

TMDU graduates are active at the forefront of their field in countries worldwide. Studying abroad helped them deepen their knowledge as healthcare professionals, benefiting both their field and patients in every corner of the globe.

Letters from TMDU Overseas Alumni

Letter 01

My story with the three generations of Orthopaedic professors in TMDU

Zhiwei FANG

Emeritus Professor of the Department of Orthopaedic Oncology in Peking University Cancer Hospital



IT'S BEEN MORE than twenty years since I first went to study in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU). Over that period, I visited TMDU multiple times and had the good fortune to work with three different generations of professors.

My first experience studying at TMDU was in October of 1991, when I was appointed as a government-funded exchange student by the Chinese Ministry of Education. My mentor was Professor Kohtarō Furuya, who was an expert in the treatment of bone and soft

tissue tumors. After six months of study at TMDU, Professor Kohtarō Furuya introduced me to Dr. Noriyoshi Kawaguchi in the Department of Orthopaedic Oncology at the Cancer Institute Hospital of Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research (JFCR). Professor Kawaguchi was a famous expert in sarcoma treatment, and his theory of surgical margin was renowned in the field of bone and soft tissue tumor. I benefited a lot from the six-month study, and my understanding of sarcoma treatment was greatly improved. After one year, with Professor Furuya's recommendation I



On July 21, 2015, the conference hall in TMDU which was built for memorializing Professor Akio SUZUKI.

went to study at the Department of Pathology in the Japanese National Cancer Center Hospital for another half year. After that I went back to Peking University First Hospital in April of 1993.

My second time studying at TMDU was in April 2000 when I was admitted to a four-year doctoral program as a self-financed student. My mentor at that time was Professor Kenichi Shinomiya, who taught me how to develop a serious and rigorous attitude and nurture a practical and innovative spirit in the academic field. Under his instruction, I overcame various difficulties in my study and life and was the first student to be awarded a doctoral diploma that year.

In 2004, I was appointed as a professor at Tianjin University Cancer Hospital. In 2007, I was appointed as a professor at Peking University Cancer Hospital (PUCH) and built up the Department of Orthopaedic Oncology at

(From left) Dr. Manabe, Dr. Matsumoto, Me, Dr. Furuya, Dr. Kawaguchi



On August 31, 2002, Professor Kenichi SHINOMIYA visited Peking University First Hospital

Knowledge and Humanity thereby Contributing to People's Well-being".



In September of 2011, the China-Japan Bone Soft Tissue Tumor Cooperation was set up in PUCH.

the hospital. The department has now become well-known in China for its sarcoma treatment center.

Since 1993, I have maintained close contact with TMDU. Below are several photos taken during this period.

On July 21, 2015, I met the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery's current director Professor Atsushi Okawa when I visited here again. Over these past twenty years, I've witnessed TMDU's

rapid development. TMDU has trained a lot of Chinese doctors. Many teaching and research offices of TMDU have kept in close contact and sponsored exchanges with different Chinese universities and hospitals.

Now, as an emeritus professor, I still continue to practice clinic and surgical operation, as well as teach students. I would like to send my best wishes to TMDU: "Cultivating Professionals with

Letter 02

Unforgettable experience studying at TMDU



Shuixian Qian

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Shuixian Qian

AFTER GRADUATING FROM Shanghai Second Medical University (SSMU) in 1978, I worked as a resident surgeon at Shanghai Ninth People's Hospital, where I immersed myself in hard work and tried to learn as much as I could. Noticing the large number of patients with varicose venous ulcers coming to the outpatient department, I became interested in vascular surgery. While pursuing a master's degree in vascular surgery at SSMU, I read widely about vascular surgery practiced overseas, including many articles on vascular surgical auto-vein transplantation, popliteal artery entrapment syndrome, etc., by Professor Takehisa Iwai, who subsequently was one of my teachers at TMDU. I received my master's degree in 1986 and was appointed attending surgeon.

As the Chinese saying goes: It is better

to travel ten thousand miles than to read ten thousand books. China was opening up to the world and I wanted to see as much of it as possible. So I headed to TMDU, an institution admired throughout the world.

While living in Japan, in addition to the challenge of studying, my life was full of fun. I learned Japanese, cultivated an appreciation of Japanese art, culture and history, enjoyed delicious Japanese cuisine, and visited several beautiful cities. From the first day to the last, I enjoyed my stay in Japan. I am grateful to Professor Iwai and Professor Mitsuo Endo, and to everyone else at TMDU who encouraged me and took such good care of me. I learned a lot and was the first author of more than 20 scientific papers published in Japanese and U.S. journals. After receiving a PhD degree from TMDU in 1996, I re-

turned to Shanghai Jiaotong University (formerly SSMU) where I worked as chief doctor and professor in the department of vascular surgery.

Back in Shanghai, drawing on knowledge and experience gained in Japan, I was involved in many artery disease treatment programs, such as carotid endarterectomy, abdominal aortic aneurysm, and extended profundoplasty. Recognizing the desirability of cultivating a truly international perspective and of strengthening friendship and mutual understanding between the peoples of China and Japan, Professor Iwai and I founded the Shanghai-Tokyo Angiology Research Symposium (STARS). Its purpose is to serve as an effective forum, encouraging young doctors to participate in communication between the two countries. The symposium is an annual event, alternating between Shanghai and Tokyo. The 13th Shanghai-Tokyo symposium will be held in Tokyo next autumn. Through academic exchanges, friendships among surgeons have been enhanced and the gap in vascular surgery between our two countries is disappearing. We learned a lot of advanced technology and ideas from doctors in Japan.



Post-symposium snap with fellow participants in Shanghai



In Kyoto, first time at an international conference

I noticed that academic communication alone is insufficient. Broader participation in people-to-people exchanges is needed to foster friendly relations. That is why I am active in the Shanghai Oversea Returned Student Association, currently serving as senior vice chairman. We offer free services to make life easier for Japanese residing in Shanghai, including free medical consultations for the past seven years, as well as

a hotline for health problems. I am fortunate to have had so many opportunities to return to Tokyo to see friends at TMDU. We organize more than 30 China-Japan friendship activities each year, including seminars on political and economic issues, education, culture, business, and manufacturing. In particular, in 2014 I was a member of a Chinese delegation of 20 people to the disaster-hit Fukushima area. We visited hospi-

tals, nursing homes, food processing plants and other institutions, learning about the reconstruction efforts and receiving a warm welcome from local government officials and local people, as well as coverage in news media.

Experience and knowledge gained through study abroad should be shared with others, in order to contribute to international friendship. Let's work together hand in hand to create a better future.

Letter 03

TMDU broadened my intellectual horizons and encouraged me to innovate



Dr. Fadi Salameh
Fadi Salameh MD. Phd.
Head of SALAMEH Endoscopy Private Clinic



Written- Fadi Salameh

IT HAS BEEN more than ten years since I graduated from the PhD course at TMDU. The first memory that flashes to my mind when I recall those days as an enthusiastic young doctor from Syria, searching for the best place to continue my studies in Japan, is of my first visit to TMDU to discuss enrolling in the PhD course with Professor Iwai, who was head of the Surgery One Department. I will never forget his kind smile and shining intelligent eyes while we were talking about Syria. He was well informed about the region from where I come, the Middle East, and was also knowledgeable about Syria. After our meeting, I strolled around the Ochanomizu campus where I saw many foreign doctors who were working there. I

said to myself, "This is the international environment where I should study." In the days that followed I was proved right. The international students office at the university was very active and supportive. The information about the enrollment procedure was clear and simple, with everything available in English.

After six months as a research student, I began my PhD studies in the field of esophageal gastroenterology. I was fascinated by the technology and devices used for endoscopic mucosal resection (EMR). Indeed, I tried to develop a few myself.

One day, Dr. Tatsuyuki Kawano, my supervising professor, called me to a meeting with a representative of a Japanese medical company to discuss the

possibility of the practical use of one of the EMR devices that I was developing. We concluded at the end of the meeting that my device needed more development before it could be used, but I was not discouraged about the result, because just having the opportunity to discuss my device with a medical device manufacturer was like a dream come true. It could never have happened without the great support and help of the medical and administrative staff of TDMU.

That kind of support is what distinguishes TMDU from many other universities. Studying at TMDU not only broadens your intellectual horizons but also offers young doctors many opportunities to innovate, which is wonderful.

After graduating from TDMU, I received a scholarship for two years from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) for a postdoctoral course.

I wanted to have my own clinic and in 2010 I managed to open one in the heart of Damascus, the capital of Syria.

I was hoping to settle in Syria with my wife and children but unfortunately the war started in Syria and I decided to return to Japan.



Reception room at my clinic in Damascus, Syria



The examination room at the clinic