

Voice of the International Students

VIS

医学研究院
国際連携部門だより

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What is VIS ?

The International Relations Division of the Faculty of Medicine issues VIS to send out the live messages from International Students of Graduate School of Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Science, and School of Medicine, and to promote the exchange of intercultural information. We hope VIS helps to cultivate intercultural communications and boost international exchanges.

VIS の発行の目的は、医学院・医理工学院・医学部医学科の学生の生の声を発信することと、異文化間の情報交換を促進することです。VIS が異文化間のコミュニケーションを養い、国際交流を実行していくうえで役立つことを望みます。

CONGRATULATIONS ON GRADUATION

25th September was always a Special day to me



Dorcas Akuba-Muhyia Annan
(Ghana)

所属：分子神経免疫学教室
2018年9月 博士課程修了
Department of Molecular Neuroimmunology

I began this 4.5 years PhD journey on the April 4th 2014 when I arrived in this wonderful city of Sapporo.

My journey as a PhD student was a rather interesting one. I started off in one department and went through two more before graduation because my supervisors were called to higher positions in other institutions in Japan. Even though I began to worry about these changes, each one of my supervisors ensured that I was well settled in the capable hands of another before they finally left their post. Eventually I did my research work in the Department of Vascular Biology formerly in the Institute for Genetic Medicine under the supervision of a very intelligent lady researcher. I am so grateful for all that she has taught me. I am now equipped with knowledge and skills from research through to how to combine family with ambition.

25th September was always a special day

to me because it is my mother's birthday, it became more important to me when I got to know that I will also graduate on that day. I felt it will be a lovely present to have my mum attend my graduation. I could say thank you in person for all the love she has shown me and all the care packages she sent to me throughout my studies as a PhD student in Japan. Therefore to celebrate my graduation we organized a birthday party for my mother's 62nd birthday here in Sapporo Japan.

I am very thankful to all my supervisors, laboratory members, family and friends both far and near for all their support for the successful completion of my PhD. As I continue as a postdoctoral fellow for the next 2 years in Hokkaido University I hope I can contribute to the great achievements of this prestigious institution.

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From National Yang Ming University, Taiwan



Chi-Han Chen

受入教室：眼科学教室、
消化器外科学教室Ⅱ
Department of Ophthalmology,
Department of Gastroenterological Surgery II

Firstly, I want to show my appreciation to Hokkaido University for providing us the chance of overseas medical elective. During these four weeks, I deeply embraced the energy and enthusiasm of Hokkaido, which is quite different from my former experiences in other prefectures in Japan. I guess maybe it is because that Hokkaido is a relatively young prefecture.

As for my medical elective, the only word to describe it is "fabulous". The doctors I met at Department of Ophthalmology and Department of Gastroenterological Surgery II really treated me nicely. Their passion in teaching and dissemination of knowledge truly impressed me.

Although I'm not good at Japanese, the doctors still explained the cases to me as much

as possible with English and Kanji. As a Chinese saying goes, "満載而歸 (which means go back with many treasures gained)", I really learned a lot here.

Aside from study, I also made friends with a great many Japanese students. All of them are so nice, humorous and friendly. It was also very interesting when we chatted about the similarities and differences between Taiwanese and Japanese culture.

Thanks to the doctors and students here, they are really like my family members in Hokkaido. What a pity it is that my medical elective is as short as merely one month. I will definitely come back to Hokkaido and Hokkaido University as many times as possible to explore more of their magnificence! 北海道大学! 本当にありがとうございました!

Student and classmates were very nice for guiding us to the dorm and the hospital.

I thought it is very considerate of the school to arrange all the engagement for us. It was very helpful for the livelihood as a exchange student in Hokkaido, and their English were very good.

My first department was Rheumatology, Endocrinology and Nephrology. Doctors were very kind to translate Japanese for me.

Although I couldn't understand the conversation held in Japanese between patient and doctors, I think I've received a very good internal Medicine thinking process here. And when there was an important symptom, the doctor and student told me. The most impres-

sive person was Dr. Fujimura. He told me the symptom and let me think about the disease (Differential Diagnosis). It was very exciting and making me think more by myself.

The second department was Cardiovascular Medicine. Dr. Watanabe was a very nice teacher. He explained how to read the EKG and EP study, and the doctors were very hard working and very willing to teaching us. I was very happy to see the cardiac echo (both TEE and TTE), along with the stress test and the MRI. I even saw a TAVI in the surgery room, which became a very precious experience.

I think the life learning in Hokkaido University is very good. Thanks for the experience.



Shih-Yu Wang (front)

受入教室：免疫・代謝内科学教室、
循環病態内科学教室
Department of Rheumatology,
Endocrinology and Nephrology,
Department of Cardiovascular Medicine

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From National Taiwan University, Taiwan

Pei-Chun Weng (back row, left)

受入教室：放射線医学教室、
乳腺外科学教室、皮膚科学教室
Department of Radiation
Medicine, Department of
Breast Surgery, Department
of Dermatology



Ning Yang (back row, right)

受入教室：放射線医学教室、
消化器外科学教室 I
Department of Radiation
Medicine, Department of
Gastroenterological Surgery I

I-An Chen (back row, middle)

受入教室：脳神経外科学教室、
整形外科科学教室
Department of Neurosurgery,
Department of Orthopedic
Surgery



Kang Su (middle right)

受入教室：整形外科科学教室、
消化器外科学教室 I
Department of Orthopedic
Surgery, Department of
Gastroenterological Surgery I

I had a great time for my exchange program in Hokkaido University. On the weekend before I start, I was welcomed by a 5th grade student. He showed me the way to the dorm and a brief orientation around the hospital. He also gave me a weekly schedule of each department, which I think is very convenient so that I know what I'm going to do and where I could go.

In the Neurosurgery department, I get to see all kinds of difficult surgeries (for this is a medical center handling with more complicated cases) including cranioplasty for a kid with craniosynostosis, aneurysm clipping, and several tumor resection deep on the skull base. I also get to practice microsurgery on silicon tube!

Besides surgery, there are also lectures on stroke, spine, and clinical imaging. I learned a lot from the lessons.

Then in the Orthopedic department, I get to see the correction of scoliosis, total knee replacement. The doctors even let me scrub on to stand closer and have a better view of the total hip replacement.

The teachers and residents in both departments are so nice and helpful. They explained the surgery in the operating room and gave lectures in English so that I could understand.

I really enjoyed the time in Hokkaido University and Hokudai Hospital!

I-An Chen, National Taiwan University

When applying for my electives in Hokkaido University Hospital, I was quite worried about the language problem. However, it turned out that there was nothing to worry about.

As for my clinical electives in Hokkaido University Hospital, I spent my time in the Department of Radiology, Breast Surgery, and Dermatology each for one week. In the Department of Radiology, doctors arranged a lot of lectures and case challenges for us. I've learned a lot from these classes, and they are very useful for my future clinical practice. In the Department of Breast Surgery and Dermatology, the clinical practices were quite similar to those in my country. However, what's more important is that doctors here are so concerned about patient's privacy and feelings. I was so astonished and inspired by how doctors here interact with patients. In Chinese, there is an old saying "視病猶親", which means seeing patients as one of your family members. I think this saying is perfect for doctors here.

The medical students here are also kind and friendly. They shared with me the daily life as a medical student in Japan. What's more, they even held a meeting to introduce the medical education system in Japan for international students in this hospital. In summary, my experience here was wonderful and inspiring!

Pei-Chun Weng, National Taiwan University

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong



Christopher Ho Ting-Yee (front middle)

受入教室：呼吸器内科学教室、腫瘍内科学教室
Department of Respiratory Medicine,
Department of Medical Oncology

I had a fantastic clinical attachment with the departments of Respiratory Medicine and Medical Oncology at the Hokkaido University hospital. I learned a diverse range of knowledge and skills. For the department of Respiratory Medicine, I received invaluable tutorials on COPD, asthma, pulmonary function tests, and heart murmurs. I also got to witness bronchoscopy and as a bonus, a real-time tumor-tracking radiotherapy procedure, which I never knew existed. I am also very thankful for the doctors for taking the time and having the patience to translate the clinical cases in English for me despite their busy schedules. I feel like I have a much better understanding of what is involved in a career as a respiratory physician, which has further consolidated my interest in this

subspecialty.

For the department of Medical Oncology, I learned a lot about the treatment regimens of various cancers. This was invaluable for me as I never studied oncology in my university. I was exposed a lot to cases of head and neck cancers, which I had never formally studied. In addition, I can now appreciate the mechanisms of action of various chemotherapy drugs, as well as the vast amount of research taking place in this field. Although I feel like oncology isn't the specialty for me, I thoroughly enjoyed this attachment.

From University of Malaya, Malaysia

The past 6 weeks in Hokkaido University Hospital, I have spent in 3 different departments, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Cardiovascular surgery and Department of Cardiovascular medicine. Being in a different country has exposed me to the different type of modalities offered here in Japan when compared to Malaysia. For example, some investigations that are rarely done in Malaysia such as the double enteroscopy are quite common here in Japan. I also got the opportunity to observe the procedure during my week with the Inflammatory Bowel Disease group. It is also refreshing to see the different type of cases here in Japan.

In Malaysia, most of the patients in the cardiovascular ward are warded due to ischemic heart disease. But here in Hokkaido University Hospital, there are more variations such as valvular heart disease, aortic dissection etc.

The biggest challenge would definitely be the language barrier. But, nonetheless all the doctors were kind enough to try to translate to English for me especially during ward rounds.

In a nutshell, these past 6 weeks have been a great experience and exposure for me. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to do my clinical attachment here in Hokkaido University Hospital.



Puteri Zulaikha Bt Mohd Zukri (middle)

受入教室：消化器内科学教室、
循環器・呼吸器外科学教室、
循環病態内科学教室
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology,
Department of Cardiovascular and Thoracic
Surgery, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine



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