

# 2023

# iMed

## Annual Report 2023

*International Medical Department  
Kyushu University Hospital*

**Publication Date** June 2024  
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**Vice President of University hospital  
Director of International Medical Department**

**Naoki Nakashima, MD PhD**

### **iMed commences publishing annual reports of all three of its centers together from FY2023**

Japan is an island country; therefore, Japanese people often regard overseas issues as if they occur in a different world or are unrelated to their lives. However, this has changed drastically due to the advancement of transportation facilities and Internet access. Furthermore, in the medical field, we have found many collaborative opportunities in new drug development and patient/medical staff exchange programs. Kyushu University raises “International Collaboration” as one of eight items of the Vision 2030, the main policy of the university. Kyushu University Hospital also sets forth promoting “Internationalization by using Information Technology” in the basic policy. In 2021, Kyushu University Hospital established a Division of International Promotion in each department of the Maidashi campus, and later, in early 2024, Kyushu University Hospital established the navigation center of international education to promote and support inbound/outbound international students. The International Medical Department (iMed), established in 2015, has played an important role in the internationalization of Kyushu University Hospital. iMed consists of three centers: (i) Telemedicine Development Center of Asia (TEMDEC), (ii) International Patient Support Center (IPAC), and (iii) Overseas Exchange Center (OVEX). All staff in these three centers worked hard, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. TEMDEC and OVEX published annual activity reports together until FY2022, but from FY2023, iMed has published annual activity reports from all three centers together. This report describes the unique and collaborative activities in detail; we would be grateful if you could read this. We will expand our activities in FY2024. Thank you very much for your support and collaboration in advance.

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>International Medical Department,<br/>Kyushu University Hospital (iMed)</b><br><br> | <b>Overseas Exchange Center (OVEX)</b>                  |  |
|  | Human Exchange  |  |
|  | Human Resource Development                              |  |
|  | <b>Telemedicine Development Center of Asia (TEMDEC)</b> |  |
|  | Remote Education  |  |
|  | Developing Technologies                                 |  |
| <b>International Patient Support Center (IPAC)</b>                                     |   |  |
| International Patient Services   |   |  |
| Translation for Patients   |   |  |

# Highlights

APR.

## Overseas Remote Second Opinion (D to D) with China through an Agency

Two physicians in Hematology, Oncology & Cardiovascular Medicine remotely provided a Doctor-to-Doctor (D to D) overseas remote second opinion to a family in China for an elderly patient diagnosed with gastric cancer and suspected liver metastasis. They discussed treatment options, potential side effects, and surgery necessity, tailoring communication to cultural differences. The family understood local treatment benefits well, expressing high satisfaction. This is the fourth remote second opinion through an agency, with ongoing improvements underway despite challenges.



MAY

## Student Lecture from Mexico

This year, medical students gathered in a lecture hall for the first time in 3 years. First, Dr. Miguel Tanimoto from the National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition, Mexico gave a lecture on his telemedicine activities and discussed it with the students in English. Vice Director Tomohiko Moriyama from Singapore gave a lecture on remote medical education and online medical care in Japan and abroad. Many students commented positively on the English language lecture from Mexico.



JUN.

## 2023 Medicine-Design Project: Workshop on Pediatric Surgery and Prenatal / Postnatal Checkups in Bangladesh

Two workshops were held. One workshop was for generating ideas on issues related to waiting space in the department of pediatric surgery. Several designs for products, media, services, and spaces were proposed and discussed from the perspectives of “ensuring privacy”, “enjoyable space that does not bore”, “making the waiting time visible”, and “waiting time freed from anxiety of when to be called on”. The other workshop was for generating ideas on the issue of pregnant women in Bangladesh. Several designs for products, games, and services were proposed and discussed to help pregnant women and their families understand the physical changes and risks associated with pregnancy, as well as the importance of checkups and raising awareness. Participants will pick up ideas they will work on and proceed with prototyping.



JUL.

## The Virtual Training in Endoscopy by Remote Mentoring (vTERM) in the Republic of Palau Has been Featured in the Newsletter

In this project an Australian doctor remotely mentors endoscopy procedures carried out in Palau, which started in 2023. As preliminary steps, we gave assistance in selecting and configuring equipment in 2022. This virtual Training in Endoscopy by Remote Mentoring (vTERM) in the Republic of Palau has been Featured in the Newsletter of the Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center.

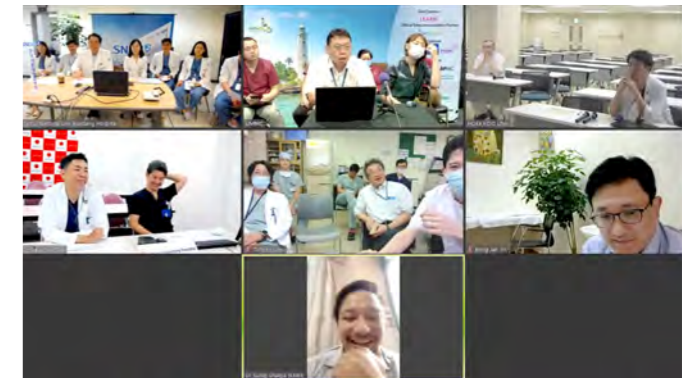
<https://mailchi.mp/4a1e84ec5960/pbtrc-july-2023-newsletter?e=e7b0d2768e>



AUG.

## The 56th Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN 56) Conference was Held in Sri Lanka

APAN 56 conference was held in hybrid style in Sri Lanka, August 21st-25th. The medical working group featured 15 sessions including endoscopy, surgery, ophthalmology, medical care, rural health care, natural products, technology and medical education. In all, 64 presentations were given from 16 countries, with a total of 511 participants from 18 countries.



AUG.

## Acceptance of Engineers from Indonesia and Mongolia

Four telemedicine engineers from Indonesia and one from Mongolia had a training in TEMDEC. This training was supported by “Train-the-Trainer program for telemedicine engineers of provincial universities in Indonesia”, 2022 International Exchange Personnel Development Assistance, the Telecommunications Advancement Foundation, and by “Human Resource Development and Collaborative Approach to Gastrointestinal Diseases in Mongolia”, National Center of Global Health and Medicine, Japan (NCGM), Bureau of International Health Cooperation 2023.



SEP.

## The 10th Kyushu Advanced Surgical Skills Workshop

This workshop aims to enhance the highly skilled techniques of colorectal surgeries and promote collaboration among young surgeons in Kyushu. This was the 3rd metaverse conference, and video presentations were given by National Cancer Center Hospital and Nagasaki University. We had a lively discussion and meaningful interactions through avatars, making it a highly valuable and significant occasion.



SEP.

## Endoscopy Field Technical Training at Kenyatta National Hospital

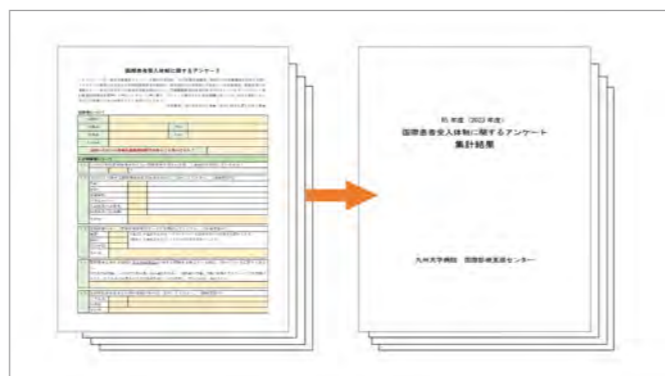
Three doctors including vice director Tomohiko Moriyama visited Kenyatta National Hospital, and they did onsite endoscopy training. The opening ceremony of the training was introduced on the website of the Embassy of Japan in Kenya. The three-day training was offered by Olympus Corporation, with support of the grant from the National Center for Global Health and Medicine (NCGM) Japan, together with Kyusyu University Hospital.



SEP.

## Nationwide Survey on the 'International Patient Acceptance System' Conducted Among Medical Institutions

To anticipate a growing influx of international patients in Japan, we surveyed 40 hospitals, including National University Hospitals, Fukuoka City medical facilities, and Japan Medical Services Accreditation for International Patients (JMIP) accredited institutions. The survey focused on improving safe medical care, emphasizing collaboration for emergencies, language support, after-hours care, and addressing payment concerns. Results, including measures in after-hours care, receivables management, and regional cooperation, were shared with participating institutions. We aim to leverage these findings to establish an international medical support infrastructure.



SEP.

## Accepting Doctors from Central Asia and the Caucasus Area

Seven doctors from Armenia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, and Tajikistan participated in the JICA country-focused program "Endoscopic Diagnostic and Therapeutics of Early Gastric Cancer". The program included observation of endoscopic procedures using the latest equipment, lectures, and simulation training using pig stomachs. The training enabled doctors to gain more knowledge and experience in the Japanese way of endoscopic diagnoses and treatments.



OCT.

## Accepting Doctor from Argentina for Long-term Training

Sixteen trainees have been trained at our hospital through the JICA "Training Program for Nikkei Communities" over the past 3 years, and this was the first time to accept a long-term trainee. The Argentine doctor learned how to diagnose and treat early gastric cancers, and skill training using pig stomachs was conducted frequently. By utilizing the advanced clinical training permit for foreign doctors, she was able to learn the techniques and tricks of endoscopic procedures more practically.



OCT.

## Technical Support on International Case Conference in SPED 2023

At the Semana Panamericana de Enfermedades Digestivas (SPED 2023) congress, a telemedicine session was organized connecting four countries in South America (Chile, Mexico, Costa Rica and Peru), sharing interesting cases with onsite and online audiences, who interacted by poll questions. The conference was also streamed out on YouTube platform.



OCT.

## Vice Director Tomohiko Moriyama Visited Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Georgia

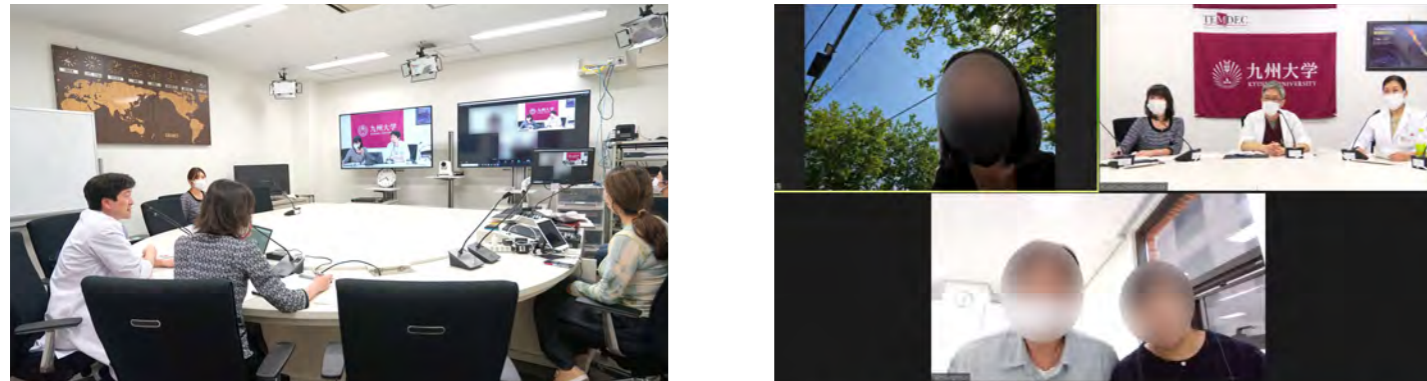
We have started a project "Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Country Focused), Endoscopic Diagnostics and Therapeutics of Early Gastric Cancer for Central Asia and the Caucasus Countries" with JICA. To make the project more fulfilling, Vice director Tomohiko Moriyama visited Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Georgia with the aim of inspecting the current situation in endoscopic examination and discussing the future development of telemedicine education. Throughout the visit, we recognized the importance of sustainable education combining staff exchanges and telemedicine to develop the human resources of the doctors who will lead each country.



OCT.

## Overseas Remote Second Opinion (D to P) with Korea and the Netherlands

In addition to our current Doctor-to-Doctor (D to D) remote second opinions, we conducted trial Doctor-to-Patient (D to P) remote second opinions with Korea and the Netherlands to prepare for the full launch of our D to P service for international patients. Doctors from the Departments of Hematology, Oncology & Cardiovascular Medicine and Hepatology & Pancreatobiliary Medicine engaged in a productive 60-minute dialogue, ensuring high patient satisfaction. Future developments will cater to diverse patient needs, including those unable to travel due to medical conditions or requiring decisions before coming to Japan.



NOV.

## Accepting Doctors from Kenya

In collaboration with the Olympus Corporation, 5 Kenyan endoscopists trained in our hospital under the project for Growth of Medical Technologies “Human resource development for gastrointestinal disease in Kenya (endoscopy field)”. In addition to observing endoscopic procedures using the latest equipment, skill training was conducted using a hemostasis practice model and simulator. At the end of the training, a telemedicine conference was held by connecting with their institutions in Kenya. The training was fulfilling, as the doctors were able to learn from both onsite training and remote education.



NOV.

## Technical Support in Kyushu University Asia Week 2023

Kyushu University held various events under the theme of “A Week to Seek Asia” from November 6th to November 11th. TEMDEC organized a special seminar, “The 3rd Medicine × Design Collaboration Seminar” and gave technical support to other programs.



NOV.

## 8th Annual Meeting of International Society of Clinical Medicine

Three members from IPAC, including a physician, an English interpreter, and Chinese interpreter participated in the conference, delivering five presentations on system development, medical interpretation, and contributing to a joint symposium. With the rising inbound visitors to Japan, medical institutions grapple with pressing issues like cooperation both within and outside of the hospital, after-hours services, and debt management. IPAC has fielded numerous inquiries on addressing these challenges. IPAC's active participation in this conference provides a valuable opportunity to showcase our efforts in addressing these issues.



JAN.

## Kyushu University Hospital x mediPhone, Inc. ‘Seminar on Intercultural Understanding for the Globalization of Medical Institutions’

This seminar aimed to improve patient safety and international medical care through nuanced cultural understanding. Distinguished presenters included our doctor, a family member of an international patient, an interpreter agency representative, and a Kyushu University professor, fostering diverse perspectives and a robust exchange of opinions. Post-event evaluations indicated notable satisfaction, reflecting widespread interest in intercultural competence. Future initiatives involve targeted seminars delivering foundational and advanced expertise to diverse audiences.



JAN.

## The 2nd Bhutan GI Endoscopy Workshop

At the second Bhutan Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Workshop, Bhutanese doctors performed Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (EMR) and Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD) under the guidance of Japanese experts. Thirteen doctors from all over Bhutan participated. Holding the workshop will greatly contribute to Bhutanese doctor's acquisition of endoscopic diagnosis and treatment skills.



JAN.

## The 57th Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN 57) Conference was Held in Thailand

In the medical working group of APAN 57, a total of 15 sessions were held including endoscopy, surgery, ophthalmology, medical care, rural health care, public health, natural products, technology and medical education. Throughout the conference, 56 presentations from 14 countries were delivered, with a total of 362 participants from 21 countries.



JAN.

## Vice Director Tomohiko Moriyama Visited Argentina and Chile

From 2017, we and JICA had carried out a training project “Endoscopic diagnostics and therapeutics of early gastric cancer” targeted at doctors contributing to NIKKEI communities in Latin America. Because of that we have invited a NIKKEI endoscopist from Argentina for 3 months this year, Vice director Tomohiko Moriyama visited Buenos Aires to inspect the trainee’s institution and for the future introduction of telemedicine education in Argentina. In addition, for furthermore development on our ongoing telemedicine education project, he visited Santiago, Chile. Through this visit to Latin America, we found the importance of providing telemedicine education that suits the needs of the area or institutions, as well as reconfirmation of the situation in this area.



MAR.

## The 7th Internationalization Forum at Maidashi Campus of Kyushu University

On March 22nd, each department in the medical area (Hospital, Graduate School of Medicine, School of Health Sciences, Graduate School of Dentistry, and Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences) presented the current status and issues of international exchange. In a special lecture, Mr. Shunsuke Sadoshima from the International Affairs Department, Kyushu University, reported on the University’s activities in Europe utilizing the Stockholm Liaison Office. It was a good opportunity to exchange information for further promotion of internationalization in the medical field.



## Project for Global Growth of Medical Technologies by NCGM 2023 “Human Resource Development and Collaborative Approach to Gastrointestinal Diseases in Mongolia”

Following the last fiscal year, direct clinical guidance and online remote education were provided by dispatching and accepting medical staff to improve awareness and understanding of the effectiveness and importance of team medicine. Engineers were also trained to perform telemedicine in Mongolia.

AUG.

- Dispatching 8 doctors (endoscopy, surgery, radiology, pathology, oncology) and 1 medical engineer
- Surgery live demonstration from Mongolia
- Conducted TEMDEC Japan-Mongolia Webinar
- Accepting 4 doctors (surgery, radiology, pathology, oncology) and 1 engineer
- Conducted training report conference

NOV.

- Conducted TEMDEC Japan-Mongolia Webinar: Advanced GI surgeries in Japan

DEC.

- Accepting 7 doctors (endoscopy and surgery)
- Conducted case conference and training report conference

MAR.

- President of the Mongolian National University of Medical Sciences and Director of the Mongolian-Japan Hospital visited Kyushu University Hospital



## OVEX Activities

In-bound

Training

25 Countries  
45 Facilities  
60 people

Doctor 49  
Engineer 5  
Student 6

**Kyushu University  
Hospital Tour**  
Visitors 21

Out-bound

Teaching Clinical Skills  
/Visiting Facilities

9 Countries  
19 Facilities  
31 people

Doctor 20  
Researcher 2  
Medical Engineer 1  
Engineer 1  
Administrator 3  
Student 4

English Learning Class

Conducted English learning classes for Kyushu University Hospital Staff

• **Individual Class:**  
4 Programs 8 groups  
44 Participants

• **Departmental Class:**  
3 Departments  
15 Participants

## The 17th Asia Telemedicine Symposium

This symposium was hosted by Kyushu University Hospital for the first time in five years. Presentations on telemedicine activities, research, and education were given by experts from various countries around the world, especially Asia. In addition, special sessions were held on telemedicine in Japan and technologies that are expected to be utilized in the future. Excellent presentations were made by speakers from 12 countries and each presentation was followed by a lively question-and-answer session. A reception was also held at the venue. A total of 128 people from 32 countries attended the two-day event, providing a valuable opportunity to bring together physicians, technicians, researchers, and staff from countries that have not been able to meet face-to-face since the pandemic.



Group photo at the venue



Symposium poster



Speakers from 12 countries



Lecture



Engineer workshop

**44 nations 353 institutions 173 events**  
**newly connected 133 institutions 29 nations**

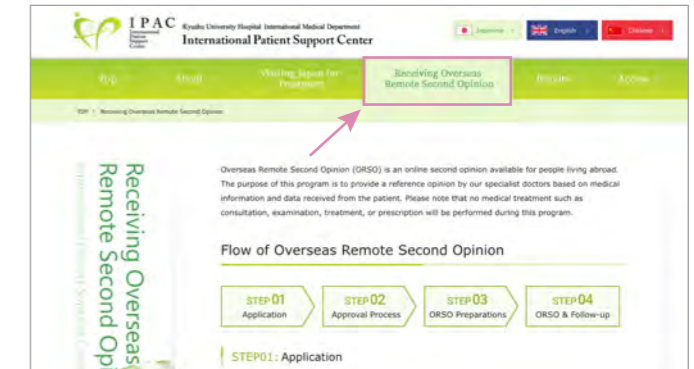
|                  |              |                            |                               |                   |
|------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Endoscopy        | Surgery      | Transplantation            | Technology                    | Pancreato-Biliary |
| Ophthalmology    | Robot        | Pediatrics                 | Neurology                     | Oriental Medicine |
| Telehealth       | Healthcare   | Dentistry                  | Oncology                      | Pediatric Surgery |
| General Medicine | Psychiatry   | Obstetrics and Gynaecology | Student                       | Infection         |
| Hematology       | Nurse        | Gastroenterology           | Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery | Endocrinology     |
| Nephrology       | Neurosurgery | Others (Medical)           | Others (Non-Medical)          |                   |

## Feb. FY2023 Grand Launch: Overseas Remote Second Opinion Service

### Introducing a New Window on the International Patient Support Center (IPAC) Website!

On February 1st of this year, IPAC launched the Doctor to Patient (D to P) overseas remote second opinion service, connecting our doctors with international patients living abroad. Initially trialed with 3 cases, this service addresses the needs of patients unable to travel to Japan due to COVID-19 or medical conditions.

Now fully operational, the IPAC website hosts a dedicated page in Japanese, English, and Chinese, offering clear guidance and easy access for remote second opinion applicants.

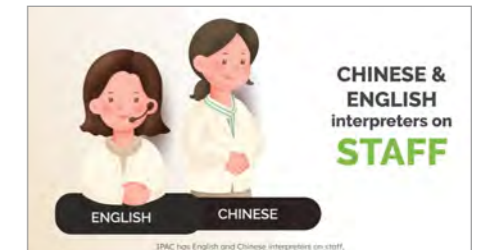


### IPAC Introduction Movie Now on YouTube!

Teamed up with 4 medical students from Mahidol University, Thailand, to create a 3-minute video introducing IPAC activities including interpretation, translation, consultation for acceptance, and remote second opinion services. Now available on IPAC's YouTube and website.

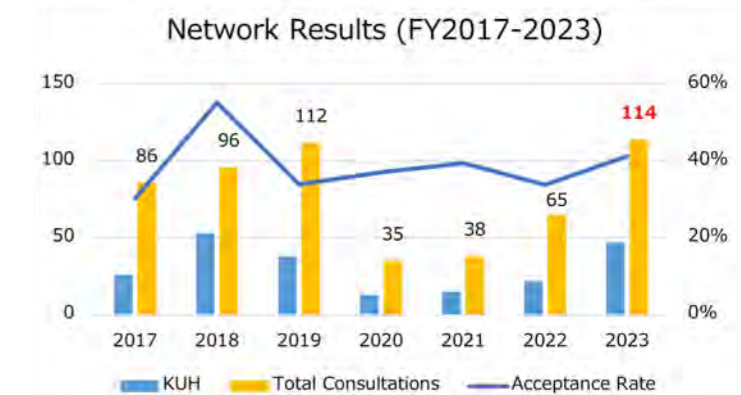


IPAC Intro Movie



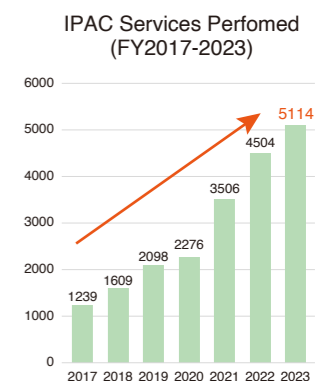
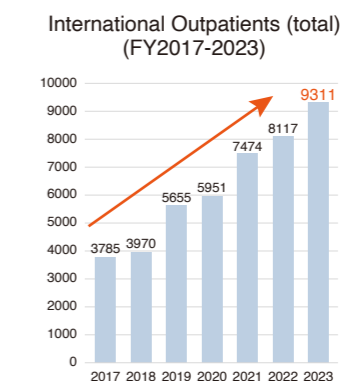
### Growing Consultations: National University Hospital Medical Cooperation Network

The network functions as a consultation window for international patients seeking medical treatment in Japan, with IPAC managing approximately 100 cases annually. Consultations rebounded significantly since November, totaling 114 this fiscal year, driving a slight increase in acceptance rates. As foreign visitors to Japan rise, further consultation growth is anticipated.



### Rise in International Patients and IPAC Services Performed

The rise in international patients correlates with increased IPAC services, including interpretation, translation, consultation (including remote second opinion), and system development. Requests from clinical departments for safety management highlight the need for smooth operations, requiring further promotion of cooperation both inside and outside of the Kyushu University Hospital and personnel and tool enhancements.



## Research Projects with External Funds

◆ Japan Medical Education Foundation  
**FY2023 Medical interpreter and medical coordinator for international patients assignment support project**  
**Indirect subsidy project for placement of medical interpreters and others**  
 Masafumi Nakamura

◆ Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications  
**Medical evaluation research on the local introduction of digital solutions and products through the SPAQ demonstration project in Zambia as part of a subcontracted project related to the local framework of the ICT overseas expansion package support project**  
 Naoki Nakashima

◆ Project for Growth of Medical Technologies 2023  
**Human resource development and collaborative approach to gastrointestinal diseases in Mongolia**  
 Kyushu University (Tomohiko Moriyama)

◆ Japan International Cooperation Agency  
**Knowledge co-creation program (country focused) for FY 2023, Endoscopic diagnostics and therapeutics of early gastric cancer for central Asia and the Caucasus countries**  
 Tomohiko Moriyama

◆ Japan International Cooperation Agency  
**Training program for Nikkei communities for FY 2023**  
**Endoscopic diagnostic and therapeutics of early gastric cancer**  
 Tomohiko Moriyama

◆ Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C) 2020-2022 JP20K10321  
**Sustainable international medical education for decreasing mortality of colorectal cancer in Asia**  
 Tomohiko Moriyama

◆ The Japanese Foundation for Research and Promotion of Endoscopy, a public interest incorporated association  
**The subsidy for accepting overseas research doctors for FY 2023**  
 Kohei Nakata

◆ Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B) 2023-2026 JP23H01005  
**Development and validation of a technical training e-learning program for telemedicine conference in Asia**  
 Kuriko Kudo

## Research Projects with University Funds

◆ Kyushu University Institute for Asian and Oceanian Studies (Q-AOS)  
**Telemedicine Module, Medicine and Health Cluster**  
 Tomohiko Moriyama (Kuriko Kudo)

**PHC module, Medicine and Health Cluster**  
 Naoki Nakashima

**Strategic Medical Design Module, Medicine and Health Cluster**  
 Yasuyuki Hirai (Kuriko Kudo)

◆ Qdai-jump Research Program (QR Program) : 2020.10-2024.3  
**Development of educational programs by connecting medicine and design**  
 Kuriko Kudo

◆ Grant-in-Aid for Challenging Research (Exploratory) 2023-2025 JP23K17621  
**Development of a creative educational program integrating medicine and design**  
 Kuriko Kudo

◆ Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (C) 2022-2024 JP22K02858  
**Establishment of image quality standards for the worldwide spread of refined early gastric cancer diagnosis using magnifying endoscopes**  
 Shintaro Ueda

◆ 2022 International Exchange Personnel Development Assistance, the Telecommunications Advancement Foundation  
**Train-the-trainer program for telemedicine engineers of provincial universities in Indonesia**  
 Shunta Tomimatsu

◆ International Collaborative Research Program: Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS): 2021-  
**The project for institutional capacity building for eliminating helicobacter pylori related death**  
 Yoshio Yamaoka (Tomohiko Moriyama)

◆ Project for Growth of Medical Technologies 2023  
**Early diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases by endoscopy in the Kingdom of Bhutan**  
 Oita University (Tomohiko Moriyama)

◆ Project for Growth of Medical Technologies 2023  
**Training for the gastroenterologists in order to eradicate gastric cancer in Laos PDR**  
 NPO HIGAN (Tomohiko Moriyama)

◆ Project for Growth of Medical Technologies 2023  
**Human resource development for gastrointestinal diseases in Kenya (endoscopy field)**  
 Olympus Corporation (Tomohiko Moriyama)

◆ Grant-in-Aid for Challenging Research (Exploratory) 2021-2023 JP21K18462  
**International research on diverse work styles of healthcare professionals toward a sustainable healthcare system**  
 Akiko Chisyaki (Kuriko Kudo)

◆ Integrated Initiative for Designing Future Society, Kyushu University  
**Medicine and health unit**  
 Koichi Akashi (Tomohiko Moriyama) (Kuriko Kudo)

◆ Data-Driven Innovation Initiative, Kyushu University  
**Division of healthcare digital transformation**  
 Naoki Nakashima (Tomohiko Moriyama) (Kuriko Kudo)


## iMed



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 Vice Director of Kyushu University Hospital  
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**iMed Vice Director**  
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 Vice Director of OVEX



**Michiko Iwamura**  
 Administrator

## OVEX



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**OVEX Vice Director**  
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**Naoko Hatanaka**  
 (2023/5~)  
 International Coordinator



**Yumi Mori**  
 International Coordinator



**Michiko Nakamura**  
 Administrative Assistant

## TEMDEC



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**Saori Matsuda**  
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**Miho Hayata**  
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**Fumiko Nagamine**  
 (2023/9~)  
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**Naoko Wakui**  
 (2023/9~)  
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**Rintaro Katayama**  
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**Akiko Oyama**  
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**Miki Domen**  
 (~2024/3)  
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## IPAC



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 Vice Director of Kyushu University Hospital  
 Director of iMed




**IPAC Vice Director**  
**Nobuyuki Shimono**  
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**Rikako Sagara**  
*Assistant Professor*  
 (Dedicated Doctor)



**Qi Jie**  
 Medical Interpreter  
 (Chinese)



**Nami Arita**  
 Medical Interpreter  
 (English)