



Newsletter

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Tokyo Medical and Dental University
Latin American Collaborative Research Center (LACRC)

Memories of Summer

Located in the southern hemisphere, the seasons in Chile are the opposite of those in Japan, with summer falling between December and February. As the summer solstice approaches, light lingers until past nine o'clock and daylight continues long after returning home from work.

My son—the older of my two children—is a first-grade elementary school student, but since the school he attends does not have a pool, and there is no swimming school within easy distance, he was barely able to swim this past summer. Japan's physical education classes include swimming, and since I wanted him to have a chance to swim while we were in Chile, I gave my son the goal of learning to swim over the course of the summer.

Fortunately, like many apartment blocks in our neighborhood, ours has a pool. I went to the pool with him for swimming practice mostly on the weekends, but also when he wanted to go on weekdays after school.

I can swim reasonably well, but I didn't know how to teach any strokes, so I searched for YouTube videos on teaching your child to swim. I watched the videos with my son to set our goal for that day, and then he practiced. I took video footage of him swimming to check his strengths and weaknesses, and we searched for videos of proficient swimmers to see how his swimming compared.

Thanks to his efforts over the summer, my son, who was barely able to kick before, made remarkable progress, overcoming his fear of the pool and now able to enjoy swimming. Setting individual challenges and clearing them one by one enabled him to see the results of his practice. His subsequent enjoyment of swimming helped him to improve even more.

Turning to my work in Chile, my main task was to provide guidance to medical interns on the diagnosis and treatment of colorectal problems via colonoscopy. Since most of the medical interns are still beginners, my first job is to teach them basic strategies and techniques. I ask them to practice repeatedly, hoping that they are able to perform a colonoscopy examination without assistance at the end of the three-month training period.

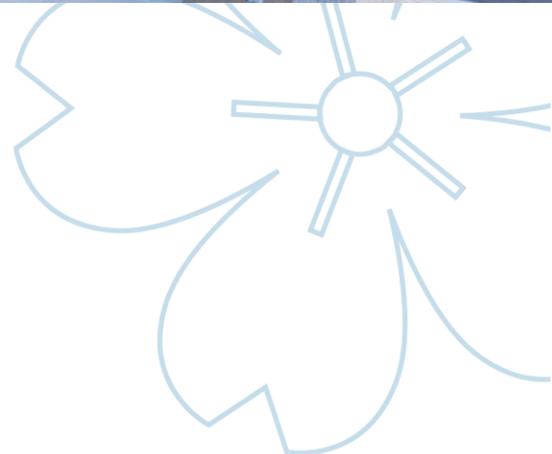
Although the people involved and the nature of my guidance varied widely, I realized that there are strong similarities in the process of practicing—whether it be my son's swimming practice or training in endoscopic examination.

I will be accepting medical interns for colonoscopy training on a regular basis throughout fiscal 2019. In my private life, I'm also looking forward to helping my son learn to skip rope and my daughter to ride a bicycle.

It goes without saying that I love being part of my children's development. Being involved in the development of other people in another country gives me great pleasure too, and I am extremely grateful to have been given this opportunity.

I'd like to close this greeting with the hope that the coming year will be a fulfilling one in terms of both my activities at LACRC and in my family's life in Chile.

Tomoyuki Odagaki, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology



LACRC TMDU
IN CHILE
Latin American Collaborative Research Center
Santiago de Chile



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Joint Degree Program

A meeting of the medical directors was convened in March this year with a view to generating a summary of last year's Joint Degree Program (JDP). An outline of the proceedings is as follows.

The Meeting of JDP Medical Directors



Meeting of JDP medical directors in progress.

On March 28, a meeting of medical directors comprising faculty heads and professors from TMDU and the University of Chile was held via teleconference.

The meeting's aim was to report on and discuss the fiscal 2018 JDP as a whole, self-checks and the evaluation report on the program.

Due to the 12-hour time difference between Chile and Japan, the meeting only convenes once a year but provides an invaluable opportunity for faculty heads from both universities to discuss various matters face to face.

Both universities will continue to collaborate in the operation of this program so as to ensure it remains both beneficial and rewarding.

Dr. Matsumiya Returns to Japan

Yuriko Matsumiya

University of Chile and TMDU Joint Degree Doctoral Program in Medical Sciences, International Medical Special Study.

I arrived in Chile in March of last year. Before I knew it, spring had rolled around, and it was time for my return to Japan. The prospect of returning to Japan with the sakura trees blooming filled me with enormous pleasure, but with the invaluable experiences I'd had in Chile I was also sad to leave. Through the cooperation of the University of Chile and Clínica Las Condes, I studied molecular cell biology, bacteriology, genetics and other branches of biology necessary for basic research alongside graduate students from Chile University and gained direct experience of clinical realities in Chile. I witnessed with my own eyes the health inequalities between rich and poor and between different regions of the country, which became a great opportunity to reflect on healthcare practices in Japan and how they might be improved. I hope the knowledge I gained in Chile will be useful in the detection of early-stage cancer and developments in preventive medicine. I intend to continue working diligently towards this end.

I would like to express my gratitude to the individuals who supported me through the JDP. I will strive to achieve results that facilitate further positive development of TMDU's relationship with Chile.



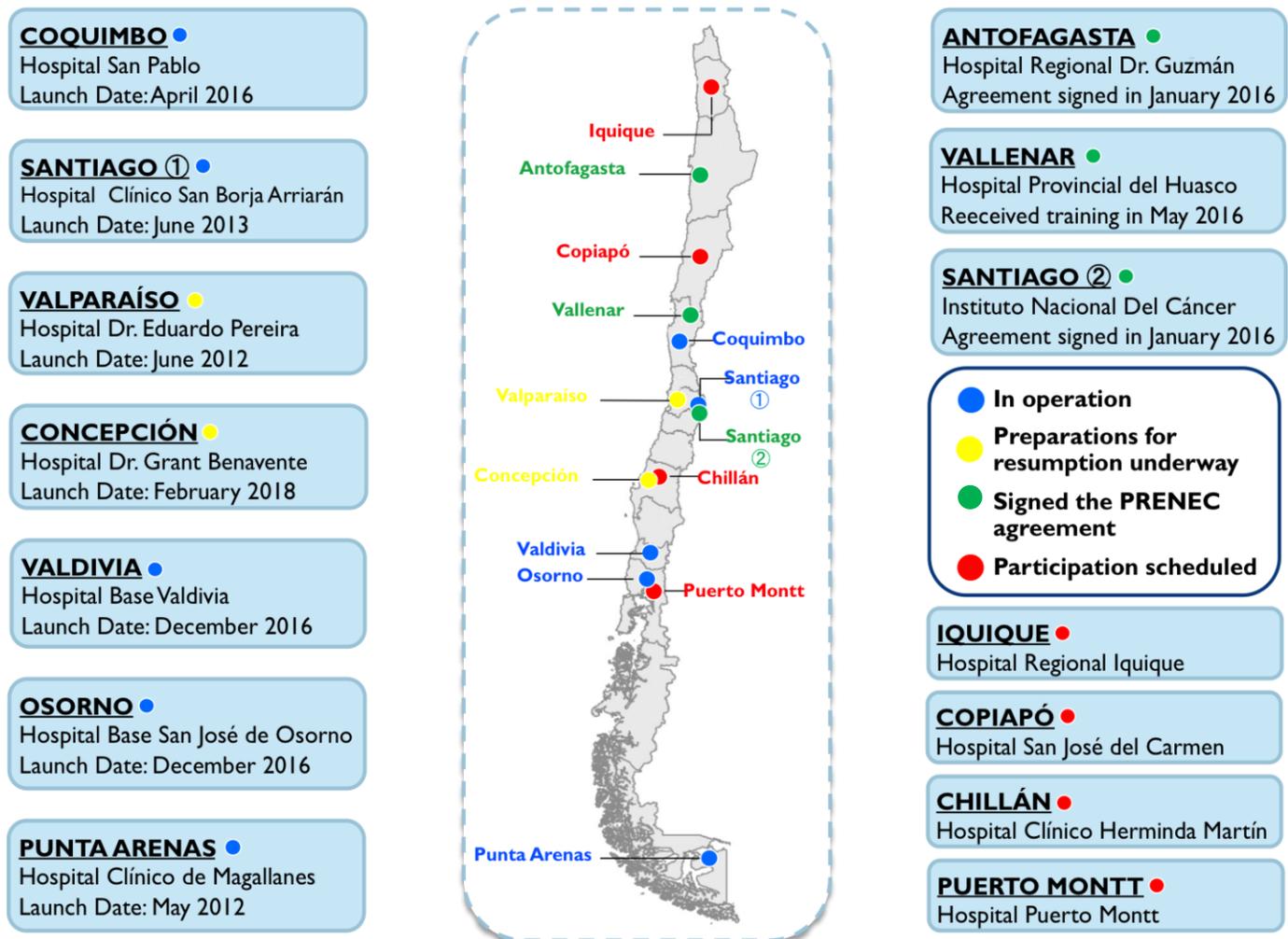
Dr. Matsumiya with laboratory staff in Chile.

PRENEC Progress Report

The following section is a report on the latest developments in the Prevention Project for Neoplasia of the Colon and Rectum (PRENEC).

The PRENEC screening program was initiated in Concepción, in addition to the six cities of Punta Arenas, Santiago, Valparaíso, Valdivia, Osorno, and Coquimbo. Due to management issues in Valparaíso and Concepción, where the project had only just been set in motion, the program has currently been suspended in these two cities. It is hoped that these issues can be swiftly resolved and PRENEC work can be resumed. A pilot study of PRENEC undertaken in Paraguay is now complete and preparations are underway for the full-scale launch of this initiative.

Progress Report on PRENEC



Professor Masamichi Yasuno's Visit to Chile

Specially Appointed Professor Masamichi Yasuno visited Chile between March 3 and March 19 this year to provide clinical instruction and give lectures on surgery. This is a brief report on his visit.

Clinical Instruction and Lectures

Professor Yasuno provided surgical guidance and clinical instruction to local doctors at the Hospital El Carmen in the Maipú district of Santiago.

Acting as surgical first assistant, Professor Yasuno performed an extended right hemicolectomy and percutaneous abscess drainage procedure on a patient with ascending colon cancer (complicated by retroperitoneal infiltration and a large liver abscess) and gave guidance to local physicians.

Professor Yasuno also gave a comprehensive lecture on anal diseases at the hospital to surgical student interns and clinical trainees from Finis Terrae University. He also gave a talk, with accompanying video footage, on surgical treatment of gastrointestinal malignancy (cancer), and provided information on TMDU and the Joint Degree Program.

At Clínica Las Condes, he participated in a tumor board review and conference, and gave presentations on rectal cancer surgery at the monthly PRENEC meeting and clinical case conference.

These activities have contributed to the wider dissemination of Japan's outstanding knowledge and technology in the diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal cancer.



Specially Appointed Professor Yasuno lecturing to students from Finis Terrae University.

A Visit to the JICA Offices in Chile



From left to right: Specially Appointed Professor Masamichi Yasuno, JICA Chile Director, Mr. Ryoza Hanya and Deputy Director, Ms. Toshimi Kobayashi

On March 11, Professor Yasuno paid a courtesy call to Mr. Ryoza Hanya and Ms. Toshimi Kobayashi, director and deputy director respectively of JICA Chile (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

He gave a briefing on the background, current status of and prospects for TMDU's projects in Chile, primarily the JDP, PRENEC and project semesters, and asked JICA Chile for their ongoing cooperation and support.

LACRC Activity Report

Dr. Odagaki's Temporary Return to Japan



President Yasuyuki Yoshizawa and Assistant Professor Tomoyuki Odagaki

A joint meeting on PRENEC and the JDP was convened on January 23, to coincide with the temporary return to Japan of Assistant Professor Tomoyuki Odagaki from LACRC. The meeting was attended by Executive Senior Vice President Tetsuya Taga, Professor Hiroyuki Uetake, Junior Associate Professor Takuya Okada, and Manager Tomohiro Katayama. Dr. Odagaki gave a progress report on PRENEC, reported on the clinical activities being undertaken at Hospital Clínico San Borja Arriarán in Santiago and fiscal 2018 project semesters, and discussed the outlook for the future. These reports were submitted to the Director of the TMDU Overseas Satellite Office in Chile, Prof. Masanobu Kitagawa, on January 28, as he was unable to attend the meeting.

A report on TMDU activities in Chile was subsequently presented to President Yasuyuki Yoshizawa on February 6, who offered some words of encouragement.

Editor's Note

Under the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Scholarship Students Research Student Program, as of April this year I will be studying at the Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University. A lot happened in the two years I spent at LACRC, but I have had many experiences and am indebted to everyone there.

I look forward to gaining more experience in Japan and to meeting you all again at some time in the future.

(Mrs. Margarita Barja)

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