Establishment of an e-portfolio system and its application for education in combination with e-learning system

In order for students to be able to practice patient-centered medicine in the future, Showa University promotes inter-disciplinary education among the schools of medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing and rehabilitation. As part of inter-disciplinary education, the school of dentistry at Showa University established profile and competencies in 2009. Based on these six competencies, 6 years of consistent educational programs were started focusing on the improvements of communication ability, information literacy, dentistry in the community, and education for team medical care.

For this purpose, the e-portfolio system, which stores information of each individual's learning history, activities and evaluation, was developed. With this system, consistency from fundamental education during the 1st year at Fujiyoshida campus to dental education during the 2nd to 6th year was achieved. Based on two years' research, it was found that the educational effects of e-portfolio improved students' abilities in: 1) setting an appropriate goal, 2) self-assessment, and 3) future view as a medical professional. This effect was based both on students' reflections that were required in the writing portfolios and on feedback from faculty members and students about the e-portfolio.

Recently, we combined e-learning system with e-portfolio system to record the learning while using e-learning, such as scores and the number of challenges. We have placed this new combined e-portfolio and e-learning system at the center of our education to facilitate the communication between students and faculty and among our faculty. I hope this new developed system will help educate our students to become dental professionals who will be needed in this increasingly aging society.