

Recent Activities of the Fukuoka Prefecture Medical Association

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Geographical Features of Fukuoka Prefecture

As of 1 February 2008, the population of Fukuoka prefecture, including the two major cities of Fukuoka and Kitakyushu, was an estimated 5,061,147. With a land area of some 4,974 km², accounting for 1.3% of the national land area, the prefecture is the 29th largest in Japan, as of 1 October 2004.

Fukuoka prefecture contains 28 cities, 34 towns, and four villages. Its 66 municipalities are divided among the four regions of Fukuoka, Chikugo, Chikuho, and Kitakyushu according to their geographical, historical, economic and other characteristics.

Basic Activities of the Fukuoka Prefecture Medical Association (FPMA)

As of 1 December 2007 the FPMA comprising of 22 municipal medical associations had a membership of 7,545. The activities of FPMA led by President Dr. Yoshitake Yokokura are managed under the jurisdiction of its delegates. The following is the list of eight priority agenda items of the association in its 2008 program.

Efforts to upgrade the FPMA capabilities

We are supporting the building of a bigger and stronger association with the united efforts of all the member physicians engaged in community health. We will try our best to establish a more trustful association with two pillars of the health policy and medical science by increasing the membership and solidarity.



Medical ethics, self-regulation, and continuing medical education (CME)

Studying how to practice self-regulation worthy of the public trust, we are working to observe medical ethics and prevent medical accidents. We have made efforts through CME activities to improve the quality of care and cultivate a sense of medical ethics.

Patient safety

To further develop the patient safety network, we are offering information about patient safety and continuing training courses, and thus working to improve the quality of healthcare to be worthy of public trust.

Public relations

We will improve communication with the mass media through press conferences for prompt and accurate information delivery. We provide the member doctors with appropriate information using a newsletter and email services as well as our website. We also aim at continuing favorable relations with the community residents for

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mutual understanding with them by incorporating a wide range of their views.

Appropriate disposal of medical waste

We will support the appropriate disposal of medical waste by holding workshops to obtain qualifications for the “Industrial waste control manager.”

Community health enhancement

We are taking action to cope with new types of infectious diseases arising in recent years that severely affect health and life as well as suicide with effective preventive measures to ensure the residents enjoy safe and healthy daily lives.

Actions on health insurance reforms

We strongly support a healthcare system emphasizing the roles of family doctors. We will also strive to provide timely information about the revision of the medical fee schedule and healthcare program for the elderly aged 75 or over for smooth management of the system.

Specified health checkups and health guidance

We provide the members with information about specified health checkups and specified health guidance to facilitate their implementation. We also hold training sessions for the member doctors responsible for these events.

The priority programs for 2008 are outlined above. Below is a discussion of several activities carried out by the FPMA.

Establishment of the Association of Medical Sciences

Fukuoka prefecture is home to four medical colleges, Kyushu University, Kurume University, Fukuoka University, and the University of Occupational and Environmental Health. Each of these universities has long held medical congresses as a venue for presentation of medical research. The FPMA planned to establish the Fukuoka Association of Medical Sciences for physicians at those university hospitals, members of other medical professional associations, and members of the FPMA. Our decision to establish this academic association was made not only to provide hospital physicians with a venue for publishing research and honor doctors for their outstanding achievements but to help enhance

their interest in the activities of the FPMA to increase its membership.

We also expect that the Fukuoka Medical Congress will serve to promote understanding of the total activities of the FPMA among the residents.

The following projects are on the agenda to achieve the objectives above:

- (1) Hold the Fukuoka Medical Congress
- (2) Discuss with specialist societies and related professional bodies
- (3) Clinical research and information exchange
- (4) Publish a journal of the association of medical science
- (5) Promote continuing medical education
- (6) Support clinical research and honor the major achievements
- (7) Training for healthcare management
- (8) Promote public understanding of the activities of the medical association

We are currently planning necessary additional projects.

The objectives of the Medical Congress include not only promoting scientific and technological research in medicine and contributing to higher medical and healthcare standards, but encouraging hospital doctors to join the medical association membership to use the congress as the venue for their research. We hope that, unlike current highly specialized societies, it will have a more comprehensive clinical focus and encourage more publication of healthcare research.

As its implementation plan, the presidency rotates among the medical departments of four universities, with the Association of Medical Sciences chaired by the president of the FPMA. The first meeting was held on 25 January 2009.

Japan Medical Association (JMA) Woman Doctor's Bank: Establishment of a Western Japan Center

The Woman Doctor's Bank, which matches free of charge women physicians seeking to resume medical practice with healthcare institutions requiring additional doctors, started on 30 January 2007. The JMA is serving as central headquarters acting also as the Eastern Japan Center, and the FPMA as the Western Japan Center.

FPMA Clinical Trial Support Center

The FPMA Clinical Trial Support Center was

launched in August 2006 to contribute to improving the health of the residents through the development of new drugs by means of clinical trials not only at university hospitals but also at smaller medical facilities. Small medical facilities are the basic unit of the network with the Center

itself serving as the site management organization (SMO). As of January 2008 the number of facilities registered with the Center reached 135, and the Center is currently conducting phase III clinical trials in circulatory diseases.