

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. Trainees 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 10 physicians and surgeons with 5-12 years clinical experiences enter this program every year, and they are called chief residents.

In July 1992, when NCCHE opened, the resident training course began with 8 young doctors. Although there were many difficulties and problems in the beginning, they maintained high level of research activities in addition to daily clinical works 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 chief-resident system and the numbers of resident increased to 8-12. As our clinical and academic reputation has grown, NCCHE has attracted a lot of voluntary medical trainees, including doctors, nurses and technicians. Accommodation is prepared for anyone of the voluntary trainees who want 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) depending on 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 wide basic knowledges and to learn techniques of clinical oncology. After concluding the rotating course they return to their chosen speciality to be certified as medical or surgical oncologist.

Trainees in the chief resident course spend the first year as physicians or surgeons of specific clinical units. The training program for chief residents is more targeted to particular organs, diagnostics and/or therapeutics. Chief 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 by funding from a domestic or international project and the 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 2004

We have overcome many of the difficulties that we experienced when we firstly began the training program at NCCHE, and have improved the training system not only for doctors but also for technicians, nurses and nursing students year by year. As a result, the number of trainees has been persistently increasing, and it exceeded 200 in the year of 2003. In 2004, the total number of trainees has amounted to 342, which was the highest during the past 13 years, as shown in statistics. This is due to the remarkable increase of voluntary trainees, particularly of the students from the National College of Nursing, established in 2001. They undergo practical training of oncology nursing in NCCHE, according to their college curricula at 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years. Because the college completes the full quota in 2004, the increase will become slow from the next year. Number of medical doctors has also increased in 2004. And 8

of the 96 medical doctors came from overseas countries.

In 2004, 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 and ESMO meetings.

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