008, five places out of the 10 for the transfer examination for the second semester in the 2nd year are exclusively for the graduates of high schools or universities in Hokkaido who have a strong willingness to contribute to regional medicine in Hokkaido in the future. In AY 2016, this transfer examination of the selective admission policy was renamed the Transfer Examination in the 2nd Year, whose successful applicants are admitted to Asahikawa Medical University in April.

The 55 places for prospective students who have a strong willingness to contribute to regional medicine in Hokkaido in the future, including that for the AO Entrance Examination and the Selective Admissions (10 places), is approximately half of the overall capacity of 122 in the Medical Course.



Programs Supporting University Education Reform

The Human Resource Development Plan for Cancer Medicine – Program to Raise Cancer Medicine Specialists in Hokkaido

Our university and three other medical universities in Hokkaido, cooperating with regional medical institutions in Hokkaido, have been working together to provide highly specialized training for doctors and cancer specialists in medical institutions in remote areas, which is made possible by delivering lectures on the credit exchange system, making use of an e-learning cloud, holding conferences using the telemedicine system our university has created, offering training sessions on team-approach medicine and those designed on the basis of the ELNEC-J Core Curriculum Nursing Education Program. In order to build a foundation to promote cutting-edge oncological research based on clinical medicine, this plan has been carried out since 2012 and will continue until 2016.

In order to train more advanced certified nurse specialists in cancer nursing, the 38-credit curriculum (modified from the 26-credit curriculum) was assessed and approved by Japan Association of Nursing Programs in Universities. The 38-credit curriculum is in effect beginning among students in AY 2016.

Translational Research Network Program – The All Hokkaido Translational Research Project for Advanced Medicine and Establishment of a Medical Center

For the first stage of the Translational Research Project, the All Hokkaido Translational Research Project for Advanced Medicine and Establishment of a Medical Center, which our university along with Hokkaido University and Sapporo Medical University jointly proposed, was adopted by MEXT, and it was running from 2007 to 2012. In April 2012, the second stage of the Translational Research Network Program started, and a new phase of the All Hokkaido Translational Research Project for Advanced Medicine and Establishment of a Medical Center began.

As of AY 2016, our university supports 10 innovative areas of research, and will continue to support a number of excellent fields of research and bring patients better medical care by being a bridge between the research and the development of quality medical products, equipment, and diagnostic agents.

Enrichment of Medical System

Air Ambulance Assistance Project in the Northern Hokkaido

Since October 2009, the air ambulance project has been operated by the Japanese Red Cross Asahikawa Hospital.

Asahikawa Medical University contributes to emergency medical services to remove the anxiety of local residents in northern Hokkaido and ensure their medical safety by offering, free of charge, a site with a hanger and heliport which we built at the university. We have built a collaborative relationship with the Japan Red Cross Asahikawa Hospital and send doctors and nurses for the air ambulance service.



Re-Accredited as Baby Friendly Hospital (BFH)

In August 2005, our hospital was accredited as a Baby Friendly Hospital (BFH) implementing The Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding (developed by WHO and UNICEF). Its accreditation was the 3rd in Hokkaido and the 1st among national university hospitals in Japan. It was re-accredited in July 2012.



Construction of the Forwarding System Using the CT Scanning System in Emergencies

Since April 2013, the interpreting system of CT scanned images with the telemedicine system has enabled us to improve patient survival rate. In conveying patients suffering from acute aortic syndrome (including an acute aortic dissection and aortic aneurysm rupture) from remote areas, their CT scanned images can be sent to our hospital prior to their arrival, allowing us to assess the need for emergency surgery and give prompt care.

Registration of Taisetsu Anshin *i* Medical Network

The Taisetsu Anshin *i* medical network, organized mainly by the Asahikawa City Medical Association, is an information network system. Through this network, registered medical institutions and pharmacies are allowed to share patients' medical information retrieved from electronic medical records and radiographically visualized information offered by our hospital and others (Japanese Red Cross Asahikawa Hospital, Asahikawa-Kosei General Hospital, Asahikawa City Hospital, and Asahikawa Medical Center). This enables the medical institutions to provide appropriate medical treatments for patients with medical care offered by different hospitals.

Accreditation of Evaluation of Hospital Functions

Evaluation of Hospital Functions is a third party evaluation of medical institutions that is administered by a public interest incorporated foundation, the Japan Council for Quality Health Care, assessing the security of patients' rights, medical quality and safety, and hospital management and administration. A certificate of accreditation is issued if the standards of each evaluative criterion are judged to be satisfied.

On March 28, 2005 our hospital was first accredited as having satisfactory compliance with the standards, followed by the second accreditation by the new version of the standards, 3rdG: Ver. 1.0, on June 5 2015.

Trial of Operation of Ambulance Emergency Response Vehicles

An ambulance emergency response vehicle is one that is sent out with doctors and nurses aboard as required by a fire station to promptly offer first aid for patients in serious condition, and thus has a higher possibility of saving lives and reducing the risks of sequelae. Since April 2015, ambulance emergency response vehicles have been operated on a trial basis. Our hospital reached an agreement with 10 municipalities (Asahikawa City, Takasu Town, Higashi Kagura Town, Toma Town, Pippu Town, Aibetsu Town, Kamikawa Town, Higashikawa Town, Biei Town, and Horokanai Town) so that, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays, our hospital can send out an ambulance emergency response vehicle when the fire station in a municipality regards it as medically necessary and requests the service.

The Assignment of the Senior Doctor in Charge of Management to Each Department

In order to strengthen the functions of our hospital, we have assigned a senior doctor in charge of management to each department. Working seamlessly with the administration, the doctors aim to improve the management of the hospital by reducing costs and increasing receipts in their departments and by paying close attention to indicators of earnings and remuneration for medical treatments such as the number of hospitalization days, bed occupancy rate, and appropriateness of DPC coding. This information is then shared with other staff members in the department.

Receiving the Encouragement Prize in the First Patient Safety & Quality Award Competition

The Medical Security and Safety Management Department in the University Hospital received the Encouragement Prize in the first Patient Safety & Quality Award Competition, which was held along with the 24th General Conference Meeting of Medical Safety Control on May 20, 2014 in Osaka University. The award received applications showing activities for medical safety from a total of 39 medical institutes all over Japan, 11 of which went through document screening and proceeded to the 2nd screening of the oral presentations of their activities. 45 medical institutes and 11 members of the screening committee handed out a First Prize, a Merit Prize, and an Encouragement Prize.

The theme of our department was the outpatient identification system—protecting outpatients during the front, middle, and final phases.

Recent Activities

Regional and International Contributions

Medical Support for Disaster-Stricken Areas in the Aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake

Since the disaster occurred on March 11, 2011, we sent out to the disaster-stricken areas: DMATs, a medical relief corps (comprised of 74 staff members including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and administrative workers) and four doctors assisting in postmortem examinations, and we have been involved in providing continuing support.

For two years from October 2011 to October 2013, we sent out (and we will in the future as well) the following number of doctors to the following hospitals: Miyagi Prefecture Shizugawa Public Hospital (five doctors), Fukushima Prefecture Iwaki Kyoritsu General Hospital (one doctor), Iwate Prefectural Takata Hospital (2 doctors), Ibaraki Prefecture Kitaibaraki City Hospital (one doctor), and one doctor for thyroid examinations in Fukushima Prefecture.

Raising Hometown Medical Professionals through Our Collaboration with High Schools and Medical Institutions

From the view that “the local community nurtures doctors in the local area,” we aim to raise hometown medical professionals that are brought up to be local doctors after going through the entrance examination, undergraduate education, and postgraduate training, which is made possible through our collaboration with regional high schools and medical institutions by offering high schools students practical training and workshops to encourage them to develop their career plans as health care professionals. Since 2008, we have been attempting to educate prospective medical professionals across Hokkaido so that in the future they will be able to work as doctors in medically understaffed areas in Hokkaido or as health coordinators in the area of regional medicine who will continue to expand their knowledge and skills and become next generation medical professionals.

Asahikawa Well-Being Consortium

In cooperation with three universities, one junior college, and one college of technology in Asahikawa, as well as the Hokkaido Government Kamikawa General Subprefectural Bureau, we participate in the Asahikawa Well-Being Consortium to promote the physical, mental, and social well-being of the residents in the

Asahikawa area and provide educational contributions to the region. The consortium promotes (1) the creation of a credit exchange system and collaborative education, (2) lectures open to the public, (3) meetings among industry, government, academia, and residents, (4) collaborative research. In April 2012, the consortium became an incorporated organization with the president of our university as its chairperson. In April 2013, its office “U-Plaza” was moved to the 7th floor (which Asahikawa City manages for educational purposes) in Feeeal Asahikawa. The consortium strongly cooperates with Asahikawa City.

Wellnetlink

Wellnetlink, the system for self-management of one’s health and medical information on the internet, makes it possible to register, update on a daily-basis, and browse such vital data as one’s weight and blood pressure as well as the results of one’s medical check-ups, the data of scanned images and their diabetes notebook, etc. Showing the registered information to doctors and nurses will help them provide medical advice. Using the function of Wellnetlink, since January 2013, we have engaged in an eye disease cohort study. Collaborating with Rumoi City, we conduct medical examinations, ophthalmologic examinations, and questionnaire surveys. The results are used to investigate the relationship between the lifestyles of the people in Rumoi and their ophthalmologic diseases. The results of each examination are stored in our research database and we dispatch feedback to the participants in Rumoi through Wellnetlink. Our ophthalmologic specialists look at the images of the fundus of the eye and advise on patients’ medical conditions.

Project to Increase Human Resources Supporting Regional Medicine

In May 2008, our university concluded an affiliation agreement with the Hokkaido Government Board of Education, the School of Medicine at Hokkaido University, and Sapporo Medical University. The goal is for the relevant institutions to collaboratively increase human resources supporting regional medicine in Hokkaido.

This agreement allows the professors at our university to visit high schools in Hokkaido and deliver lectures on medical science called Medical Courses for High School Students.

Our university organizes workshops and gives lectures for high school students in Hokkaido as part of a Medical Camp Seminar sponsored by the prefecture.

JICA Training Lectures

Our university has been charged by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with conducting lectures on hygiene administration for those in charge of regional health in Africa.

This lectures started in 2008 for regional hygiene administrators in African countries whose tasks include the designing, supervising, and monitoring of regional health activities. It aims to help them acquire practical planning and supervising abilities. By 2015, a total of 90 administrators from 18 countries attended the lectures.

Our university also offered lectures on maternal and child health for 11 years from 2003 to 2013. With the purpose of providing teaching about the enhancement of the ability to increase human resources and improve medical systems for safe birth delivery, the lectures attracted 115 participants from 42 countries.

Our university strives to make international contributions through these lectures.



China and Japan Telemedicine Project

Our university reached an agreement with the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China—the Japan Telemedicine Project Grant-in-Aid Agreement, on May 23, 2011. Through the television conference system and 3D-HD transmit system, the Telemedicine Center at Asahikawa Medical University communicates with four medical institutions in China (including the China-Japan Friendship Hospital (Beijing), Ruijin Hospital (Shanghai), etc.) and provides them with technical instructions for the telemedicine system and holds long-distance conferences with them.



Cooperation Agreement Concerning the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

Asahikawa Medical University signed a cooperation agreement with the Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to build a voluntary and cooperative relationship in order to promote education and host the games.

Other

Establishment of an IR Room

In April 2016, Asahikawa Medical University established an IR Room (Asahikawa Medical University Institutional Research Room). Its task is providing support for reform of the university, including collecting information about education, research, medical care, and other activities both inside and outside the university that is essential for the president of Asahikawa Medical University to promote the reform, analyzing the information to benchmark it against other national universities and university hospitals, and helping decision-making on administrative plans and policy.

Introduction of Annual Salary Scheme

In April 2015, Asahikawa Medical University introduced an annual salary scheme in order to secure and motivate excellent young faculty members, resulting in making education, research, and clinical activities more active.

A Talk with Extramural Experts

On October 8, 2015, Asahikawa Medical University held a discussion meeting with the theme, Expectations for Actions to Strengthen University Functions, in which Akitoshi Yoshida, the president of Asahikawa Medical University, and two extramural councilors of the Management Council, Noriaki Omote, vice mayor of Asahikawa City and Naohiko Harada, board chairman of Asahikawa Shinkin Bank exchanged opinions on the expectations for and roles of national universities from the perspectives of their own professional positions.

