



## Living in Chile

It's been four years since I started at my post in Chile. In the beginning, I didn't know the first thing about living here. I faced many difficulties at work and in daily life, but with help from many people and through my own experiences, now life in Chile is nothing out of the ordinary.

I've gotten used to the climate and customs that are different to Japan, including having the driver's seat on the left but driving on the right side of the road, which is the opposite of Japan. There are also certain inconveniences in Chile that you don't find in Japan. I realized that one of the inconveniences I've gotten used to is *being kept waiting*.

In Chile, it is accepted that workers receive two to three weeks extended vacation. Because of this, I often must wait a long time for certain things while the relevant person is away, particularly during the summer.

For example, there have been times when my mail didn't arrive. I contacted someone about the matter, but it couldn't be taken care of until the relevant person was back from vacation. Also, in a medical setting, pathology and other examination reports don't come back on time, or examinations and operations are cut due to absences.

Japan has an extremely stable level of service in society, which is fantastic, but in order to maintain such societal norms, a great burden is placed on individuals. I believe that burden causes people to think, "I pushed myself to the limit, so naturally I expect it of others," which can make them unable to tolerate inconvenience.

While such a convenient society is a great gift, I think that if Japanese society tolerated a certain level of inconvenience and respected individuality a little more, that tolerance would reflect back on society as a whole, and everyone could lead a less stressful life.

Living in Chile, there are more inconveniences than in Japan. However, thinking of myself and my family, I realize I feel a sense of comfort here that I haven't experienced back home.

*Tomoyuki Odagaki, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*



**LACRC** TMDU  
IN CHILE  
Latin American Collaborative Research Center  
Santiago de Chile



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# Joint Degree Program

From December, Professor Hiroyuki Uetake took charge of the Joint Degree Program (JDP hereafter) alongside Assistant Professor Takashi Ito, newly selected coordinator in charge of communications with supervisors and study support sessions.

On this occasion, we asked Assistant Professor Ito to share a few words.

## JDP Coordinator

### **Assistant Professor, Dr. Takashi Ito**

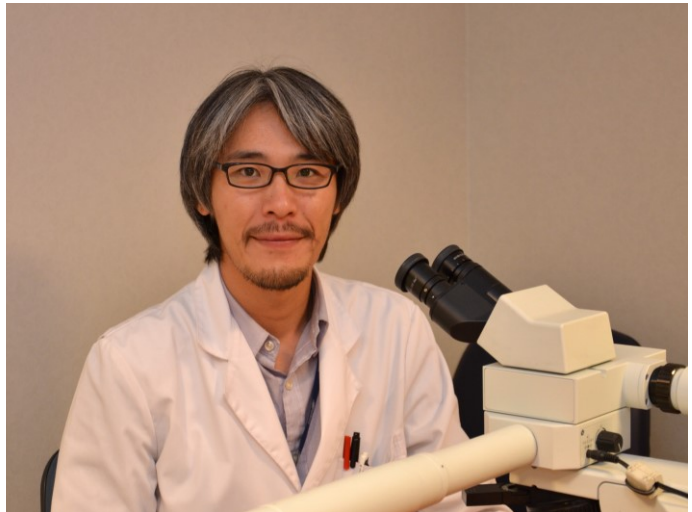
#### *JDP Coordinator*

I am honored to have received the position of JDP coordinator. I received my first long-term appointment through TMDU at LACRC at the end of April 2010, which ran for two years.

At the time, PRENEC was in its preliminary stages, without the concrete idea of a JDP with the University of Chile. My main roles during my assignment were maintenance of the research environment at LACRC, creation of diagnostic pathology protocol to be used in PRENEC and diagnostic pathology operations at CLC.

I was often bewildered by the operations and way of life in Chile that was so different from Japan, but my perspective greatly broadened through this assignment.

In my new role, I will use my experience in Chile to help graduate students on their path as international health professionals through the JDP, and support their lives and research to the best of my ability.



# PRENEC Progress

As always, we present the latest news for the National Colorectal Cancer Screening Project (PRENEC).

Concepción, along with the six cities of Punta Arenas, Santiago, Valparaíso, Valdivia, Osorno and Coquimbo, have started PRENEC. However, due to issues with operations in Valparaíso, the newly established project in Concepción has been put on hold. We expect the issues to be resolved and progress to resume soon. Abroad in Paraguay, the PRENEC pilot study has come to an end, and preparations for full-scale commencement are underway.

## Research Conference in Osorno

A research conference for PRENEC was held in Hospital Base San José in Osorno, one of the PRENEC hubs, between November 29 and December 1. PRENEC leader Dr. Francisco López, nurse Alejandra Ponce and Assistant Professor Tomoyuki Odagaki were invited.

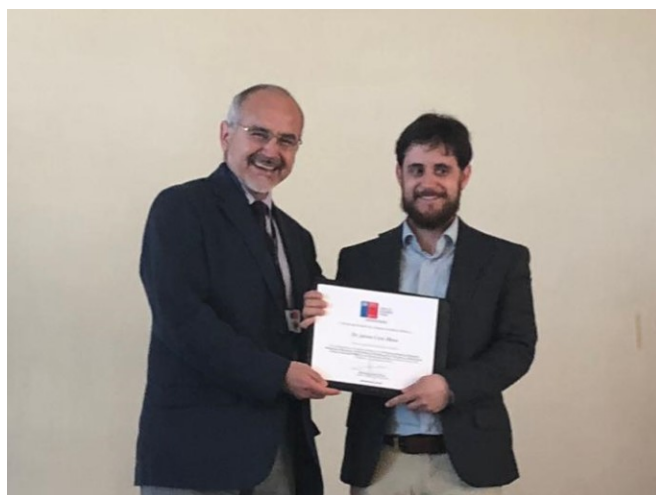
The conference was held for staff who have been working on PRENEC in Osorno during the year since it began.

The year's results were announced, operational and clinical issues were raised and discussions were held on how to resolve them. Dr. Odagaki also gave a presentation on endoscopic treatment and exchanged opinions with local doctors.

Dr. Cruz, who received training on colonoscopy under Dr. Odagaki in 2017 and has been involved in PRENEC at Osorno, also gave a presentation at the conference. This is an example of a highly desirable outcome—doctors who've received TMDU's guidance return to their workplaces ready to further educate doctors on future PRENEC operations.



From left to right: Assistant Professor Odagaki; Head of PRENEC in Osorno, Dr. Cáceres; and Dr. López.



From left to right: Dr. Cáceres and Dr. Cruz

# Project Semester

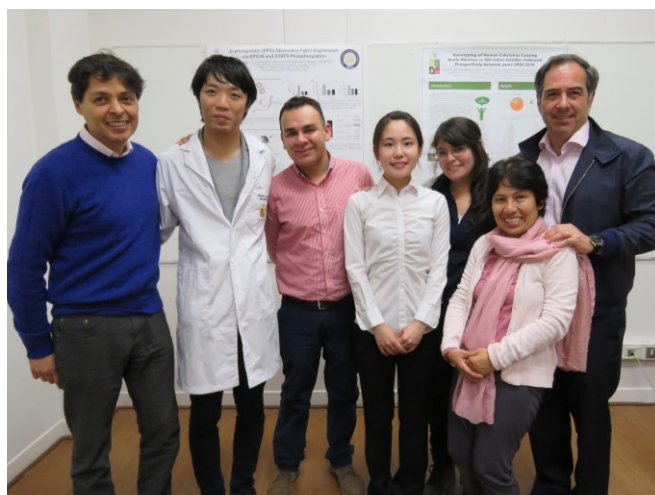
On October 31, two fourth-year students from TMDU were sent to the University of Chile in June for a medical internship study abroad (project semester) gave their final presentations at the University of Chile.

The students announced the results of their research, and also held an English Q&A with their advisors and lab staff, receiving high praise. Their experience living and working in a country other than Japan will greatly benefit their futures.

## Final Presentation of the Projects

**Ms. Nanami Kawakami** *Microbiology and Mycology Program, U. of Chile*

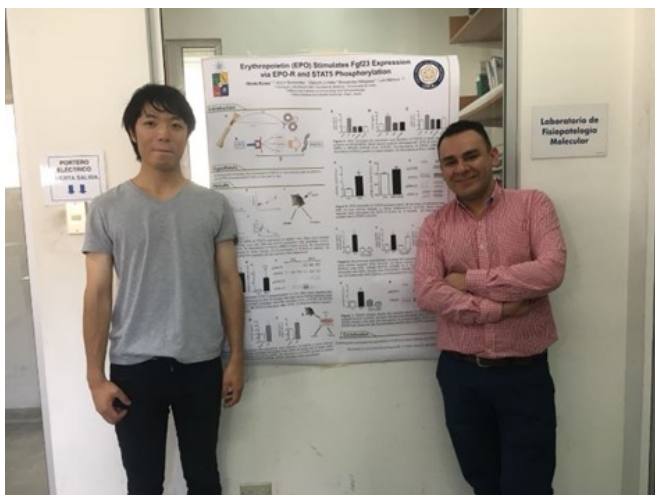
Time has flown by since September, and my return to Japan has quickly crept up on me. In terms of research, I've learned about a series of norovirus genotype analyses, as well as RT-PCR and cloning, including fundamental procedures and results analysis. I was extremely anxious because I began without any research experience, but I learned a lot thanks to the careful explanation I was given in English, Spanish and sometimes even gestures! I was taken to the city of Colina, the region where our research is being conducted. There, I observed interviews with the families making our research possible and saw that my research is more than just data. In my day-to-day life, I communicated in Spanish and English and made friends that I had a lot of fun with. Thanks to the warm support of Professor O'Ryan, the staff at TMDU assisting with this exchange, the LACRC staff and the laboratory staff who instructed me, gave me enthusiastic suggestions and supported me, I was able to experience a fulfilling five months. Thank you very much!



My caring supervising professor and laboratory staff.

**Mr. Hiroto Kuma** *Physiology and Biophysics Laboratory, U. of Chile*

Hello! My name is Hiroto Kuma, and I am a fourth-year student learning at the nephrology research lab of the University of Chile. My six-month stay in Chile is coming to an end. In the beginning I had a lot of concerns, including living away from home for the first time and the speed of spoken Spanish in Chile, but I was able to persevere thanks to the kind people assisting me. I am very happy that my research produced worthwhile results, as that was my greatest concern. Now, being able to communicate in Spanish alone, I feel that I've changed greatly since I left Japan. Once again, I would like to express my appreciation to everyone who supported me.



A commemorative photo with research support staff member Barrientos.

# LACRC Activities Report

## Research Conference Presentation

On October 26, Dr. Odagaki received a request from oncology research group GOCCHI (Grupo Oncológico Cooperativo Chileno de Investigación) in Chile to give a presentation on PRENEC. The event was attended by doctors and medical staff from public and private hospitals dealing with cancer research. A strong interest has been taken in the early detection of colorectal cancer, which work is present across Chile.

TMDU will continue to contribute to medicine in Chile through related activities.



Commemorative photo with GOCCHI Director, Dr. Bettina Müller.

**CURSO DE ACTUALIZACIÓN  
EN EL MANEJO MULTIDISCIPLINARIO  
DE TUMORES GASTROINTESTINALES**  
(4 módulos: Agosto / Septiembre / Octubre y Noviembre 2018)

**MÓDULO 1: Cánceres esofagagástricos y GIST**  
31 de agosto: 8:30 a 18.00 hrs. / 1 de septiembre: 9:00 a 13:00 hrs.  
Auditorio Dr. Salvador Allende, Colegio Médico,  
Esmeralda 678, Santiago.

**TEMAS:**  
Epidemiología de los cánceres digestivos en Chile  
Etiopatología de los cánceres gástricos y esofágicos  
Tratamientos uni- y multimodales en cánceres gástricos y esofágicos  
Terapias de soporte  
Biología molecular y perspectivas futuras  
Impacto en salud pública de los cánceres esofago-gástricos  
Los tumores del estroma gastrointestinal (GIST): diagnóstico y tratamiento  
Casos clínicos

**EXPOSITORES:**

**Invitado Internacional:**  
Dr. Guillermo Méndez (Hospital de Gastroenterología Dr. Borlino Udaondo, Buenos Aires, Argentina)

**Expositores Nacionales:**  
Dr. Carlos Rueda (Gastroenterólogo Oncólogo, Clínica Alemana de Santiago / Instituto Nacional del Cáncer)  
Dra. Daniela Sarahona (Radióloga, Clínica Alemana de Santiago)  
Dr. Giancarlo Schlappacasse (Radiólogo, Clínica Alemana de Santiago)  
Dr. Luis Aguilera (Endoscopista, Instituto Nacional del Cáncer)  
Dr. Gonzalo Carrasco (Anatómopatólogo, Clínica Las Condes)  
Dr. Tomoyuki Odagaki (Endoscopista, Profesor Asistente en el Latin American Collaborative Research Center (LACRC), Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU))  
Dr. Walter Medina (Cirujano Digestivo Oncólogo, Instituto Nacional del Cáncer)  
Dra. Thiane Olgún (Multiólogo, Instituto Nacional del Cáncer)  
Dra. Claudio Acevedo (Pneumólogo, Instituto Nacional del Cáncer)  
Dra. Verónica López (Oncóloga de Radioterapia, Instituto Nacional del Cáncer)  
Dra. Bettina Müller (Oncóloga Médica, Instituto Nacional del Cáncer)  
Kin. Karla Collao (Instituto Nacional del Cáncer)  
Dra. Verónica Kramer (Especialista Cuidados Paliativos Oncológicos, Instituto Nacional del Cáncer)  
Dr. Francisco Flores (Oncólogo Médico, Instituto Nacional del Cáncer)  
Dr. Roberto Estay (Médico Internista, Colegio Médico)  
Dr. Alejandro Corvalán (Investigador Traslacional, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

Research conference program

### From the Editor

With summer in full swing, the city of Santiago and its shopping malls were decorated with Christmas trees—this is December in Chile.

Over 30,000 patients have been registered since PRENEC began, and this year, the first Chilean doctor announced a paper relating to PRENEC. This year has also shown signs of stability, while also revealing issues that remain. Japanese graduate students went to Chile for the first time through the JDP and embarked on new challenges with the University of Chile. We're expecting further development and progress in the coming year. Please continue tracking LACRC's activities during the year through this newsletter. Thank you.

(Mrs. Miki Hayakawa)

### Tokyo Medical and Dental University (TMDU) Latin American Collaborative Research Center (LACRC)

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