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Exchange Program in Kobe University



I have been given the chance to participate in a medical student exchange program in Kobe University for four weeks starting in early May 2014. I studied in the Gastrointestinal Surgery Department and the Oncology Department, two-week course of each department.

I studied in the Gastrointestinal Surgery Department for two weeks. My daily activities in this department were attending the ward round, observing operations, and discussions. The doctors and I usually had some discussions while we were doing the ward round. We mostly talked about things such as pattern of patients cases, choices of operation procedures and the difference between cases in Japan and in Indonesia. I was also invited to observe some operations in the operating rooms. I looked forward to this activity the most because I was able to witness Japan's professional and skillful surgeons performed surgeries. I really admire their work. One time, I also participated in a laparoscopic surgery as one of the assistants. It was a great experience for me. I also joined the stitching class along with Kobe University students and we were taught how to properly stitch a wound. The class was very fun, the doctor taught us not only the basic thing which was stitching techniques, but also the practical things such as how we prepare the tools and what to tell the patients before we begin the procedures.

“Doctors in Kobe University Hospital taught me many things, and they did so compassionately and patiently”



I also studied in the Oncology Department for two weeks. My daily activities in Oncology department are the ward round and outpatient clinic. We discussed many cancer cases, we talked about the aetiology, risk factors, clinical manifestations, choices of therapies, side effects of therapy and many more. The doctors were very caring, they gave me some materials to study further about tumours and chemotherapy agents. The doctors also took me to the outpatient clinic and discussed more cases. I also got the chance to observe a senior doctor doing a consultation to a patient with forth stage oesophageal cancer and her family. I learnt many solid tumour cases and chemotherapy agents in this department.

Not only about medical matters, I also had chance to improve my Japanese language skill. Now, I can introduce myself and make a short daily conversation in Japanese. Also, I am now able to read and write the hiragana letters.

Even only for a short time, being a part of Kobe University Hospital was such a precious experience to me. Doctors in Kobe University Hospital taught me many things, and they did so compassionately and patiently. Doctors and fellow students were nothing but very kind, helpful, and friendly to me. They welcomed me with open arms. They were open-minded, respectful, and they were very nice to me. I really appreciate it. It was such a huge honour for me to be able to study in Kobe University.

