

## バーモント大学からの交換留学報告 (期間：2015年3月3日～3月31日)

2015年3月3日から1カ月間、姉妹校の米国バーモント大学医学部4年生のアンドリュウ・ジョーンズ君が、バーモント大学医学部単位認定プログラムとして本学にて研修を行った。(国際交流センター長 赤井卓也記)

## Fascinating Experience at KMU

Andrew Jones

(University of Vermont College of Medicine)

Thank you very much for hosting me this month in the short-stay exchange program at Kanazawa Medical University. It was a fascinating experience, and I am very thankful to all of the staff and faculty who took time from their busy schedules to make it possible.

I decided to pursue the opportunity to work as an international student in Japan for several reasons. The first is that I was interested in seeing the practice of medicine in the USA in a different light. I discovered that many aspects of medicine, like disease frequency, treatment methodologies, and primary care, are quite different in Japan than in the USA, and I think there are many opportunities to explore those differences and determine where USA healthcare can be improved. I also wanted an opportunity to spend time learning more about Japanese culture and customs, and the experiences traveling to hospitals, clinics, and patients' homes provided a great deal of that.

In the program, I spent equal time with clinicians, surgeons, and clinical pathologists, as I did with experimental pathologists. Each group provided me with reading material, either related to a lesson they taught, or related to the work that they do in the lab. In addition, I supplemented materials found through online journals to better understand the work that the researchers were investigating, and to better understand the diseases that are frequent in Japan, but rare in the USA. Some of these topics include Moyamoya disease, gastric cancer, FRET biosensor imaging, neural crest cell migration to the hindgut, two-photon microscopy, renal pathology, EBV(+) DLBCL of the elderly, and neuromyelitis optica.

In addition to a great deal of experience working in a lab-growing cell cultures, caring for experimental mice, designing and implementing bench research to answer clinical questions, I learned a lot about the value of good primary care and preventative medicine. Because of differences in cost and access, medicine in the USA is very challenging for patients to enjoy.

Procedures in Japan, like endoscopy, can easily cost 10



氷見市民病院にて。左から筆者、神田先生と外来スタッフ

times the amount in the USA. In talking with clinicians here, it seems that Japanese patients are more likely to see their doctor because they know it won't result in bankruptcy.

This has been an extraordinarily exciting, stimulating, and invigorating experience. I have discovered that I very much enjoy the process of experimental pathology, and even though it's something I've never experienced before, I believe it will be something I incorporate into my career plan. I have also learned a lot about Japanese culture from the generous, kind, and thoughtful people I worked with, especially Dr. Ueda, Dr. Akai, and Dr. Kiyokawa. They have been exceedingly gracious and patient, and I am indebted to each of them. I hope to continue my study of Japanese language when I return to the USA, and hope that I will be better able to converse the next time I come to Japan. I also look forward to maintaining electronic communication with my colleagues at KMU, with whom it's my hope that I have formed lasting friendships. Thank you very much for the opportunity.