

DEAN'S MESSAGE

March 25, 2020

On behalf of Hokkaido University Faculty of Medicine, I extend our sincere congratulations to you for your having completed a degree at Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine. I am honored to announce that 102 graduates are conferred a degree this spring. Those are 19 of Master's Program, Medical Science Course, 12 of Master's Program, Public Health Course, and 71 of Doctoral (PhD) Program in Medicine. We highly respect the fact that you have continuously concentrated on diligent work and finally have this rewarding day.

This year, Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine made a decision to cancel the commencement ceremony, considering it necessary to take a measure as a medical graduate school to prevent the infection and spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) following the basic policy for countermeasures against novel coronavirus infections issued by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare. We know that this should be the memorable ceremony that the graduating students and parents have been looking forward to. This cancellation was a very difficult decision to take. We appreciate your understanding that we place utmost priority to the health and safety of the graduating students, parents, and those who would present at the ceremony.

In the beginning at the Graduate School of Medicine, you set your own research question. For that assignment, you have carried out the experiments or conducted research through your own efforts, discussed the matters, and derived the conclusion. This is none other than that you have addressed the challenge of creating new knowledge by yourself. It must have been no easy road to come along. However, we believe that you were able to have chances to be exposed to the academic essence through that tough journey and hope that your joy and excitement outweighed your hardships and laborious efforts. You concluded the result of your research in the form of master's thesis or doctoral dissertation, passed the exam by the examination committee, and gained the degree. Not only will your product belong to you but also will be taken over for long as an asset of knowledge shared by many people. As the testament of this, you have the certificate in your hand today.

You have chosen Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine as the creative field of knowledge. Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine was established in 1955 in accordance with the graduate school educational reform. In 2000, under the government's policy to place importance on graduate schools, education and research at

the Graduate School of Medicine was enhanced by shifting the center of education and research from the School of Medicine into the Graduate School of Medicine. At this graduate school of medicine, you have created knowledge. Also, we presume that many of you have fostered 'Global Perspectives', which is one of four basic philosophies of Hokkaido University. As you may know, Hokkaido University was originally established as Sapporo Agricultural College. Since its foundation, Sapporo Agricultural College has opened the gate of spirit to diverse world, by introducing Western culture, science and technology, and providing students with the classes in English by international teachers. From then till now, many alumni and alumnae have been playing the active roles in the international scenes, which proves that fostered 'Global Perspectives', our university's philosophy, has been succeeded in various ways.

Today, we human beings are faced with many challenges. Here in Hokkaido, we are just confronted with the tense situation where we can't make any predictions whether the rise in COVID-19 cases will keep going or come to end. It is true that such unpredictable emerging infectious diseases are becoming to be threats to human being.

What is important when confronted with such unpredicted situation in your own path is to have the ability to survive your life. To predict future as accurately as possible and to ease the people's anxiety have been part of the roles of the academic discipline where you belong to, and also are the missions that you will have to be committed to. I pray for your continued hard work.

Lastly, I would like to give you the message that Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine will be always with you. Graduation is not the farewell to the university, but the start of new collaboration. We sincerely ask your kind and positive corporation to the growth and development of this graduate school of medicine which has a long tradition and history. We truly wish for your health and success in your new positions. And once again, congratulations to you all.

Sincerely

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