

Medical Education Alliance Agreement with Harvard University

Pursuing Innovation in Medical Education to Lead Not Only Asia But the World

Since 2002, Tokyo Medical and Dental University and Harvard University have undertaken a number of initiatives based on our medical education alliance. The main features of this medical education alliance are the appointment of faculty members to study at Harvard Medical School, the invitation of faculty members from Harvard to visit TMDU, and externships for students in clinical clerkships at Harvard.

A TOTAL OF 130 faculty members have pursued studies at Harvard to date. The faculty members who have studied at Harvard Medical School have applied their learning to develop a unique education program at TMDU. This has led to innovations such as the block system, clinical clerkships, and Interprofessional Medical and Dental Education. In 2004, externships began for sixth-year students of the Faculty of Medicine, and, to date, a total of 64 students have taken part. During these three-month externships, students care for actual patients, give presentations on their cases and decide treatment plans, all in English. These externships are also offered as the elective curriculum subject Clinical Clerkships with Harvard University Students.

Professor Yasuhito Yuasa, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, participated in a faculty exchange in September 2012. He says that the medical education alliance agreement with Harvard University has had an impact that goes beyond innovation in the educational curriculum.

“This alliance has contributed significantly to the reputation of the medical education at this university, not only in Japan but also in various other countries, particularly in Asia. Also, a good number of candidates in recent years have cited the option to take an externship at Harvard Medical School as one of the reasons for choosing TMDU.”

The reputation of this medical education alliance is the catalyst for additional new education and research projects.

In 2005, in recognition of our work with Harvard University, the Program to Train Cosmopolitan Medical Professionals and Researchers Who Can Thrive in Global Competition was selected to receive Special Funds for Education and Research by the Japanese government. In 2011, the university was chosen by the Japan Society for The Promotion of Science (JSPS) for the Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation, and in 2012 for the Project for Promotion of Global Human Resource Development, placing its initiatives towards the training of doctors and medical re-



On November 4, 2012 a symposium was held with President Ohyama on the topic of TMDU's future strategy.

searchers on a global level.

The Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation sends young researchers from the university's Faculty of Medicine in the fields of nephrology, gastroenterology, molecular and cellular biology, angiocardiology, and psychiatry to pursue international joint research in the research facilities at Harvard Medical School. So far the university has sent nine young researchers, and in the future, the aim is to expand the range of joint research sectors and domains.

“We need to continue our innovations in medical education and raise the level of our research capabilities. With the Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation, we can make joint use of Harvard University's research facilities. Naturally this encourages personal exchanges, and I think we can expect this to be reflected in the research results,” says Professor Yuasa.

Looking back, the medical education alliance agreement with Harvard University started from the strong relationship of trust between former President Akio Suzuki and Harvard University. Professor Yuasa went on to consider the future of the medical education alliance.

“We plan to continue sending students to Harvard for clinical clerkships as we do now. In addition, we should take the ten years of the alliance with Harvard Medical School and selection for the Project for Promotion of Global Human Resource Development as an opportunity to advance to the next level. For example, we're thinking of extending the content of the alliance beyond medical education so that students can attend MBA and pedagogy lectures in combination with the Harvard University Summer Program, as well as holding lectures in medical English by Harvard University academic staff.”

The day is steadily approaching when TMDU will be the global leader in medical science.

“Aiming to enhance our research capabilities in step with education”

The History of the Medical Education Alliance

Looking Back on Ten Years' Partnership in Medical Education

Ten years have passed since TMDU and Harvard University started their alliance in medical education. A total of 130 academic staffs from TMDU have participated in the education and training program at Harvard University as exchange staff. A total of 64 sixth year students of the School of Medicine have participated in externships in clinical training at the Harvard Medical School. We have also made improvements in our curriculum incorporating the recommendations of faculty invited from Harvard University.



2001	2002	2004
Decision to focus on education as a priority issue for reform.	Signed a medical education alliance agreement with Harvard University. The 2002 Curriculum starts.	Incorporation as a National University. Clinical clerkships at Harvard University begin.

between TMDU and Harvard University

2005	2006	2009	2010	2011	2012
The university's Program to Train Cosmopolitan Medical Professionals and Researchers Who Can Thrive in Global Competition was selected to receive Special Funds for Education and Research.	Clinical clerkships begin to be offered.	The intake of the School of Medicine reaches 90 students.	The intake of the School of Medicine reaches 100 students. (regional quota 4, researcher quota 1)	The intake of the School of Medicine reaches 105 students. Transition to the 2011 Curriculum. Selected for the Strategic Young Researcher Overseas Visits Program for Accelerating Brain Circulation by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS).	Introduced Interprofessional Medical and Dental Education. Selected for the Project for Promotion of Global Human Resource Development. Participation in the Re-Inventing Japan Project. Prepared and distributed the Clinical Clerkship DVD for MEXT's 2011 Commissioned Research on Promoting Radical Reform of Universities.