

## Greeting from the President

“Not to get cancer, not to be defeated by cancer, live with cancer”

My second term of the National Cancer Center (NCC) presidency has begun. I would like to extend my warmest greetings to everyone.

The NCC has been providing for cancer patients and their families for over 50 years, as one of the leading national cancer treatment facilities since its foundation in 1962. The NCC delivers the latest and best treatment to patients not only locally, but also nationally. At the same time the NCC has been conducting cutting-edge research to develop treatment, and playing a central role to train specialized doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals as a place where they can get practice in cancer medicine based on the foundation developed by proper clinical trials. In April 2010, the NCC has changed its status to what we call an “Independent Administrative Institute” from operating directly under the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare. This year is the final year of the mid-term plan for Independent Administrative Institutes. Approved by the Cabinet last December, the NCC’s objective was set to maximize the outcome of research and development, and the NCC was placed as an organization that should work on tasks which are difficult for universities or private companies to work on.



In the meantime, we have witnessed major changes. First, the “Basic plan to promote cancer control” was reviewed in 2012 and one new goal, “creating a society where cancer patients feel secure,” has been made, adding to the two major goals already-set; “reducing the cancer mortality rate” and “reducing the pain of both patients and their families, and improving their quality of life.” That widely focusses on the social point of view. Secondly, the cancer registration law was passed in 2013, which welcomes an era that enables us to conduct and rate cancer control based on the national data. The responsibility for the national registry is going to go to the NCC. Lastly, a new “ten year strategy for cancer control” has begun, setting the slogan as “Clear up, prevent, and live together with cancer” subtitled, “Research in collaboration with patients, and society.” This forms an essential strategic plan of the Japan Cancer Research Project under the body of Japan Medical Research Development, or the Japanese version of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The NCC works hard to increase the patients’ quality of life not only through providing highly advanced, and pioneering medical care, but also by working with designated cancer care hospitals, promoting clinical research networking, practicing palliative care, developing a model for counseling and support, and providing information. To aim at the final goal of conquering cancer, the NCC keeps developing effective methods of cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment at each life stage for each patient. In addition, the NCC is promoting translational research projects that connect basic research to practice. We are aware of the public expectations that we should serve a main role in the fields of medical treatment and research. “Not to get cancer, not to be defeated by cancer, live with cancer”, that’s what the NCC aims at as a national center, and every NCC worker brings out all the professional skills that they possess, and disseminate the outcomes widely to the world.

We highly appreciate your warm support, and any advice you can give us is always welcome.

Thank you and best regards,

Tomomitsu Hotta, M.D., Ph.D.  
President, National Cancer Center

# Organization of National Cancer Center

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