

Training Courses

Introduction

Our resident training course for medical doctors 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 on this course are simply called residents. Their training period is 3 years. We accept about 15 new residents each year. A second more advanced two-year course is designed to produce future leaders in specific fields. Up to 12 physicians and surgeons with 5-12 years of clinical experience 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 to study hard as well as carrying out daily clinical work at the hospital. We have continued to develop our training systems in close cooperation with hospital staff members and the Research Center for Innovative Oncology (RCIO). As a result, of the resident or senior resident graduates, 17 have been invited to work at NCCHE, 5 at NCCCH and 20 at other cancer centers in Japan, in spite of having have a history of only 12 terms—an indication of the superior quality of our resident system. As our clinical and academic reputation has grown, NCCHE has attracted quite a few voluntary medical trainees, including doctors, nurses and technicians. Accommodation is available for voluntary trainees who elect to stay.

Routine Activities

The resident curriculum at NCCHE consists of two parts: the special and rotating courses. For the initial 6 months, residents are trained in the disease- or therapy-specific units (see the Index page) of their choice, to enable them to pursue their special interests. Next, they move to other clinical units (rotating course) for one or one and a half years to obtain a wider basic knowledge and to learn the techniques of clinical oncology. After concluding the rotating course, they return to their chosen specialty and graduate as a medical or surgical oncologist.

Trainees in the chief resident course spend their first year as physicians or surgeons at specific clinical units. The training program for chief residents is more targeted towards 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 who are guaranteed by 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 Developments

We have overcome many of the difficulties that we experienced on launching the training program at NCCHE, and have improved the training system year by year, not only for doctors but also for technicians, nurses and nursing students. As a result, the number of trainees has been constantly

increasing, exceeding 200 in 2003. In 2004, the total number of trainees reached 342, the highest number during the past 15 years, as shown in the following statistics. This was due to the marked increase in the number of medical doctor voluntary trainees and students from the National College of Nursing, established in 2001, as well as those from other nursing schools. They undergo practical training in oncology nursing at NCCHE, according to their college curricula in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th years. The number of medical doctors has markedly decreased since that time. This may be due to legal amendments to the postgraduate education system in Japan in 2004. Of the 35 voluntary medical doctors trained in 2006, one

came from abroad.

In the pharmacy field, a new resident system was adopted in 2006, and we accepted two young pharmacists. Their training period is 2 years and after graduation they will qualify as oncology pharmacists.

In 2006, more than 30 articles were published in English journals by residents or trainees under the guidance of NCCHE staff members, in addition to presentations at international congresses such as ASCO and AACR meetings.

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Number of residents, senior residents and voluntary trainees July 1992—December 2006							
	Resident	C. resident	Voluntary trainees			Others	Total
			M.D.	Nurse	Technician		
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	12 ⁺ +24	7	23	174
2003	36	17	62	93 ⁺ +15	12	26	261
2004	33	16	96	135 ⁺ +17	4	41	342
2005	35	18	48	170 ⁺ +4	3	24	302
2006	37	21	35	148 ⁺ +33	2 ^{**} +2	14	29

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