



# Newsletter

No. 43 April 28 2023

Latin American Collaborative Research Center (LACRC)  
Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Santiago, Chile

## Celebrating 55 Years of Friendship with Chile

During a two-year assignment in Chile from 2013 to 2015, I was responsible for teaching gastrointestinal endoscopy techniques to local physicians. My time in Chile was highly fulfilling thanks to the support of everyone at LARC, and although eight years have passed since I returned to Japan, the memories of my time there remain vivid.



Since that time, TMDU's activities in Chile have undergone significant changes. In particular, academic ties between TMDU and the University of Chile in connection with the Joint Degree Program have been further consolidated. We continue to move ever closer to our desired model for international cooperation between universities. The JDP launched in 2016 and the first cohort of students will complete their studies in March 2023. As someone familiar with the struggles experienced by both universities, this news fills me with great joy. Above all, I am proud of TMDU for successfully implementing and maintaining this progressive approach to learning.

I am both excited and anxious to see how the relationship between the two universities will evolve over the coming years. At times like these, I am reminded of the longstanding friendship between TMDU and the University of Chile. Looking back, it all started with the first visit to Chile in 1968 by Professor Tadashige Murakami (of what was then Department of Surgery I). Since then, many projects have been successfully founded on friendly relationships nurtured over the years. The JDP is one such fruitful result. As our predecessors have demonstrated, friendships between like-minded people will remain unbroken even after many years. I will continue to play a role as a bridge between our two universities, and will work hard to establish an even more powerful alliance.

Junior Associate Professor Takuya Okada,  
Esophageal Surgery, Department of General Surgery, Division of Clinical Medicine,  
Tokyo Medical and Dental University Hospital



**LACRC** TMDU  
IN CHILE

Latin American Collaborative Research Center  
Santiago de Chile

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# TMDU–University of Chile Joint Symposium

On Tuesday, November 8, 2022, a joint symposium organized by TMDU and the University of Chile was held in the G-Lab (M&D Tower) at Tokyo Medical and Dental University. Five speakers from the University of Chile (UCh) and seven from TMDU delivered lectures with the aim of strengthening future collaboration between the two universities across many fields, and to provide an opportunity for reciprocal interaction among participants. The symposium was lively and productive across wide-ranging topics including gastroenterology, intensive care medicine, immunology and more.

The symposium included in-person participation by faculty members, including Dr. Miguel Luis O’Ryan, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at UCh. Dr. Manuel Kukuljan, the former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at UCh, also participated online.



From left:

Assoc. Prof. Sayaka Katagiri, Dept. of Periodontics  
Jr. Assoc. Prof. Tomohiro Mizutani, Dept. of Gastroenterology and Hepatology

Acting Director, Institute of Global Affairs, Manabu Kanazawa  
Dr. O’Ryan, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Chile

UCh presenters (on the screen)

Executive Officer / Vice President Tomohiro Morio

Adjunct Lecturer Motoi Yamashita, Dept. of Pediatrics and Developmental Biology

Asst. Prof. Fumiaki Ando, Dept. of Nephrology

Acting Director, Institute of Global Affairs, Kazuki Takada



Scenes from the symposium

## Meeting with TMDU President

On the day of the TMDU-UCh Joint Symposium, Dr. Miguel Luis O’Ryan, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at UCh and Dr. Yujiro Tanaka, President of TMDU held a meeting. Dr. O’Ryan, meanwhile, spoke about his vision for the future of the two universities at the welcome lunch.

Dr. O’Ryan presented an overview of the University of Chile and its Faculty of Medicine and proposed a broadening of the scope of the Joint Degree Program (JDP) offered by the two universities. The University of Chile struggles to secure applicants for the JDP – a doctoral program requiring high levels of knowledge – among Chilean physicians in the current narrowly defined fields. Accordingly, Dr. O’Ryan expressed his desire to make the program more attractive by expanding its scope, for example, to attract more applicants in the future.



President Yujiro Tanaka (TMDU) and Dr. O’Ryan, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (UC)



President Yujiro Tanaka and Dean Miguel Luis O’Ryan exchange souvenirs

# Tour of ICU and the Faculty of Dentistry

## by Dr. O'Ryan (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine)

Dr. Miguel Luis O'Ryan, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Chile, participated in a tour of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and the Faculty of Dentistry at TMDU. The ICU tour included a briefing from Dr. Nobuyuki Nosaka, junior associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Intensive Care at TMDU. Meanwhile, Professor Manabu Kanazawa of the Department of Digital Dentistry gave a tour of the laboratory and hospital at the Faculty of Dentistry.



Top left: ICU tour  
From left: Dr. O'Ryan (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine),  
Jr. Assoc. Prof. Nobuyuli Nosaka

Bottom left: Faculty of Dentistry Skills Lab  
From left: Dr. O'Ryan, Prof. Manabu Kanazawa

Bottom right: Dental Hospital  
From left: Dr. O'Ryan, Prof. Manabu Kanazawa



### Editor's Note

My name is Nanami Koshikawa, and I have been given the task of editing the Chile Newsletter. We will continue to provide updates on our exchange with the TMDU Latin American Collaborative Research Center going forward. The TMDU-UCh joint symposium featured in this issue was held in a combined face-to-face and online format, offering a glimpse of what has become the new normal post COVID-19. Opportunities to utilize the internet have increased in every aspect of our lives, but in my mind, that makes face-to-face encounters in person all the more important. We should cherish these opportunities.

(Nanami Koshikawa)

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