

Newsletter

No. 42 September 30 2022

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

On Appointment as New LACRC Director

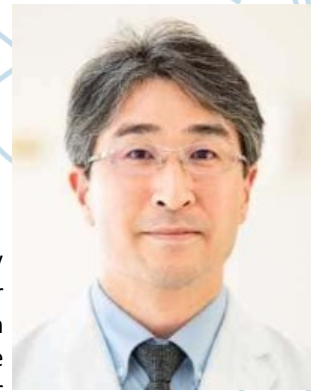
My name is Yusuke Kinugasa, and I have been appointed as Director of Tokyo Medical and Dental University operations in Chile, succeeding Masanobu Kitagawa, the former Director. I am a Professor in the Department of Gastrointestinal Surgery at the Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, and Head of the Department of Colorectal Surgery at Tokyo Medical and Dental University Hospital.

I have been participating in the Joint Degree Program (JDP) with the University of Chile since 2021, following the retirement of Professor Hiroyuki Uetake, former Deputy Director of the JDP. I haven't had any direct interaction with the team in Chile, however, and was simply part of a committee during monthly online meetings, so I have been a little bit anxious regarding my appointment as Director of the LACRC. Nonetheless, I have received practical assistance from Associate Professor Nagahori and Dr. Okada, who is head of the International Health Care Department, and a wealth of support from Ms. Yoneta and other members of the Institute of Global Affairs. I am committed to working with our colleagues in Chile to further developing exchange between TMDU and South America, Chile included.

As you are aware, for the past two years, the spread of COVID-19 infections has been a major obstacle to all kinds of international exchange programs. At the same time, the pandemic has also led to remarkable progress in the development of new tools for important interaction, such as online meetings. In the surgical field, Japan has made significant advances in the development of remote surgery and remote surgery guidance technologies, and guidelines for telesurgery have already been established. Personally, I am hoping to connect our university with operating theaters in Chile in order to provide instruction in robotic surgery.

We are working to create a new environment that will overcome disadvantages that come with being on opposite sides of the world. Under the strong leadership of TMDU President Tanaka, Prof. Morio, Director of the Institute of Global Affairs, and Prof. Akita, who heads the JDP PR Department, we are firmly committed to further developing exchange between TMDU and all of South America over the coming years.

Professor Yusuke Kinugasa,
Gastrointestinal Surgery and Head of Colorectal Surgery Director, LACRC



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



Contents

Opening Greeting.....	1
JDP	2
Report.....	4

Joint Degree Program (JDP)

In this issue, we report on the granting of visiting professorships, the replacement of the Chilean head of the Academic Committee and the new structure for the JDP going forward.

Visiting Professor Endowments

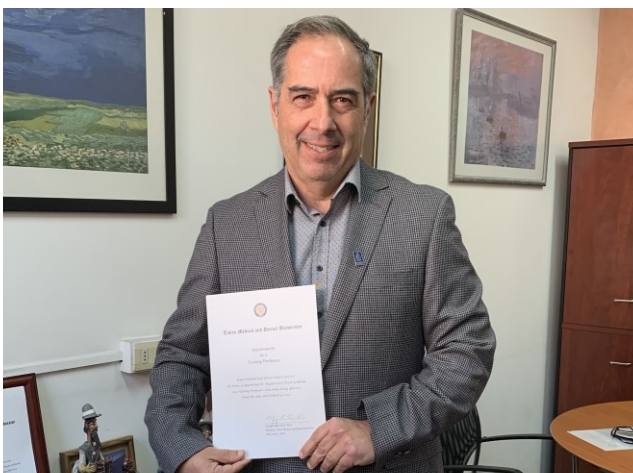


Dr. Manuel Kukuljan Padilla, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (as of May 2022)

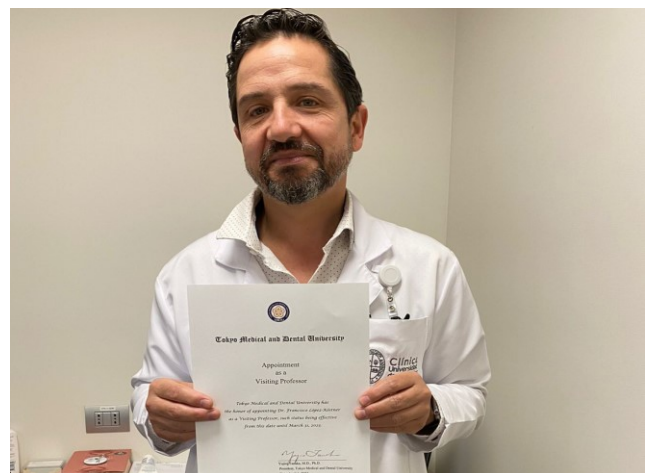
Every year, the University awards visiting professorships to members of related institutions who have contributed to our activities.

In April of this year, visiting professorships were granted to three individuals from the University of Chile: Dr. Manuel Kukuljan Padilla, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (as of May 2022), Professor Miguel O'Ryan and Assistant Professor Francisco López, all of whom have close ties with TMDU.

In addition to further strengthening the ongoing cooperative relationship with the JDP, lively academic exchange is anticipated when dispatching of TMDU undergraduates to Chile (for their project semester) and the acceptance of University of Chile undergraduates at TMDU both resume, activities that have been postponed and/or canceled due to the pandemic.



Dr. Miguel O'Ryan, Professor



Dr. Francisco López, Associate Professor

New Dean at the University of Chile Faculty of Medicine and New JDP Structure

On July 1, Prof. Miguel O' Ryan, head of the Chilean JDP, was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Chile.

Prof. O' Ryan has been in charge of the Chilean side of the JDP since its inception and will now support the program in his position as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine.

To coincide with this appointment, Dr. Manuel Kukuljan – the former Dean – has joined the JDP Academic Committee and will assume leadership of JDP operations in Chile.

In addition, July 2022 also saw the appointment of Associate Professor Juan Pablo Torres, who is currently a member of the JDP Academic Committee, to the position of Assistant Dean at the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Torres will continue to serve on the JDP Academic Committee.

There also has been a reshuffling of the Chilean members of the JDP Academic Committee and a new system was put in place in July 2022. With this development, we expect the program to continue developing more smoothly than ever.



Dr. Miguel O' Ryan, the new Faculty of Medicine Dean, following the election



Former Dean Dr. Kukuljan (left) and his replacement, Dr. O' Ryan (right) with their arms around each other's shoulders

Report

Rebuilding of Clínica San Borja (Chilean–Japanese Institute for Digestive Diseases)

As reported in the previous issue of this newsletter, in January 2021, a major fire occurred at the Clínica San Borja, an organization that is home to the Chilean–Japanese Institute for Digestive Diseases, and that TMDU has been working with for more than four decades.

In April this year, some fifteen months after the fire, a temporary Chilean–Japanese Institute for Digestive Diseases was completed within the grounds of Clínica San Borja. The first floor of this two-story building has a reception area, a patient waiting room, five endoscopy booths and six recovery rooms, which are negative pressure rooms that are designed to accommodate COVID-19 patients. The second floor has office space for the institute's staff and residents, as well as a meeting room for small workshops and conferences.

Although this is a temporary facility, it has sufficient space and medical equipment to provide medical care to patients, allowing us to resume examination and treatment for patients who had been on standby due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the fire.

In August, doctors and nurses of the institute gathered for a meeting to discuss future prospects. We sincerely hope that the institute will emerge from its current difficulties with expanded scale and impact, allowing us to contribute to healthcare in the community in the years ahead.



Endoscopy Room



Chilean–Japanese Institute for Digestive Diseases main entrance

Editor's Note:

On September 4, Chilean voters overwhelmingly rejected a progressive new constitution to replace the one adopted during the rule of Augusto Pinochet. The results of this vote led to the enactment of a new constitutional amendment process and a cabinet reshuffle on September 6, when six ministers, including the Minister of Health, were replaced.

As part of the current president's efforts to achieve equitable healthcare, an issue he has focused on since his inauguration, the government began offering free healthcare to those who enrolled in the public health insurance system (FONASA) starting September 2022.

All eyes will be on what policies the new health minister puts into place. (Miki Hayakawa)

Latin American Collaborative Research Center (LACRC) Tokyo Medical and Dental University Latin American Collaborative Research Center Newsletter No.42 September 2022

Date of publication: September 30, 2022

Production: Latin American Collaborative Research Center Tokyo Medical & Dental University

Clínica Las Condes

Lo Fontecilla 441, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

Email: LACRC-CHILE.adm@cmn.tmd.ac.jp