

# Newsletter

International Exchange Center

11

昭和医科大学

SHOWA Medical University

Issue No. 11: Fall 2025



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*Summer time in Tokyo: Blooming water lily in the central fountain at Hatanodai Campus*





# New Name: Showa Medical University

Our university was found in 1928 and will soon celebrate its 100th-year anniversary in 2028. Several changes are occurring to mark this auspicious milestone. In May, 2025, we welcomed a new President, Dr. Yumi Kamijo. Dr. Kamijo became the 15th president at our institution and is the first woman to hold this position. Also, in 2027 we will open the new “Saginuma” Campus in Kanagawa Prefecture and create three departments — Radiological Technology, Clinical Engineering, and Dental Hygiene.

Additionally, it was announced that name of our university would change from “Showa” University to “Showa **Medical** University”.

Our university’s new name took effect on April 1, 2025. We have created this new name to better reflect our institution’s status as the top comprehensive medical university in Japan. It also represents a sign of our university’s continuous drive for further development and enhancement as we look ahead to the next 100 years.



昭和医科大学  
SHOWA Medical University

NEW LOGO

## New IEC Faculty & Staff

Showa Medical University is a comprehensive medical university that is committed to cultivating medical professionals with an international perspective. The International Exchange Center (IEC) supports this goal by serving as the coordinating hub for the acceptance of overseas medical professionals and exchange students who wish to learn about Japanese medical technology and research, and for the implementation of overseas elective training and short-term study-abroad programs for our students.

Our center maintains close contact with each of our four schools and encourages collaboration with international partners as well as student participation. As our university’s global footprint continues to increase, so has the number of faculty and staff at our center. Currently, we have 9 full-time members working at the International Exchange Center and we anticipate further expansion in the near future!

Michael W. Myers  
Associate Professor  
(senior)

Atsuko Furuta  
Associate Professor  
(junior)

Yuka Hiraizumi  
Program Coordinator

Takeshi Miura  
Staff (Chief)

Mieko Ukon  
Staff

Taeko Suzuki  
Staff



Shizuma Tsuchiya  
Professor

Takashi Miyazaki  
Director General

Yoshiko Kudo  
Vice Director

# 2025 Exchange Fellows & Welcome Party

Every year, Showa Medical University holds a welcome party for the incoming group of international postgraduate fellows that is organized by the International Exchange Center. The 2025 academic year's welcome party was held on May 27 at the "Fujizakura" banquet room in the Kamijo Memorial Hall on the Hatanodai campus. The time, we welcomed 12 fellows from 8 countries/regions (Bhutan, China, Madagascar, Mongolia, Philippines, Romania, Taiwan, and Vietnam).



**TOAST FROM DR. MIYAZAKI**



**PRESIDENT KAMIJO WITH EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES**

Representatives from the fellows' embassies were also invited to this event. Those in attendance gave brief comments after the opening address from Dr. Yumi Kamijo, the new President of Showa Medical University. Following a toast from Dr. Takashi Miyazaki, Director General of the International Exchange Center, the international fellows were able to deepen their interactions with the embassy representatives, faculty from our university, and exchange students during the banquet dinner. Finally, these fellows gave self-introductions in both English and Japanese, and spoke about their enthusiasm for their research and training at our university.

For the rest of this academic year, these 12 international research fellows will continue to devote themselves to study and research in their respective departments and labs at Showa Medical University. At the end of the academic year, a Certificate Award and Farewell Party will also be held for our international research fellows to celebrate their successful completion of the International Postgraduate Program and to receive their official certificates from our university's president.



**INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS AND FACULTY SPONSORS**

## ATTENDING 2025/2026 INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS

NAME	COUNTRY/REGION	SCHOOL	DEPARTMENT/DIVISION
Bai Xue	China	Medicine	Anatomy
Shen Jiacheng	China	Medicine	Physiology
Dalai Bayarsaikhan	Mongolia	Medicine	Respirology & Allergology
Elisa Leonte	Romania	Medicine	Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery
Po-Yu Hsieh	Taiwan	Medicine	Pediatrics
Do Huyen Chi	Vietnam	Medicine	Radiation Oncology
Sangay Wangmo	Bhutan	Medicine	International Training center for Endoscopy & endoscopic surgery, Northern Yokohama Hospital
Nikko Theodore Valencia Raymundo	Philippines	Medicine	Digestive Disease Center, Koto Toyosu Hospital
Thai Duc An	Vietnam	Medicine	Digestive Disease Center, Koto Toyosu Hospital
Xue Fei	China	Dentistry	Biochemistry
Han Ruyu	China	Dentistry	Biomaterials & Engineering
Meva Andriantsoa Rabenantoandro	Madagascar	Dentistry	Orthodontics

# Director Miyazaki's Lecture at Fujiyoshida

**S**ince 2022, Fujiyoshida Campus has included an "Internationalization Week" as part of the 1st-year students' education program. However, starting from the 2025 academic year, they have expanded this curriculum to include international-exchange activities throughout the entire year.

During the orientation period in April, our center's director, Dr. Takashi Miyazaki, delivered a special lecture titled "Young People, Leap into the World" to all incoming 1st-year students. Amidst the decline in Japan's international competitiveness, an enthusiastic message was delivered by Director Miyazaki to the new students of Showa Medical University, encouraging them to actively engage with young people around the world and to aim to become medical professionals with a global perspective.

As part of other exchange projects held at Fujiyoshida campus this year, in May exchange

students from Walailak University (Thailand) visited the School of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences, and in June exchange students from Mahasarakham University (Thailand) and Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (USA) visited the School of Pharmacy. The number of applicants for the Student Instructor (SI) program, which facilitates interaction with exchange students, was twice the number of our initial request, indicating a high level of interest among our 1st-year students to interact with international students.



## Visit to Partner Medical Schools

**I**n March 2025, Dr. Shizuma Tsuchiya from the IEC visited two partner institutions: the Medical University of Vienna (Austria) and Lyon 1 University (France). The goal of these visits was to strengthen cooperation for more fruitful clinical training experiences for students at both universities. Dr. Tsuchiya held discussions with the medical school deans, international exchange coordinators, and faculty from clinical departments accepting our students for overseas elective training.

During the visit to Medical University of Vienna, discussions were held regarding enhancing

support systems for students beyond language and cultural barriers, and strengthening collaboration with local supervising physicians. At Lyon 1 University, information was shared about the current credit transfer system among medical universities within the EU, which creates an environment where students can easily study across borders.

Moving forward, we will continue to expand opportunities for international learning and collaboration for both students and faculty and work to enhance practical international education.



MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA



LYON 1 UNIVERSITY



# Spring Study-Abroad Program: Cambodia

This Spring, the International Exchange Center successfully developed and implemented a brand-new study-abroad program to Cambodia. This project was the brain child of Vice Director Kudo, a JICA expert who spent 10 years working in Cambodia. This program was also made possible through the tremendous support of the University of Puthisastra, a private university located in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The program was held from March 22 to 29, 2025. 13 students from all 4 schools (medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and nursing and rehabilitation sciences) plus 2 faculty supervisors (Dr. Kudo and Dr. Myers) visited Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, and Siem Reap Province to learn about international cooperation in Cambodia and to compare Japan's healthcare system with that of other countries. Along with our students, 12 students from the same four schools at Puthisastra University also participated in the program and were partnered with one of our students for the entire week. During the program, our students visited the JICA Cambodia office, where they received an overview of Japanese ODA (Official Development Assistance) to Cambodia and heard about the challenges and activities of a doctor working on a non-communicable disease control project. Our students then gave presentations to the Puthisastra University students about what they had learned. Both groups also learned about NGO activities in Cambodia through a presentation by a Japanese person who established a local herbal tea company to support the income and self-sufficiency of the local residents who work with them.



In Siem Reap Province, they visited an elementary school where JICA volunteers teach, participated in music and physical education classes, and assisted the Puthisastra University students in providing hygiene education to the children on hand-washing and tooth-brushing. They also toured the World Heritage Site of Angkor Wat.

It was an unforgettable week where our students experienced the huge differences between the capital and the provinces of Cambodia, learned more about the Japanese government's and its citizens' global outreach efforts, and created deep and long-lasting friendships with the Cambodian students from the University of Puthisastra.





# Exchange Renewal with Peking University

**P**eking University School of Stomatology and Showa Medical University School of Dentistry first established an exchange agreement in 2017. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and other issues contributed to a lack of substantial exchange activities between the two schools.

However, with the pandemic now over, recent endeavors were started to renew connections between our schools and to develop and promote active international

exchange. First, in October 30, 2024, a delegation from Peking University School of Stomatology led by their Dean, Professor Deng Xuliang, visited Showa Medical University to officially renew the exchange agreement with our School of Dentistry. During this visit, the International Exchange Center gave the Peking University delegation a tour of the housing facilities for international guests and provided additional information about our exchange programs for undergraduate and post-graduate



students. Then, Dr. Yo Shibata, Dr. Hirotaka Kuwata, and Dr. Zhou Jun of the School of Dentistry gave the delegation a tour of the facilities and clinical departments

at Showa Medical University Dental Hospital. The delegations also discussed the details of initiating undergraduate-student exchange for 2025.



As a result of these discussions, Peking University agreed to accept one of our 6th-year dental students to spend 4 weeks in their hospital as part of an elective clinical clerkship. From March 31 to April 25, 2025, our dental student rotated in the Comprehensive Second

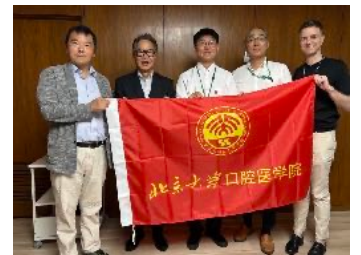


Department, where clinical treatment by fifth-year dental students of Peking University takes place, and in Prosthodontics and Orthodontics. The Comprehensive Second Department consists of five specialties — Pediatrics, Prosthodontics, Periodontics, Endodontics, and Oral Surgery —

so our student was able to observe a variety of dental treatments as well as interact with the dental students studying at Peking University.



Following our student's visit to Peking University's hospital, Showa Medical University's School of Dentistry then agreed to accept one of their dental students. This student observed in the Department of Orthodontics and Department of Prosthodontics for 1 week from July 28 to August 1, 2025. Besides learning the latest techniques and treatments being used in those departments, the student also received presentations from the faculty and graduate students about their current research, which gave him helpful insight. Finally, one of our student organizations, The English Speaking Society (ESS) Club, organized a welcome party at a local restaurant so that this student could meet and talk with Showa Medical University students and other international students studying at our university.



Through these first few steps, we hope to further broaden exchange between our two schools.

# Walailak University Student Exchange

**D**uring the 2025 academic year, the School of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences accepted two groups of exchange students from Walailak University in Thailand, and sent a group of our students to Walailak University as part of a summer exchange program.

First, on April 11, 2025, a group of 40 students and 8 faculty members from the Medical Technology International Program, School of Allied Health Sciences, spent a half-day at our Hatanodai campus. Students were divided into four groups and participated in three activities: 1. Tour of the Showa Medical University Hospital clinical laboratory, 2. Tour of the Kamijo Memorial Museum, and 3. Tea ceremony experience.

At Showa Medical University Hospital, clinical laboratory technicians introduced procedures to the students, such as ultrasound examinations and electrocardiogram tests, with practical demonstrations. The students were surprised to see the Japanese clinical laboratory technicians perform physiological tests that clinical laboratory technicians in Thailand aren't allowed to conduct.



At the Kamijo Memorial Museum, participants experienced the warmth and history of our university. During the tea ceremony experience, they tasted authentic matcha, and experienced a bit of Japanese culture as well as a time to relax.

Next, we welcomed 6 nursing students and 8 physical therapy students from May 11 to 16, 2025, to learn about the Japanese healthcare system and its culture. During this training

program, nursing students visited our Koto Toyosu Hospital, while physical therapy students toured the Fujigaoka Hospital. Additionally, after attending a lecture by



a nursing faculty on the topic of Japan's aging society, students participated in a community medical and nursing care observation at a home-based elderly care facility in cooperation with the Medical Foundation Unimedico, which allowed the Walailak students to learn about differences in healthcare between the two countries.

At the Hatanodai campus, students attended lectures and practical training in Oriental medicine taught by the Department of Physiology, School of Medicine, and at the Yokohama Campus, a campus tour and a student-led Japanese culture experience event were held.



Finally, the Walailak students visited our Fujiyoshida Campus, where they enjoyed student-organized activities and a barbecue with our 1st-year students. Afterwards, they stayed overnight in the dormitory to fully experience campus life.



In August, an exchange program was held for students of the School of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences to visit Walailak University as part of an overseas training program (please see next page's article).



# Summer Study-Abroad Programs

**T**his summer was a very busy season for the International Exchange Center. In July and August of 2025, our center helped send 36 students from all of our schools to 4 different exchange programs in Asia, Europe, and the U.S.A!

## **Study Abroad Program for 1st-Year Students**



This program at Oxford University, Hertford College originally started in 2019 as non-credit, study-abroad program that was open to all students. However, due to its popularity, this year the program became a credited summer course for 1st-year students from all schools. From August 2 to 17, 17 of our students and 8 students from Chang Gung University in Taiwan studied at Hertford College. During this program, students learned about the British healthcare system, and studied the history and culture of Oxford. They also improved their presentation and debating skills, and interacted with Oxford students and other international students.

Through their experiences in this program, our students could understand how medical systems overseas are structured and operated, how culture and values influence medical care, and the importance of learning another language to communicate with others in the international community

## **Advanced Study Abroad Program at Walailak University**



In collaboration with our partner school at Walailak University in Thailand, this is a credited summer program that is open to students from the School of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences. We have organized this program since 2022, and this year 7 nursing students and 1 physical therapy student participated from August 2 to 12. Through lectures, workshops, and tours of medical facilities, our students learned about Thailand's medical system. They also participated in activities to learn about Thai culture and had discussions with Walailak University students

to better understand the similarities and differences between their countries.

## **Portland State University Summer Program**



For 2025, the Portland State University (PSU) Summer Program in Oregon, USA, became a non-credit, study-abroad program that was open to all students, including students from our College of Nursing for the first time. Consequently, 7 students (1 pharmacy student, 3 nursing students, 2 physical therapy students, and 1 nursing college student) participated in this year's program from August 1 to 13. Contents of the PSU Summer program included ESL classes, visits to a local children's hospital and Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU) Simulation Center, panel discussion with OHSU students, and outdoor activities to the Columbia River valley and the Oregon coast.

## **Chulalongkorn University BRIDGE Program**



This summer, Chulalongkorn University Faculty of Dentistry (Thailand), one of our School of Dentistry's partner schools, started a new global dental student exchange program called BRIDGE (**B**uilding **R**elationships for **I**nternational **D**evelopment, **G**rowth, and **E**xchange) that was held from July 30 to August 2. This program was designed to foster cross-cultural collaboration and academic enrichment among dental students from around the world. 4 of our dental students (3 fourth-year students and 1

third-year student) participated in this inaugural program, and they were the only student representatives from Japan! Students attended lectures and workshops on various dental topics, participated in groups activities with dental students from other countries, and went on cultural excursions around Bangkok and the ancient capital city of Ayutthaya.



# Tianjin Medical University Visit

On April 9, 2025, a delegation from Tianjin Medical University, which has exchange agreements with our School of Medicine and School of Dentistry, visited Showa Medical University. The delegation from Tianjin University was led by their president, Professor Hao (a specialist in pancreatic cancer treatment), and also included 7 professors from the major clinical departments of Tianjin Medical University Cancer Institute and Hospital (TMUCHI).

From our university, 10 members attended, including Dr. Takashi Miyazaki, Director General of the International Exchange Center, Professor Naoki Hayashi, and Professor Hiroki Yamagami. As part of the sharing of information on international exchange activities between the two universities and strengthening cooperation, a lively exchange of opinions was held regarding the potential for human resource development and joint research in the field of cancer treatment going forward.

There was particularly strong interest in collaboration in the field of pancreatic cancer treatment, with expectations for specialized and continuous partnerships.



# Walailak University Faculty Visit

Walailak University first established an exchange agreement with our School of Nursing and Rehabilitation Sciences in 2023. Recently, our medical and pharmacy schools have also held discussions with faculty from Walailak University.

On July 17, 2025, the School of Medicine welcomed two representatives from Walailak University School of Medicine. They met our medical school's dean and Director General of the IEC. Afterward, they visited a clinical

department hosting exchange students, and observed a class. After productive discussions, our medical school is hoping to send students to Walailak University next year.

On July 31, 2025, The School of Pharmacy welcomed four representatives from Walailak University School of pharmacy. They met our dean and head of the international exchange committee from the pharmacy school, and other faculty. Although a short visit, it was an important first step toward future possible exchange between our schools.



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



WALAILAK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

# Exchange Student Presentations

**E**ach of our 4 schools provides opportunities for international students to give presentations during their training period, so that they can interact with students from our university and other international students. In addition, the Chat Clubs organized by the International Exchange Center also provide opportunities for mini-presentations, and all Showa Medical University students are free to participate regardless of their school, year, or English level.

The presentation content varies, including information about the international student's home university, country, and culture. Each presentation is a great representation of the presenter's personality, and provides a good

opportunity for participating students from our university to learn presentation skills from international students, as well as to gather helpful information about potential future overseas training sites for those who are thinking about participating in an elective clinical clerkship.



## Upcoming IEC events

September 8, 2025

Seminar on crisis management/safety measures for overseas travel from Ministry of Foreign Affairs

September 27, 2025

Participation in Hatagaoka Hachiman Shrine festival with international fellows and students

September - October, 2025 & January - February, 2026

International elective clinical clerkship for pharmacy students

February - June, 2026

International elective clinical clerkship for medical students

March 2, 2026

Certificate award ceremony and farewell party for international fellows

April - May, 2026

International elective clinical clerkships for dental students

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### Hatanodai Campus

