

Speech on Entrance Ceremony
Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine
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Congratulations on your admission to Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine. I would like to extend our warmest congratulations on behalf of faculty members of the Graduate School of Medicine. We are pleased to welcome you all, filled with hope and eyes shining with delight.

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 for the enrichment of the School of Medicine to the Graduate School of Medicine.

In April 2017, in order to send out the manpower flexibly to respond to the social needs which change dramatically, the Graduate School of Medicine was reorganized into an organization which solely graduate students belong to, by separating the organization of faculty members, which is newly named as Faculty of Medicine. This reorganization enabled us to provide global education of graduate school by organically integrating different disciplines. In other words, the educational approach has been enabled where faculty of multiple graduate schools, research institutes, or others can take part in the education, and the redistribution of educational resources has been realized without being confined to a research domain. By virtue of this new system, we can promptly respond and establish an educational organization, if requested by the society to implement a new type of education.

The Doctoral (PhD) Program provides one major (medicine), three courses. It places importance on the education beyond the boundaries of academic disciplines as well as devising the curriculum to guarantee high degree of specialty secured at any course. Specifically, we offer "Basic Medicine Course" to train medical researches and physician scientists, "Social Medicine Course" to nurture human resources who will work actively in the field of social medicine and public health, and "Clinical Medicine Course" to nurture human resources who will execute high-level of clinical research.

In 2009, our Graduate School of Medicine introduced MD-PhD Program to foster young basic medical researchers and educators, which number is especially concerned to be decreasing. The program allows 6th-year students at the School of Medicine to take required

subjects of the Doctoral Program of the Graduate School of Medicine while learning under the curriculum for 6th-year students in the School of Medicine. With this program, students can complete the graduate school's program in three years, if they meet the requirements for completion. In addition, the Clinic and Research Combination (CLARC) Program was launched in 2013. This allows post-graduate year 2 medical residents to enroll in the Graduate School of Medicine, enabling them to start a combination of Clinical Training and Doctoral Program.

The Master's Program was inaugurated in 2002, ahead of many other universities. This program aims to promote to unite the knowledges of different fields and train researchers and highly specialized professionals with creativity and comprehensive viewpoints thorough providing students who have completed undergraduate studies other than medicine with the knowledge and information of the latest medical science and medical care. In 2017, the Public Health Course was newly established, where educational system to acquire Master of Public Health is introduced. In addition, with the aim to expeditiously send out human resources to the society, who can cope with regional problems including Hokkaido's, such as the aging society and declining population, Public Health Course (One-Year Course) has been established. This course is intended for medical doctors, dentists, pharmacist and other professionals working in fields of medicine possessing a certain amount of practical experience to complete the course in one year.

Under the philosophies of the Graduate School of Medicine "to lead the world with cutting-edge research in medical science" and "to equip the next generation of medical researchers and medical professionals with a strong sense of ethics and a well-rounded character to contribute to the health and welfare of humanity", the Graduate School of Medicine sets its educational goal to nurture individuals who possess high ethical standards and highly specialized knowledge regarding medicine, life science and social medicine as well as research and teaching or practical capabilities. Since the remarkable developments in medicine nowadays are based on past research developments, there will be no progress in medicine of tomorrow without the research of today. However, there are alarming circumstances where the number of students who enroll medical graduate schools is decreasing, as well as the number of young medical researchers and physician scientists, who are to play important part in the field of tomorrow's medicine. What are suggested as the factors behind this, are the falling populations of young generations linked with the decline of young medical researchers, decreasing opportunities for researchers to work and introductions of the new clinical resident training systems and the new medical specialist system. We would like to pay our heartfelt respects to you who have chosen the way of Hokkaido University Graduate School of Medicine in these circumstances. I believe the exposure to the front-line research and to execute your

own research at this graduate school should be a life fortune for not only those who wish to play an active role as a basic researcher but for those who wish to become clinical researchers endowing orientation towards research and researchers who desire to become successful and capable medical specialists or highly specialized professionals. What are expected during the course in this graduate school are not only to enhance your ability to plan and execute the research but also to enrich your qualifications and abilities to cope with the dramatical changes of the society, and most importantly to maintain your spirit to keep on challenging.

Students who are going to learn the latest medical research are expected to take the initiative in implementing highly creative knowledge and solving various problems based on a high ethical standard as members of outstanding scientists, and to contribute to the demands of society. It is our sincere hope that the day will come when you will acquire the degree by achieving respectable research result and complete this graduate school.