

Newsletter

International Exchange Center

07



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11th Annual J-MICA Meeting

On Friday, September 18, 2020, the International Exchange Center faculty and staff participated in the 11th Annual Meeting of Japanese Medical University International Collaborative Assembly (J-MICA; 全国医学部国際交流協講会・講演会).



This meeting was hosted by Gunma University School of Medicine and was originally planned to be held on their campus, but due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, it was held online instead. The keynote speech of the meeting focused on the topic of “coronavirus/post-coronavirus international exchange” and many of the subsequent poster presentations and mini symposiums covered a similar topic.

Dr. Hashimoto, who is a member of the assembly's Board of Directors, gave a presentation describing the current state of inbound/outbound activity at Showa University due to the pandemic, and some of the new online activities our university has started in response to COVID-19.

Showa University and the IEC have continued to work hard to provide new and creative international-exchange opportunities for our students and faculty.



Many of the articles in this newsletter will highlight some of those activities. However, we look forward to re-starting in-person faculty and student exchange with our international partners!

Pharmacy Online Joint Seminar

Showa University School of Pharmacy has active student exchange programs with 3 universities — Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (ACPHs; USA), Mahasarakham University (MU; Thailand), and Taipei Medical University (TMU; Taiwan).



Unfortunately, 2020's activities were canceled due to the coronavirus. Encouraged by our Director General, Dr. Takashi Miyazaki, to create new activity to promote international exchange, the International Exchange Center and School of Pharmacy instead hosted an “Online Joint Seminar” on October 29, 2020. Students from all 4 universities gave short presentations on topics such as pharmacy education at their university,

current research, and the healthcare system in their country, followed by a chance for questions and answers from the audience.

Our School of Pharmacy chose the 3 students who had been planning to study abroad to give presentations. They described their experiences as a student in the School of Pharmacy, common career paths for our pharmacy graduates, and the current health care system in Japan.

Over 50 members participated in this event. Among our university's 4 schools, this was the first attempt to organize such an online event with our exchange partners. Given its success, we hope to replicate it in our other schools soon!



2nd Medical Education Symposium

On Nov. 5, 2020, the 2nd annual symposium on medical education hosted by Showa University Department of Medical Education and the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF) was held.

During the first symposium, Showa University invited two faculty from UCSF's Department of Clinical Medicine (Professor Anna Chang and Associate Professor John Davis) to describe their newly revised medical curriculum and to offer feedback about our university's medical education. The International Exchange Center also hosted them, and gave a presentation about Showa University's current exchange activities.

For this latest symposium, 7 guest speakers from UCSF covered topic such as a description of UCSF's medical education curriculum, an example of how their medical education



curriculum is integrating basic science and clinical skills and an update on how they were providing clinical training during COVID-19. Showa University's President, Dr. Tadashi Hisamitsu, started the symposium with an opening address, and our new Dean of School of Medicine, Dr. Akatsuki Kokaze, offered closing remarks.

As this symposium was held online, it was opened to anyone interested. As a result, 180 participants from all over Japan joined this event, including faculty and staff from the International Exchange Center!



Showa University UNAI Member

In November, 2020, Showa University was accepted as a participating member in the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) program. As a member of this program, Showa University has committed itself to supporting and advancing the following 3 basic principles:

1. A commitment to the opportunity for every interested individual to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for the pursuit of higher education.
2. A commitment to building capacity in higher education systems across the world.
3. A commitment to promoting inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and the “unlearning” of intolerance, through education.

Showa University is involved in 3 international-exchange activities that are relevant to these UNAI principles. First, since 1982 our university has funded an International Postgraduate

Program designed for foreign-trained medical specialists (physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and others) and related researchers from around the world to spend up to 1 year at Showa University to study with our medical professionals and to receive further training in Japan. Second, for the past 9 years our university has sent a cleft lip and palate medical cooperative dispatch to Madagascar to perform surgeries and treat children suffering from cleft lip and palate. Finally, our university maintains an active student exchange program with medical-related universities around the world.



Online Seminar with Mahidol University

The International Exchange Center and School of Pharmacy hosted an online lecture by Dr. "Villa" Vilasinee Hirunpanich Sato, Head of the Department of Pharmacology at Mahidol University, Thailand, on February 1, 2021. Dr. Villa is a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) BRIDGE Fellowship Program invited researcher and was invited by the School of Pharmacy, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Division of Natural Medicine and Therapeutics (Professor Kawazoe).

Her lecture introduced Showa University to the campus, organization system, research, and international activities of Mahidol University. As an online lecture, it was open to both faculty and students from Showa University and Mahidol University, and about 30 faculty and students participated. Prior to the lecture, the Dean of the Mahidol University Faculty of Pharmacy and Vice-Dean in charge of international exchange at the Faculty of Pharmacy offered greetings to the meeting attendees, and then chairperson

Professor Hiroyuki Itabe (School of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Division of Biological Chemistry, and Chairperson of the School of Pharmacy International Exchange Committee) and moderator Professor Miyuki Hashimoto (International Exchange Center) started the seminar.



Afterwards, the International Exchange Center held another meeting with Dr. Villa and presented her with a commemorative plaque of Showa University as a sign of appreciation for her seminar and continued support of our university.



Online World Café with Queen Mary U.

On April 19, 2021, medical students from Queen Mary University of London (QMUL) and Showa University participated in an "online world café". This event was organized by Dr. Ania Korszun (Professor, Psychiatry and Education) of QMUL and Dr. Miyuki Hashimoto (Professor) of the International Exchange Center, in collaboration with the Department of Medical Education. The purpose of this event was to provide medical students from the two universities a chance to interact with each other, as we are working to complete an exchange agreement between our medical schools.

13 QMUL and 8 Showa University students formed small groups and discussed medical scenarios that included several topics related to gender roles, career development, and professionalism. Dr. Shizuma Tsuchiya and Dr. Makiko Arima from Medical Education served as facilitators in these groups. Then, at the end, both students and supporting faculty members discussed some of the common themes that were mentioned during this event.



It was a good opportunity for our students to discuss deep topics with other medical students and communicate in English. With an exchange agreement nearly complete, we will plan other activities with QMUL in the near future!

MOU with University of Zaragoza

On March 4, 2021, Showa University School of Medicine and the University of Zaragoza Faculty of Medicine concluded an exchange agreement. This marks the 11th exchange agreement by our School of Medicine and first one with a medical school in Spain.

Student exchange with the University of Zaragoza first started in 2014, through the efforts of Associate Professor Kenji Sanada (Psychiatry) at our university and Professors Rosa Magallón (Family Medicine) and Javier García Campayo (Psychiatry) of the University of Zaragoza. Activities have included sending our medical students for international clinical clerkships at the University of Zaragoza and accepting their medical faculty as fellows into our International Postgraduate Program. Exchange between our universities was further supported by our Director General of the International Exchange Center, Professor Takashi Miyazaki, who visited University of Zaragoza in 2017 and met Dr. Francisco Beltrán Lloris (Vice-Rector, Internationalization and Cooperation), Dr. Gerardo Rodríguez (Professor, Pediatrics and Coordinator of International Exchange), and other faculty from the medical and dental schools.

Thus, the two medical schools decided to formally conclude an exchange agreement. Unfortunately, the original plans for a signing ceremony were postponed because of the novel coronavirus pandemic, and eventually it was decided to hold a “virtual signing ceremony” online instead. With an official exchange agreement in place, international exchange can further expand between our medical schools.



During the signing ceremony, Professor Miyuki Hashimoto (International Exchange Center) and Professor Rodríguez first introduced the members of their delegation, and then both delegations introduced their universities through video and PowerPoint presentations. Next, both deans and vice presidents signed their respective copies of the exchange agreement and presented them to the camera for everyone to see. Finally, Director General Miyazaki offered closing remarks, commenting that this online ceremony is now one of the new forms of international exchange.

Already, the two medical schools are discussing faculty/student exchange activities, such as accepting a pre-doctoral fellow into our International Postgraduate Program, once in-person exchange resumes.



PSU Online Spring Program

Since 2010, the International Exchange Center has organized a 2-week study-abroad program at Portland State University (PSU) for students during the Spring holiday. Unfortunately, this program was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and by the 2021 season it was still impossible to send our students abroad.



However, rather than canceling it once again, the PSU Spring Program was redesigned into a 5-day (March 15-19, 2021) online program. The PSU 2021 Spring Online Program was open to all 1st-year+ students, including students from our College of Nursing for the first time, and 8 students participated: 2 medical students, 3 dental students, 1 pharmacy student, and 2 nursing college students.



Like the original PSU Spring program, the 2021 online version included English conversation classes and role-play using medical English, as well as the chance for our students to meet and discuss with other students at a local comprehensive medical university in Portland. Students also learned about the homeless shelter that they would normally volunteer at through an online presentation from the center's director.

In his presentation, the director also summarized the shelter's efforts to eliminate food loss as part of Portland's promotion of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's).

With the success of this program, we have decided to employ a similar format for our PSU Summer Program, which will be held from August 9-13, 2021.

Flowers of Hatanodai Campus

Although Hatanodai campus is an urban campus, flowering plants and greenery can be found all around our buildings and main hospital. As a result, visitors to our campus can see many different colors throughout the year.



In early summer, when the rainy season starts in Japan, the large hydrangea bushes around campus bloom in shades of blue, pink, and purple. Water lilies in the campus fountain and lilies (our university's logo) also bloom at this time.

Please enjoy these photos of flowers around Hatanodai Campus!



Spring is probably the most popular season, because the cherry trees in the campus and lining the street in front of the hospital are in full bloom.

Then, after the cherry blossoms finish, the large azalea bushes start to bloom, forming blankets of flowers that completely cover them.



IEC Connection

Showa University has a history of 90 years and the International Exchange Center was established roughly 25 years ago. Many people have passed through both institutions, so it seems inevitable that our alumni and former international guests would meet each other somewhere in the world. Below is an inspiring story of such an IEC connection!

Alumni Profile: Hiromi Saito, RPh



Ms. Saito graduated from Showa University School of Pharmacy (at that time, the School of Pharmaceutical Sciences) in 1992 as part of the 25th incoming class. She later moved to Hawaii in 2003 and gained her Hawaii pharmacist license in 2010. She's been a clinical pharmacist at Waikiki Health since 2014.

Past Fellow: Jamie Tamayose, PA



As an undergraduate student from the University of Washington, Ms. Tamayose observed at Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery during the summers of 2013 and 2014. In 2020, she graduated with a Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies from Midwestern University.



2013



2014

My name is Hiromi Saito, a pharmacist currently practicing in Hawaii. Jamie, a physician assistant, and I work for Waikiki Health.



Soon after she joined Waikiki Health, she emailed me asking what kind of services I provide as a clinical pharmacist. This was exciting news for me because a new primary care provider had already been interested in working as a team, and willing to utilize pharmacists to manage her patients!

We met and talked about my diabetes management program and she referred her patients, then we have worked together since. She told me she had trained in Showa University in Tokyo when she was in college.

"No Way! I am a graduate of Showa University! What a great coincidence and a small world it is!"

Shortly after the excitement, I told her about my guilt that I had not contributed anything back to my school that educated me to who I am today, a pharmacist. So, she introduced me to Dr. Miyuki Hashimoto from the International Exchange Center, and here we are, having this opportunity to say, "Aloha" to our extended-Showa Ohana!

It is a tough time due to COVID pandemic, but I am proud to be a Showa-grad pharmacist who continuously serves in the medical field, and I'm sure you are feeling the same way! Stay safe!



New IEC Faculty: Dr. Yoshiko Kudo



I am Yoshiko Kudo, Associate Professor of the International Exchange Center at Showa University since 1st April, 2021. I have a national license of Medical Technologist and have taught at the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science at the International University of Health and Welfare and other several universities in Japan for almost 20 years.

However, my area of expertise is International Health, which is the systematic comparison of the factors that affect human populations by using techniques of public health. I earned my MPH and Dr.PH from the National Institute of Public Health Japan and worked for the JICA; Japanese ODA program as an expert of laboratory management in the maternal and child health project, anti-

tuberculosis project and educational project of clinical specialists at Philippines, Cambodia, Nepal, and Afghanistan. In the last decade my research interests were epidemiology and clinical testing of Leptospirosis in Cambodia and Philippines as well as an international educational program of clinical laboratory sciences.

By a curious turn of fate, I conducted my graduation research at the Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine at Showa University when I was an undergraduate student at Tokyo University of Science. This connection later led to me earning a Ph.D. in medicine at Showa University. As a faculty member of IEC, I would like to share with the Showa University community how international cooperation activity is interesting and worthwhile work.

Upcoming IEC events

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| July 17 - 18, 2021 | 24th Annual JASMEE Academic Meeting |
| August 9 - 13, 2021 | PSU Summer Online Program |
| August 10 - 17, 2021 | TGG国内グローバル体験研修 Summer Program |

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