On behalf of Hokkaido University Faculty of Medicine, I extend our sincere congratulations to you all for your having completed a degree at Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine. I am honored to announce that 62 graduates are conferred a degree this spring. Those are 16 in the Master's Program and 46 in the Doctoral (PhD) Program in Medicine. We highly respect the fact that you have continuously concentrated on diligent work and finally have this graduation day.

You have conducted experiments or research, discussed the matters, and led the conclusion for the assignment under your supervisor. To put it differently, you have had challenges of creating new knowledge by yourself. It must have been a hard road to come along. Yet, you could have moving moments through being exposed to the nature of academics. Ultimately, you concluded the result of your research in the form of a thesis, passed the exam by the examination committee, and gained the degree. The product you have achieved will be taken over for a long period of time as an asset of knowledge shared by many people.

At this institute of Hokkaido University, you have created knowledge. Also, we presume that many of you have fostered 'Global Perspectives', which is one of our basic philosophies. 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 advisors. 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 successfully passed down in various ways.

Currently, we human beings are faced with many challenges. What is important when confronted with an unpredicted situation in your future path is to have the ability to find solutions. To predict the future as accurately as possible and to contribute to solving problems has been one of the aspects and missions of obligation for academia where you have cultivated your knowledge.

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.

Bon Voyage!

Sincerely

HATAKEYAMA Shigetsugu, M.D., Ph.D.

Dean, Graduate School of Medicine, Hokkaido University