

Newsletter

International Exchange Center

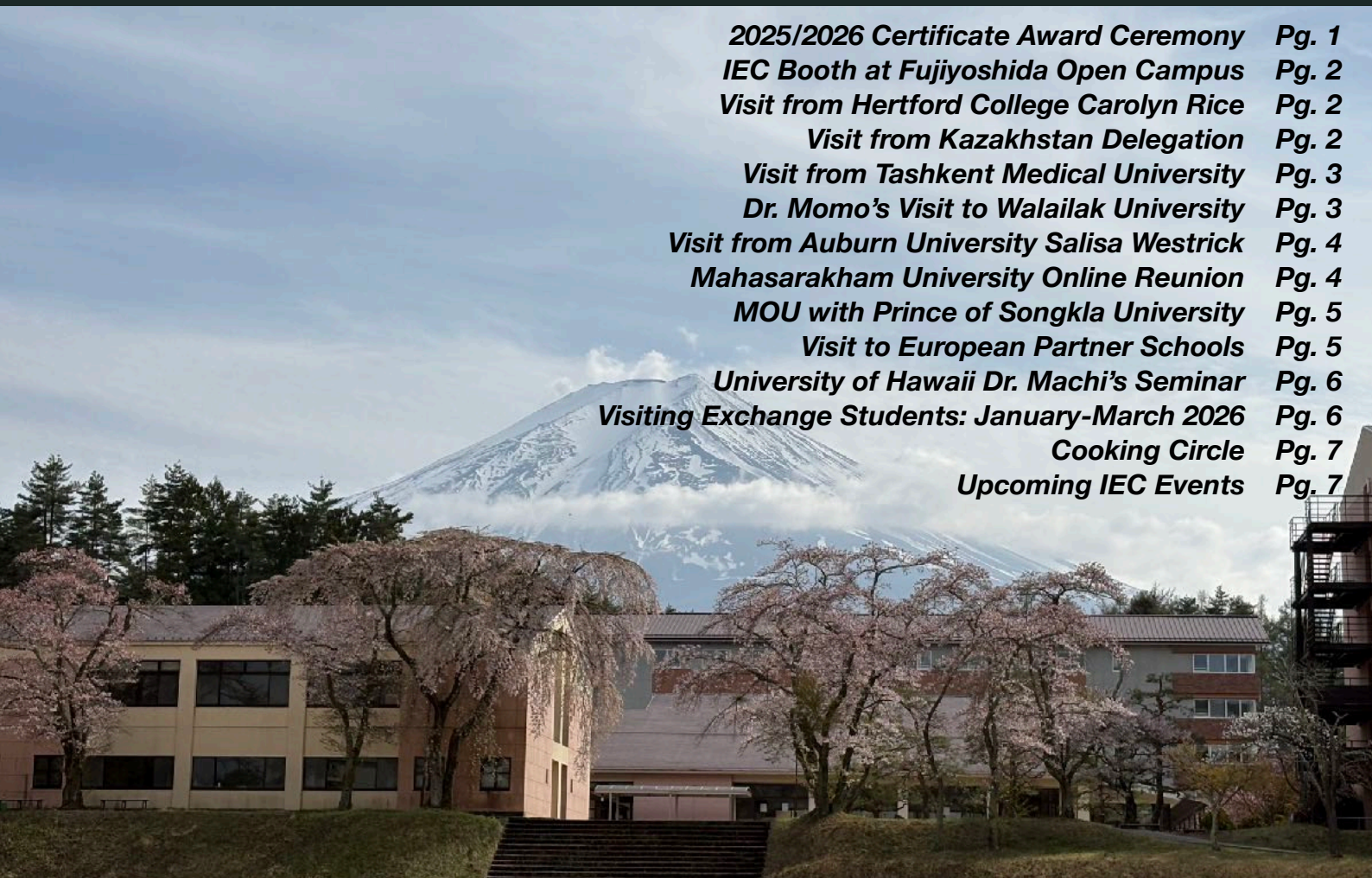
13

昭和医科大学
SHOWA Medical University

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<i>2025/2026 Certificate Award Ceremony</i>	<i>Pg. 1</i>
<i>IEC Booth at Fujiyoshida Open Campus</i>	<i>Pg. 2</i>
<i>Visit from Hertford College Carolyn Rice</i>	<i>Pg. 2</i>
<i>Visit from Kazakhstan Delegation</i>	<i>Pg. 2</i>
<i>Visit from Tashkent Medical University</i>	<i>Pg. 3</i>
<i>Dr. Momo's Visit to Walailak University</i>	<i>Pg. 3</i>
<i>Visit from Auburn University Salisa Westrick</i>	<i>Pg. 4</i>
<i>Maharakham University Online Reunion</i>	<i>Pg. 4</i>
<i>MOU with Prince of Songkla University</i>	<i>Pg. 5</i>
<i>Visit to European Partner Schools</i>	<i>Pg. 5</i>
<i>University of Hawaii Dr. Machi's Seminar</i>	<i>Pg. 6</i>
<i>Visiting Exchange Students: January-March 2026</i>	<i>Pg. 6</i>
<i>Cooking Circle</i>	<i>Pg. 7</i>
<i>Upcoming IEC Events</i>	<i>Pg. 7</i>



Cherry blossoms in bloom at Fujiyoshida Campus for 1st-year students



2025/2026 Certificate Award Ceremony



On March 2, 2026, Showa Medical University held its annual Certificate Award Ceremony and Farewell Party at Kamijo Memorial Hall for international fellows who completed their training during that month.

Dr. Takashi Miyazaki, Director General of the International Exchange Center, provided opening remarks to start the ceremony. Then, 6 international fellows who completed their training for the 2025-2026 program were presented with a certificate of completion from Showa Medical University's President, Professor Yumi Kamijo, in the presence of officials from their embassies and advisors from their departments. Finally, a representative of the fellows, Dr. Xue Fie (China), who studied in the Department of Biochemistry in the School of Dentistry, shared her memories of the year at Showa Medical University and her aspirations after returning to her home country.

At the farewell party, Professor Takaaki Matsuyama (Chair, School of Medicine International Exchange Committee) gave a reception toast, followed by speeches from the award recipients and their advisors. The international fellows, university faculty and staff, and embassy officials spent the rest of the party communicating with each other and deepening their friendships.

After returning from Japan, these six international fellows will engage in education, research, or medical treatments at educational facilities in their home countries.

2025/2026 Certificate Award Ceremony Participants			
Name	Country/Region	School	Department/Division
Bai Xue	China	Medicine	Anatomy
Ji Pan	China	Medicine	Cardiovascular Surgery
Nguyen Duy Thanh	Vietnam	Medicine	Digestive Diseases Center, Koto Toyosu Hospital
Xue Fei	China	Dentistry	Biochemistry
Han Ruyu	China	Dentistry	Biomaterials & Engineering
Meva Andriantsoa Rabenantoandro	Madagascar	Dentistry	Orthodontics

IEC Booth at Fujiyoshida Open Campus

Due to an increasing interest from students and parents about study-abroad and international exchange opportunities at Showa Medical University, the International Exchange Center held its first individual consultation booth at the Fujiyoshida Campus Open Campus on November 29, 2025. At the booth, visitors could talk with an International Exchange Center faculty member without prior reservation. Visitors asked questions regarding international elective clinical clerkship locations, study-abroad program fees, and the method for selecting students for these opportunities. Due to its overwhelming success, we plan to hold this booth again at next year's Open Campus.



Visit from Hertford College Carolyn Rice

On January 23, 2026, Ms. Caroline Rice, Head of International Programmes at Hertford College, University of Oxford (UK), visited our university. During this visit, we discussed the schedule and content for the 2026 "First-Year Study Abroad Program," a summer elective course at Hertford College for first-year students, which began in 2025. The program was very well received last year, and we discussed ideas to modify the 2026 program so that its goals and activities are even better aligned with the needs of our students.



Visit from Kazakhstan Delegation

On December 16, 2025, Zhandos Temirkhanuly Zhumabekov, Deputy Head of the Medical Center of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and three other officials paid a courtesy visit to President Kamijo.

Following a courtesy call to the university president, the delegation conversed with Vice President Miyazaki at the International Exchange Center, where they received an introduction to the university's international exchange activities. Next, guided by Professor Sato and Associate Professor Takahashi, they toured the Brain Function Analysis and Digital Medicine Research Institute. This visit is expected to lead to further development of exchange activities, particularly research-based ones.



Visit from Tashkent Medical University

On December 4, 2025, the IEC received a courtesy visit from Tashkent State Medical University Chirchik Branch of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This delegation, which was led by Principal Gafurddzhon Sultanov and included 2 other members, met Professor Yoshiko Kudo, Vice Director, and Ms. Yuka Hiraizumi, Program Coordinator, from our center.

After receiving an introduction of Tashkent State Medical University that included some Japanese translation from the Uzbekistan delegation, the IEC introduced our university's system for



accepting International Fellows, and exchanged opinions regarding the possibilities for future research activities and clinical training exchanges. Showa Medical University's connection to Uzbekistan dates back to 2019 when Ms. Hiraizumi and another IEC member participated in a cultural exchange meeting hosted by the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Japan. We shared

photos from that event as we welcomed them by serving Japanese-style tea at the table. This was greatly appreciated by the delegation as a way to experience Japanese culture.

Dr. Momo's Visit to Walailak University

On February 18, 2026, the international conference "From Molecular Innovation to Patient Impact" was held at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Walailak University (Thailand). Dr. Kenji Momo, Associate Professor of the Division of Clinical Research, Department of Hospital Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy, and member of the School of Pharmacy International Exchange Committee, participated in this conference and delivered a lecture on the topic "How to create impact research using big data, epidemiological data, and patient data."



This participation was the result of an invitation extended when Chaweewan Klongsiriwet, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Walailak University, along with three other members, visited our university on July 31, 2025, and expressed a strong desire for Dr. Momo to give a lecture.

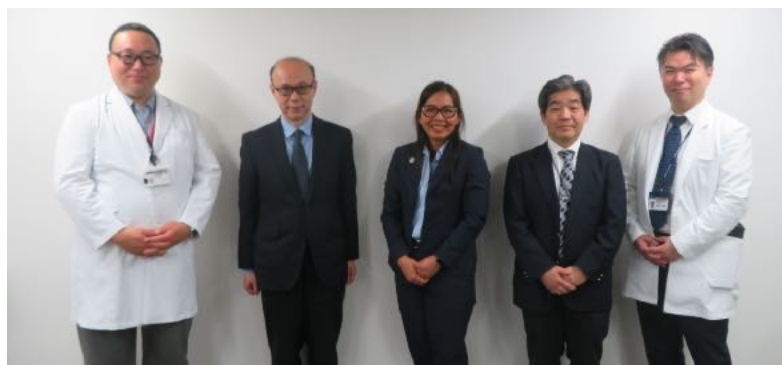
After the conference, faculty members of the International Exchange Committee of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Graduate School of Pharmacy at our university participated online and held a meeting with the professors of the Faculty of Pharmacy at Walailak University, providing a valuable opportunity to further strengthen the cooperative relationship between the two universities.



Visit from Auburn University Salisa Westrick

On March 25, 2026, Professor Salisa Westrick from the Auburn University College of Pharmacy (USA) visited the School of Pharmacy at Showa Medical University.

Five members from the School of Pharmacy, including Dean Shuntaro Hara, Professor Masaru Kato, Chair of the International Exchange Committee of the School of Pharmacy, and Professor Hiroyuki Itabe attended. Following introductions of overseas practical training and research programs at each university and pharmacy school, they toured the university hospital and campus, and discussed possibilities for future exchanges.

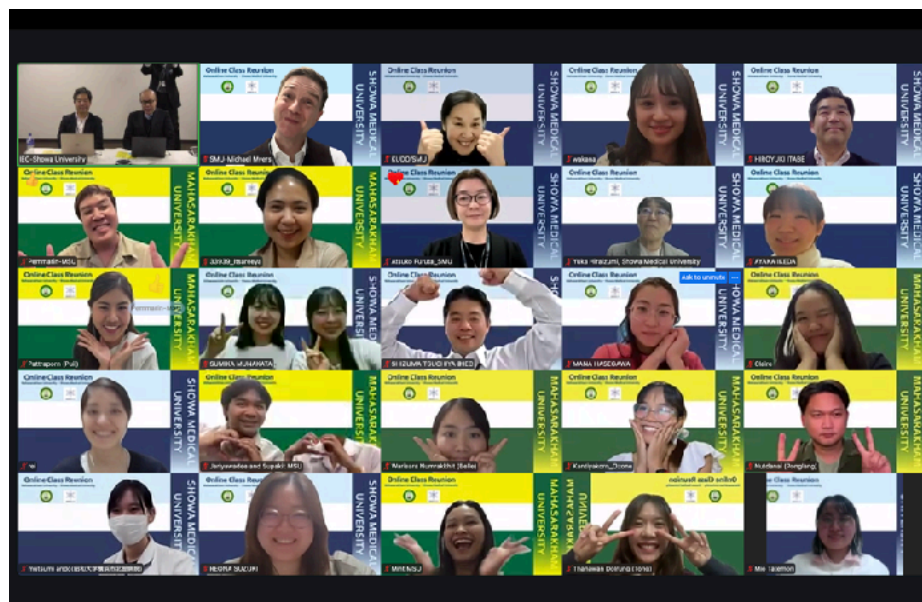


Maharakham University Online Reunion

Since signing an exchange agreement between our pharmacy schools in 2008, Showa Medical University and Maharakham University (MSU) in Thailand have been sending and receiving students annually. On January 28, 2025, an online alumni reunion was held, inviting participants up to 2025 to report on how studying abroad at our universities have influenced their current lives. Twenty-five students and faculty members from our university and seventeen participants from MSU attended.

Following opening remarks by Professor Masaru Kato, Chair of the School of Pharmacy International Exchange Committee, participants from both sides shared memories and recent updates of their practical training and internships, and gave presentations about their current work. Afterwards, the event featured a quiz corner and casual conversations in breakout rooms to help deepen exchange. The event concluded successfully with closing remarks by Professor Pemmarin Potisarach of MSU.

We will continue to maintain this exchange as a bridge between Showa Medical University and Thailand.



MOU with Prince of Songkla University

Prince of Songkla University (PSU), which is located in Hat Yai, Thailand, is a national comprehensive medical university that serves as a core center for education and research in southern Thailand.

On December 3, 2025, our university concluded an exchange agreement with PSU's Faculty of Medicine and our schools of medicine and nursing and rehabilitation sciences. This collaboration will contribute to the development of globally competent medical professionals through student exchange and the advancement of education and research.



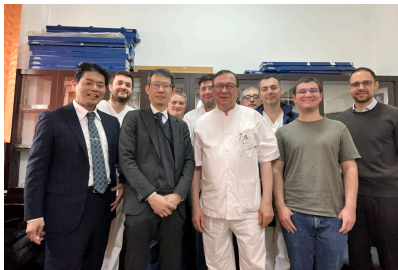
SCHOOL OF NURSING & REHABILITATION SCIENCES



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Visit to European Partner Schools

Faculty from the School of Medicine (Professor Takaaki Matsuyama) and the International Exchange Center (Professor Shizuma Tsuchiya) visited three partner universities in Romania, Germany, and Hungary to inspect their clinical training programs for medical students and their educational environments, and to discuss further developments in international exchange. This was a valuable visit to further expand exchange between these partner schools in the future.



The Faculty of Medicine at Carol Davila University in Romania boasts a history of over 150 years and is a leading medical university in the country. Equipped with advanced medical facilities and cutting-edge simulation training, it provides practical medical education. With a robust English-language program and support system for international students, it is an attractive training site where students can integrate basic and clinical knowledge in an international environment and enhance their practical skills.



HDZ NRW in Germany is one of the world's leading advanced specialized medical centers, boasting approximately 80 heart transplants per year (approximately 3,000 cumulatively) and approximately 3,500 cardiac surgeries per year. It offers an educational environment where students can learn while being exposed to cutting-edge medical care, and has a support system including guidance from Japanese physicians and assistance for international students. Students can significantly enhance their expertise and practical skills through clinical experience in highly specialized fields.



The Faculty of Medicine at Semmelweis University in Hungary is a prestigious medical university in Eastern Europe. It plays a central role in clinical practice, education, and research in Europe, and has systematically established clinical training in English. The university accepts international students from around the world, providing a facility where advanced clinical skills can be developed in an international environment.

University of Hawaii Dr. Machi's Seminar

On January 29, 2026, the International Exchange Center sponsored and organized an international exchange seminar at our Hatanodai campus. This time, we welcomed Professor Junji Machi, Director of the Japanese Affiliated Program in the Office of Global Health and International Medicine at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine and founder and head of the Hawaii Medical Education Program (HMEP), who gave a lecture on the current state and challenges of medical care, education, and Japanese student exchange in the United States.

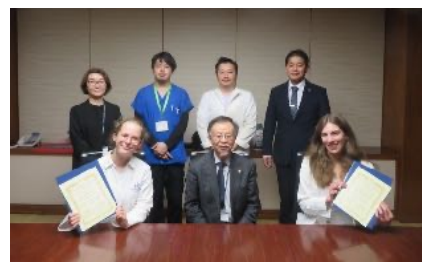
In his lecture, Professor Machi spoke about the attitude and preparation necessary to pave the way as a medical professional in the United States, incorporating his own career experience. It was a highly valuable opportunity for participants to consider their future careers.



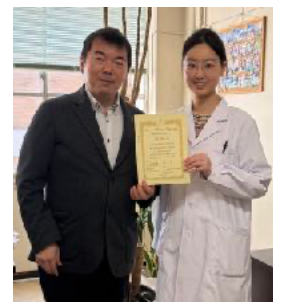
Visiting Exchange Students: January-March 2026

Below is a list of departments that accepted undergraduate exchange students from January to March, 2026. We thank all of them for their guidance and cooperation.

School	Department/Division	University	# Students	Training dates
Medicine	Digestive Diseases Center (Koto Toyosu Hospital)	University of New South Wales (Australia)	1	Jan. 5 - 31
	Cardiology	Semmelweis University (Hungary)	1	Mar. 2 - 27
	Gastroenterology	Semmelweis University (Hungary)	1	Mar. 2 - 27
Dentistry	Dental Materials and Engineering	Tianjin University (China)	1	Jan. 26 - Mar. 25
Pharmacy	Exchange Program	Taipei Medical University (Taiwan)	1	Jan. 31 - Feb. 10
	Exchange Program	Mahidol University (Thailand)	2	Jan. 26 - Mar. 6



MEDICINE



DENTISTRY



PHARMACY



PHARMACY

Cooking Circle



The Showa Medical University Cooking Circle is a faculty/staff social club that was started by the IEC faculty in January 2012. It provides a venue where international fellows can showcase their home country's cuisine and participants can experience dishes from around the world.

On December 3, 2025, we held a "Chinese Cuisine" event, where Professor Shi-Yu Guo, Visiting Professor in the Department of Physiology, and international fellows from China introduced how to make dumplings and discussed traditional Chinese cuisine.

On that day, undergraduate international students and international fellows from other countries, along with our university's students, also participated in a hands-on experience of making boiled dumplings, making it a fun and delicious gathering.



Upcoming IEC events

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|---------------|---|
| May 26, 2026 | Welcome Party for 2026/2027 International Fellows |
| May 27, 2026 | Chulalongkorn University/Showa Medical University Dental Student Exchange Seminar |
| July 15, 2026 | Seminar on crisis management/safety measures for overseas travel from Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| July 24, 2026 | 39th "Bon Dance" festival on Hatanodai campus |

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Hatanodai Campus

