

# Exchange Program

University of the Philippines College of Medicine

April 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 to April 28<sup>th</sup> 2016



Kobe University College of Medicine 6<sup>th</sup> year

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## 1. Introduction

I attended an elective rotation at Philippine General Hospital (PGH) for 4 weeks from April 4<sup>th</sup> 2016 to April 28<sup>th</sup> 2016. PGH is one of the largest national general hospitals in Philippines and it is university hospital of University of the Philippines College of Medicine. I rotated the first 2 weeks in the Department of General Medicine and the last 2 weeks in the Department of Cardiology.



## 2. Department of General Medicine

Department of General Medicine is consisted of 6 services, and each service is in charge of different patients. I belonged to the service as well. One of the clerks, 4<sup>th</sup> year medical students from University of the Philippines, was my buddy and I stucked with him while I stayed in general medicine.

### Schedule for the day

Time	Schedule
7:00~9:00	Morning Endorsement
9:00~10:00	Department of Medicine Audit
10:00~13:00	Procedures Write charts
13:00~16:00	Case Management by Medical Students
16:30~	Evening Endorsement

What I was surprised at the most in Department of General Medicine was that medical students were responsible for patients in the wards, as if they were doctors. In PGH, clerks and interns were in charge of the patients and they did procedures such as blood extraction, writing charts, monitoring, ordering exams, and so on. Endorsements and duty were also in their curriculums, and I felt that the medical students in Philippines are



required more than those in Japan. I did blood extraction and intravenous line insertion as well every day.

PGH has 2 kinds of wards, and that is “Charity Ward” for poor patients and “Paid Ward” for patients who can afford medical expenses. Department of General Medicine sees patients in “Charity Ward”. In the “Charity Ward”, 50 patients are in 1 big room with no air conditioning, and it seemed insanitary.

### 3. Department of Cardiology

In the Department of Cardiology, I attended conferences and observed 2D echoes, catheter procedures, and out-patient clinics. In Philippines, medical education is done in English, and conferences and lectures were also all done in English. Most of the patients speak English, but daily conversations between Filipinos are Tagalog so the out-patient clinics were all done in Tagalog.

#### Schedule for the day

Time	Schedule
8:00~10:00	Preoperative Conference
10:00~12:00	Out Patient Clinic
13:00~15:00	2D Echo Lecture
15:00~17:00	Observing 2D Echo

On the last week, I had the opportunity to interview and do the physical examination of a patient at out-patient clinic. It was a case of mitral stenosis and mitral regurgitation from rheumatic heart disease, which is not seen as much in Japan. I was asked to write a case report and make a presentation. Since it was my first time to do it in English I had a hard time completing it, but it was a valuable experience for me. At the same time, I noticed the importance of gaining medical knowledge not only in Japanese but also in English.



### 4. Daily lives in Philippines

During my stay in Philippines, I rented a condominium just across the street from the university. There are many condominiums near the university, and many students and doctors live there. The area I stayed seemed to be relatively safe, but

it was insecure compared to Japan. Each shop had security guards with guns, and I was told not to go out at night or walk into narrow streets.



April is the dry season and we rarely had rain. It is the hottest time of the year.

In the weekends, I did small trips to Palawan Island and Cebu Island with students from the United States. I enjoyed snorkeling in the clear ocean and canyoning in the river. It was such a nice experience.

The medical students I met were all very kind and welcoming. They invited me to dinner and took me to many sightseeing places. We had a lot of topics to talk about, such as the difference of medical care between Philippines and Japan. It was very nice to know them and I am willing to keep in touch with them.



## 5. Conclusion

I was anxious at first before going to Philippines, because it was my first visit and my first time abroad just by myself. However, after it started, I had so many things to learn and it was exciting every day that time passed very fast. At the end I even wanted to stay longer.

Through this experience, I am more willing to study abroad for a longer period of time in the future. Also I found out what I have to do and what I need from now on. I would like to make use of this experience to my future.

At last, I would like to thank Dr. Kuno, Dr. Kitamura, Dr. Susie Sio, and all the people who were involved in this program for giving me this opportunity.