

Training Courses and Foreign Trainees

Introduction

Our resident training course is divided into two categories. One is designed for young physicians and surgeons who have 3-7 years of clinical experience to allow generalists to specialize in clinical oncology. Persons in this course are simply called residents. Their training period is 3 years. We accept about 12 new residents each year. A second more advanced two-year course is designed to produce future leaders in specific fields. Up to 8 medical doctors with 5-12 years clinical experiences enter this program every year, and are called senior residents.

In July 1992, when NCCHE opened, the resident training course began with 8 young physicians and surgeons. Although there were many difficulties and problems in the beginning, they continued studying as well as carrying out the daily clinical work in the hospital. We have continued to develop our training systems in close cooperation with staff members of hospital (NCCHE) and research institute (NCCRIE). At the first resident graduation in 1995, NCCHE introduced the senior-resident system and increased the number of resident we could accept from 8 to 12. As our clinical and academic reputation has grown, NCCHE has attracted quite a few voluntary medical trainees, including doctors, nurses and technicians. Accommodation is prepared for anyone of the voluntary trainees who elects to stay.

Routine Activity

The resident curricula at NCCHE consist of two parts, the special and rotating courses. For the initial 6 months residents are trained in disease- or therapy-specific units (q.v. index page) of their choice, in order to know how to find their way of learning. Afterwards, they move to the other clinical units (rotating course) for one or one and half years to obtain a wide basic knowledge and to learn the

techniques of clinical oncology. After concluding the rotating course they return to their chosen speciality to graduate as medical or surgical oncologist.

Trainees in the senior resident course spend the first year as physicians or surgeons of specific clinical units. The training program for senior residents is more targeted to particular organs, diagnostics and/or therapeutics. Senior residents work as coordinators of residents, whom they support in clinical practice. The second year is devoted to basic or clinical research. Staff members from the Research Institute and clinical laboratories support them at their request.

Voluntary trainees are divided into two groups; those with guaranteed funding from a domestic or international project and others. Various training courses are available for voluntary trainees, although the training period is limited to less than a year for any one major field.

New Development in 2003

We have overcome many of the difficulties we experienced when we firstly began the training program at NCCHE, and have improved the training system year by year. As a result, more than 100 of trainees have visited here during a year since 1997, as shown in the following statistics. In 2003, the total number of trainees amounted to 176, which was the most during the past 12 years. This is due to increase of the number of voluntary trainees. Among them, 5 of the 62 medical doctors came from overseas countries. The numbers of nurses and technicians also increased in 2003, and their individual training period was more prolonged as in the cases of medical doctors.

In 2003, more than 40 articles have been published in English journals by residents or trainees under the guidance of staff members in the hospital and/or research institute, in addition to their presentations at the international congress such as ASCO meeting and the like.

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Number of residents, senior residents and voluntary trainees
 July 1992- December 2001

	Resident	S. resident	Voluntary trainee				Total
			M.D	Nurse	Technician	Others	
1992	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
1993	15	0	0	9	4	0	28
1994	23	0	9	12	1	0	45
1995	27	3	25	10	5	0	70
1996	31	6	37	1	3	2	80
1997	35	7	54	16	5	10	127
1998	36	12	56	20	4	1	147
1999	34	12	62	17	3	27	155
2000	34	12	51	25	7	10	139
2001	35	12	59	25	7	22	160
2002	36	12	60	24	7	23	162
2003	36	17	62	39	12	10	176