

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 2 years or more 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 10 physicians and surgeons with 5-12 years clinical experiences enter this program every year, and 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 continued studying hard as well as carrying out the daily clinical works in the hospital. By close cooperation with staff members of hospital (NCCHE) and Research Center for Innovative Oncology (RCIO), we have continued to develop our training systems. At the first resident graduation in 1995, NCCHE introduced the chief-resident system and increased the number of resident that 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 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) of their choice, in order to know how to find the way of their 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 specialty to graduate 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 RCIO 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 2005

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 2005, the total number of trainees has amounted to 342, which was the most during the past 14 years, as shown in the following statistics. This is due to the remarkable increase of voluntary trainees, particularly of the students from the National College of Nursing, established in 2001, as well as those from other nursing schools. They undergo practical training of oncology nursing in NCCHE, according to their college curricula at 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years. Number of medical doctors has remarkably decreased from 96

to 48 in 2005. It may be due to the legal amendment of postgraduate education system in Japan in 2004. Of the 48 medical doctors five came from overseas countries.

In 2005, more than 30 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 2005

Voluntary trainees							
	Resident	C. resident	M.D.	Nurse	Technician	Others	Total
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+12*	7	23	174
2003	36	17	62	15+93*	12	26	261
2004	33	16	96	17+135*	4	41	342
2005	35	18	48	4+170*	3	24	302

*Practical training of students from National College of Nursing and the other schools