

DEAN'S MESSAGE

March 25, 2026

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 57 graduates are conferred a degree this spring. Those are 15 in the Master's Program and 42 in the Doctoral (PhD) Program in Medicine. We extend our utmost respect for the dedication you have shown in your work and in the completion of your doctoral program.

At postgraduate level, you have set the research topic, conducted experiments or research, discussed the matters, and led the conclusion under your supervisor. I believe that, in essence, you have challenged yourself to create new knowledge. It must have been a hard road to come along. Yet, I believe that you have experienced moving moments through being exposed to the nature of academics. All of you present here today, 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 the common intellectual heritage of humankind.

The history of Hokkaido University dates back to 1876, with the founding of Sapporo Agricultural College, and it marks its 150th anniversary this year. Since its foundation, Sapporo Agricultural College has introduced Western culture, science, and technology, and providing students with the classes in English by international advisors. The first vice president, Dr. William S. Clark, left the well-known farewell message, "Be ambitious!" and emphasized the importance of pursuing a noble ambition. A noble ambition is rooted in one's mindset and takes shape through the steady achievement of small milestones that guide one toward a larger dream. And that spirit has been passed down through the generations in this university ever since its founding. I truly believe that the spirit of "be ambitious" lives on within each and every one of you. Henceforth, as the one who has been conferred a degree by Hokkaido University, I encourage you to convey to your juniors the importance of harboring lofty ambitions.

Currently, we human beings are faced with many challenges. What is important when confronted with an unpredicted situation in your future path is to overcome it through your own efforts. To foresee future challenges and propose solutions is a meaningful

contribution to society, grounded in the academic knowledge and erudition you have cultivated. Such responsibility stands as one of the core missions of academia.

I would like to give you the message that Hokkaido University Faculty of Medicine Graduate School of Medicine will be always with you. Graduation is not the farewell to the university, but the start of new collaboration. We earnestly look forward to your positive cooperation with the growth and development of this graduate school of medicine which has a long tradition and history. We extend our sincere wishes for your success in your new positions. And once again, congratulations to you all.

Bon Voyage!

Sincerely

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