

Voice of the International Students

VIS

医学研究院
国際連携部門だより
(January 2025
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What is VIS ?

The International Relations Division of the Faculty of Medicine issues VIS to send out the live messages from International Students of Graduate School of Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Science and School of Medicine, and to promote the exchange of intercultural information. We hope VIS helps to cultivate intercultural communications and boost international exchanges.

VISの発行の目的は、医学院・医理工学院・医学部医学科の留学生の生の声を発信することと、異文化間の情報交換を促進することです。VISが異文化間のコミュニケーションを養い、国際交流を実行していくうえで役立つことを望みます。

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From The University of Queensland, Australia

I feel very honored to have had the opportunity to complete a four-week clinical rotation at Hokkaido University, dividing my time between the Anesthesiology and Emergency Medicine departments. During this period, I gained a wealth of new knowledge, witnessed medical techniques I had never seen before, and deepened my understanding of the Japanese healthcare system.

One of the most memorable experiences in the Anesthesiology Department was witnessing a cardiac arrest during surgery for the first time. The patient was undergoing surgery to remove their left eye. The procedure initially progressed smoothly, and I stood by the anesthetic machine with the doctor, routinely monitoring the patient's condition. The heart rate monitor produced its rhythmic beeping sound, creating a steady atmosphere. Suddenly, the rhythm was disrupted—the next beep never came. The doctor immediately called for the surgery to pause, and everyone's eyes turned to the monitor. Thankfully, the heart rate returned to normal within seconds. This event, known as the oculocardiac reflex, was something I had only read about in textbooks before. Witnessing it firsthand at Hokkaido University emphasized the critical importance and professionalism of anesthesiology. It highlighted the necessity of being prepared for any sudden changes during surgery.

In Japan, the emergency medical system triages patients before they arrive at the hospital, directing them to facilities based on the severity of their condition. This led to a unique experience in the Emergency Medicine Department at Hokkaido University, where I only saw critically ill patients and no minor cases, unlike my experiences in Taiwan and the United States. I encountered an open book pelvic fracture for the first time, which I had only studied in medical school during my first year.



Daniel Heng-En Wo

Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine
Department of Emergency Medicine
Period: October 15 – November 8, 2024

The patient arrived in severe pain, crying out loudly, and was initially taken for a CT scan. However, during the scan, the patient's consciousness began to deteriorate, and their blood pressure started to drop. Upon returning to the treatment room, an emergency blood transfusion was initiated. This was also my first time seeing a balloon catheter and bladder irrigation in use. The resuscitation efforts lasted for several hours, and when I left, the patient was being transferred to interventional radiology (IR). This experience taught me the importance of vigilance—never to underestimate a patient's condition just because they are still conscious.

As a medical student, my time at Hokkaido University was incredibly fulfilling. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Professor Morimoto from the Anesthesiology Department, Professor Wada from the Emergency Medicine Department, and all the residents and senior doctors for their kind guidance and thorough explanations. I highly recommend a clinical rotation at Hokkaido University to anyone seeking a meaningful and enriching experience.

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From National Taiwan University, Taiwan



Chien Sin Yuan

Department of Diagnostic Imaging
Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology
Period: October 28 - November 22, 2024

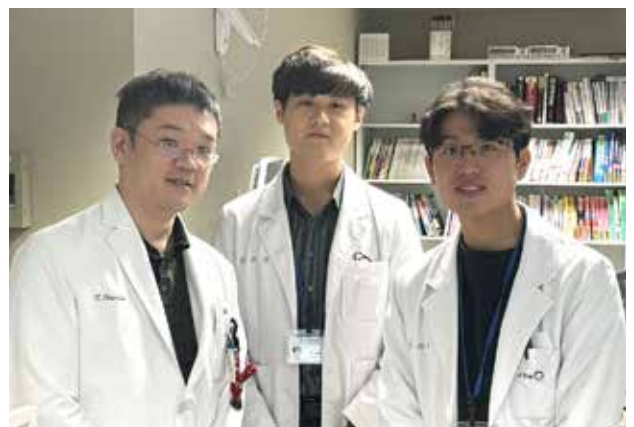
During my internship at Hokkaido University Hospital, I had a truly enjoyable and fulfilling experience. Both the professors and resident physicians were extremely friendly, willing to teach, and encouraged hands-on learning opportunities. In the radiology department, we utilized an education system to observe and study a variety of diseases through medical imaging like CT and MRI, it was a great chance for me to practice recognizing anatomic structure and lesion side in imaging. In addition, I also went to several subgroups in diagnostic imaging department such as nuclear medicine group, body imaging group or interventional radiology group, and learned a lot about radiology-related procedures and gained insight into what a day in the life of a radiologist is like. As for the life in GI department, I spent most of the time in pancreaticobiliary team, learning about various biliary and pancreatic diseases, as well as related clinical examinations and treatments. After gaining sufficient knowledge, the professors even allowed me to assist during endoscopic procedures, which was both exciting and rewarding. The learning experience in Hokkaido University Hospital was so excellent that I am deeply grateful for the opportunity and hope to return to Hokkaido University Hospital in the future.

My experience at Hokkaido University Hospital was both enriching and eye-opening. The hospital's commitment to integrating AI into medicine was particularly impressive. For example, their use of AI-assisted MRI technology has tripled scanning speed without requiring hardware upgrades. Additionally, they offer comprehensive programming and AI courses for physicians, which is something I have not yet encountered at National Taiwan University Hospital. This visit also allowed me to encounter unique cases, such as hydatid cysts and rice cake intestine obstruction, and practice independently analyzing imaging studies.

In the field of acute and critical care medicine, I observed advanced techniques for stabilizing vital signs, including performing line insertions, echo-guided procedures, and ventilator monitoring independently. The emergency room's design, which doubles as an operating room, was particularly efficient, allowing immediate surgical interventions without patient transfers.

What stood out most was the warmth and dedication of the faculty and students. They not only provided detailed medical explanations but also assisted with daily life, recommending local restaurants and attractions. I also had the chance to observe procedures like TACE, VV ECMO, and VA ECMO, which I had not seen performed in Taiwan.

Overall, this visit broadened my perspective and inspired me to explore new possibilities in medical practice and technology integration.



Chien Chih-Wei

Department of Diagnostic Imaging
Department of Emergency Medicine
Period: October 28 - November 22, 2024

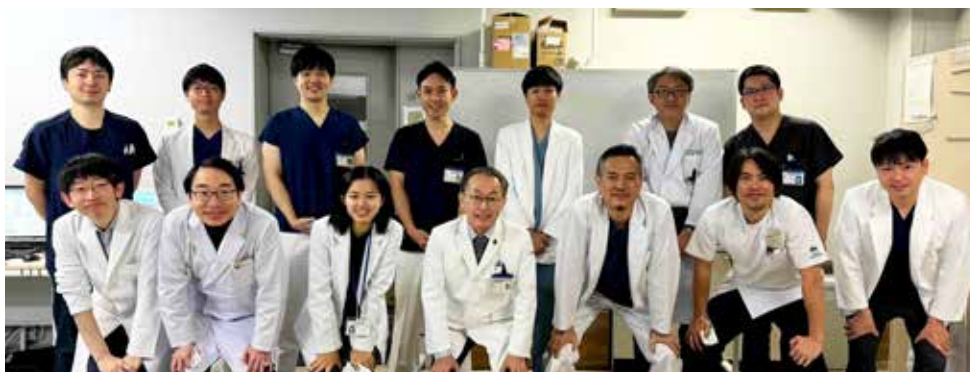
WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

From National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan

I have had an unforgettable time and gained invaluable experiences during my one-month exchange at the Head and Neck Surgery Department of Hokkaido University Hospital. The doctors here are kind, experienced, and knowledgeable. Despite my inability to speak Japanese, they patiently tutored me in English, enabling me to learn a great deal.

Throughout the program, I observed outpatient clinics, gaining insights into how new cases are handled in vertigo, otology, rhinology, and laryngology specialties. The surgical procedures, including head and neck cancer surgeries combined with plastic surgeons for the reconstruction process and advanced endoscopic surgeries using a navigation system, left a deep impression on me, showing remarkable precision and significantly improving patient outcomes. I also benefited from lectures for medical students and enjoyed exchanging ideas with them. Beyond the hospital, the campus's golden ginkgo trees and snow-covered landscapes in November were truly fascinating.

This program has deepened my interest in the Otorhinolaryngology and inspired me to pursue it further. Special thanks to the International Relations Department and the Otorhinolaryngology Department for giving me this opportunity and allowing me to experience this once-in-a-lifetime journey.

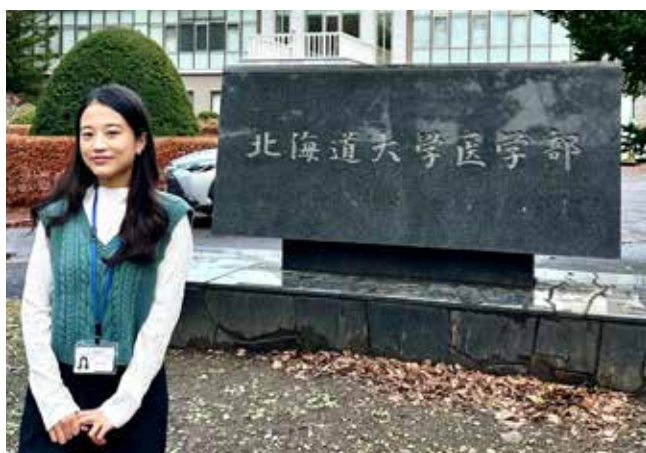


LAI YI-LING

Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery
Period: November 5 – November 29, 2024

I had a truly wonderful experience at Hokkaido University. The International Relations Division provided clear and detailed guidance on the application process, making it smooth and stress-free. Their warm welcome and continuous support upon arrival helped me adjust quickly, for which I am deeply grateful.

This exchange was my first time studying abroad and staying in another country for an extended period. As a result, the clear guidance and kind assistance from the International Relations Division and the dormitory managers were incredibly helpful.



Huang Yu Yin

Department of Therapeutic Radiology
Period: November 5 – November 29, 2024

During my time in the Therapeutic Radiology Department, I was amazed by the generosity and dedication of the senseis, who were always willing to teach me despite the language barrier. Since I had never visited the Therapeutic Radiology Department in Taiwan, everything was new and fascinating to me. I especially appreciated the chance to participate in treatment planning for real patients. Completing a plan was an incredibly fulfilling and rewarding experience.

Additionally, I also noticed significant differences between hospital systems in Japan and Taiwan, providing eye-opening insights I could only gain through this program.

Beyond academics, the senseis shared stories about Hokkaido life, local cuisine, and tourist attractions, making my stay enjoyable and culturally enriching.

I am sincerely grateful to everyone who supported me during this past month. My time at Hokkaido University has been truly memorable, filled with valuable experiences and wonderful memories.

WELCOME EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The International Hour

The 68th International Hour – Australia

We are delighted to report that we have held the International Hour!

On 29th November 2024, Mr. Yosuke Fujisawa made a wonderful presentation for the 68th International Hour. He is currently 5th-year student at Charles Sturt University in Australia and started to take clinical electives at Hokkaido University School of Medicine in November. Many students from various departments came to join the event to get to know him and his culture. After the presentation, students actively interacted and shared their cultures with others beyond the differences in major, nationality, age, etc.

We would like to express our appreciation once again to Mr. Fujisawa and to all the students who joined us.



Presenter Yosuke Fujisawa

with the attentively listening audience
The 68th International Hour, November 29, 2024

Coming Soon!

The 69th International Hour – Germany

We are pleased to announce that we will hold International Hour in February 2025. We, the International Relations Division, are hosting the event to welcome exchange students as speakers and share students' knowledge of the cultural backgrounds of their individual countries.

On February 21 (Fri), we welcome students from Germany, Ms. Anna Lomidze & Mr. Bosse Thiel from Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (ミュンヘン大学), as presenters of the 69th International Hour.

Those who just missed the last meeting can always catch up with us. We look forward to having you!

<event information>

- Date/Time: February 21 (Fri) 2025 @ 12:00- 12:45
Come and go freely as your class allows.
- Venue: Medium Conference Room, 1F Administration Building, Graduate School of Medicine
Admission is Free. Snacks and Beverages will be served.
* Registration preferred. Still, we welcome walk-ins!



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