

University of Occupational and Environmental Health (UOEH) and Medical Association of UOEH: Past, present, and future

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The University of Occupational and Environmental Health (UOEH), Japan, was established in 1977 with the purpose of not only producing occupational health physicians, technicians, and nursing professionals, but also promoting the science of occupational health and preventive medicine in addition to ecological science. The university comprises several institutions, including the School of Medicine, School of Health Science, Graduate School of Medical Science, Institute of Industrial Ecological Science, and training center for occupational physicians, as well as two university hospitals in Kitakyushu City: the “UOEH Hospital” and the “UOEH Wakamatsu Hospital.”

The UOEH Hospital has 678 beds and is a general medical facility where both medical school undergraduates and post-graduate trainees receive clinical education and perform research work by taking part in high-quality medical practice primarily focused on the benefits for patients. The UOEH Hospital has many missions as a core hospital providing advanced medical services as well as treating patients with HIV or serious intractable neurological diseases and providing disaster and emergency medicine services.

What makes our hospital different from other hospitals is that we are conducting research in the fields of employee health management, occupation-induced diseases, rehabilitation, and mental health, as well as providing treatment for diseases. We are also making efforts to maintain close coordination between occupational health and community medicine. In the UOEH Hospital, there are 11 medical centers or



administrative departments, 27 clinical service divisions, and 10 central clinical facilities. Our principles are that we practice healthcare and medicine whose priority is the benefits for our patients, that we provide the safest and highest

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quality healthcare based on scientific evidence, and that we educate physicians working in the fields of occupational and environmental health and general medical practitioners who are rich in humanity.

The UOEH Wakamatsu Hospital has 150 beds and its aim is to be a high level autonomous medical institution. The Wakamatsu Hospital is working in close collaboration and coordination with local medical institutions, and it functions as the only hospital in the Wakamatsu area and as a core hospital for the Wakamatsu area in Kitakyushu City. The two university hospitals are networked to enable integrated medical care through mutual access to patients' medical records.

The UOEH Hospital is the only university hospital in Kitakyushu City, which has a population of around one million, and has been providing core medical services for patients living in Kitakyushu City and several surrounding areas, including Fukuoka, Oita, and Yamaguchi Prefectures. We currently feel that our services to the Kitakyushu and surrounding areas are not sufficient in some fields, such as emergency medicine, perinatal medicine, and treatment for cancer patients, as well as translational clinical research. We are therefore urgently creating several institutions including a cancer center, general perinatal medical center, department of regional collaboration and communication, and emergency medical center.

The UOEH Hospital has enhanced facilities and other hardware, including increasing the

number of surgical operation rooms and ICU and NICU beds, etc., and built a new hospital wing last year, and is now planning to enhance software such as increasing the number of nurses, technicians, pharmacists and other medical staff. In addition to these efforts, the UOEH Hospital is establishing a clinical research center to promote various kinds of clinical research, including translational research and phase 1 to 4 clinical studies.

In the Kitakyushu area, there is only a small number of seats available for initial clinical training, especially with only 8 seats available at our hospital. This is quite a serious problem for our hospital and the Kitakyushu area. The UOEH Hospital is changing its program to enable the exchange of doctors in a short time between the hospitals in Kitakyushu City and surrounding areas. In addition, the Kitakyushu City Medical Association (KCMA) promotes and enhances efforts to draw more initial clinical trainees to Kitakyushu City. The UOEH Hospital and other hospitals which are registered as clinical training hospitals in Kitakyushu are collaborating to increase the number of seats available in Kitakyushu City. The UOEH Hospital deeply appreciates such efforts.

The Medical Association of UOEH is a member of the KCMA and has a relatively small number of members (around 80). We are therefore attempting to increase our membership and are undertaking various activities in collaboration with the KCMA and other regional medical associations.



The University of Occupational and Environmental Health Hospital