

# PREFACE

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In 1962, the Ministry of Health and Welfare (now, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare) established the National Cancer Center as the sole government-supported cancer center in Japan. The center consisted of a hospital, a research institute and an administration department.

In 1993, a new hospital, the National Cancer Center Hospital East, was opened in Kashiwa City, Chiba, about 37 km east of the present National Cancer Center Hospital in Tsukiji, Tokyo. The two hospitals work cooperatively, with some patients treated solely at Kashiwa or at Tsukiji and others referred between them.

The hospital in Tsukiji was rebuilt during 1998 and successfully recommenced its activities in January 1999. As of January 1, 2005, the hospital employs 132 staff doctors, 19 pharmacists, 82 technicians, 431 nurses, and 114 residents and chief residents. The hospital accepts approximately 70-80 foreign and 110-200 Japanese trainees every year. The mission statement of the hospital is as follows: "While serving as the primary facility for cancer treatment, to provide the very best in clinical medicine, based on outstanding science and trust between our patients and health care team." The basic policies of the hospital are: to give the best care and treatment possible for our patients; to contribute to the development of new cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment strategies; to educate physicians and healthcare providers throughout Japan on the latest cancer therapies; and to serve as a resource center for the most current and complete information on cancer treatments for our patients and the public.

In 2004, a total of 198,382 individuals were treated as inpatients and 263,441 as outpatients. Clinical decisions are made according to the organ(s) that are affected by cancer, and teams of specialists, including both surgical and medical staff, collaborate to ensure that patients receive the most appropriate treatment and the highest quality of care.

In February, 2004, the Research Center for Cancer Prevention and Screening was opened at the Tsukiji campus. This center comprises four divisions - cancer screening, diagnosis, prevention and information - and is expected to play a leading role in cancer prevention and the reduction of cancer incidence and deaths.

In 1994, a supercomputer system was induced to facilitate the effective use of clinical data, to construct three-dimensional images for diagnosis, planning and simulation of surgery, and for radiotherapy planning. A computer network system connects the National Cancer Center in Tsukiji and National Cancer Center East in Kashiwa. This network system was expanded to include four national hospitals specializing in cancer therapy in Sapporo, Kure, Matsuyama, and Fukuoka, for TV conferences, teleradiology, and telepathology. In 2005, the network system was further expanded to include 8 prefectural cancer center hospitals, for the total of 18 institutions connected.

This is the 10th Annual Report summarizing the clinical and research activities of the National Cancer Center Hospital, which includes a list of papers published in English during the year covered by the report.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the support that we have received from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, other governmental organizations, private organizations and individuals, and the Foundation for the Promotion of Cancer Research. I am also very grateful for the efforts of my colleagues at the hospital, who devoted themselves to providing complete and accurate information for this report. The 10th Annual Report is dedicated to the patients who have continuously supported and stimulated us.

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