

Preface

It is a great pleasure to be given the opportunity to write this preface in this third volume of Aino journal. This English-written journal has been published since 2002, the era of Aino Gakuin College.

In 2004 Aino University was newly established after the long-term efforts of the Aino Group, which includes Aino Gakuin College, Aino Technical College, Aino General Hospital, Aino Hanazono Mental Hospital, Aino Research Institute, and other facilities. The year 2004 is thus memorable for the Aino group.

The Founder and also the Head of the Aino Group, Dr Akio Koyama, realized the necessity of higher education for co-medical professionals, which led to the birth of the technical colleges and the junior college for nurses, physical therapists and occupational therapists. The university serves as a final goal for the Aino Group, although further goals such as establishment of a graduate school still remain.

Dr. Koyama coined the word “sym-medical”, which means ideal cure and care for patients and handicapped people, provided by multiple medical staffs without hierarchy among them. Even in the present, doctors tend to stand at the top of medical staffs. The idea of “sym-medical” eliminates such hierarchy, which in a sense makes the concept of “sym-medical” more advanced and important than paramedical or co-medical. In order to realize the idea of sym-medical, higher education for paramedical or co-medical professionals is essential. Such a concept underlies the principles of Aino University educational activities, which helps the university produce new and original findings in various areas such as education, clinical services, basic and clinical researches.

The Aino journal has been reborn as a journal of Aino University. It is my hope that this journal will help disseminate academic information generated in the activities of the university and affiliated organizations as mentioned above, and that its high quality will be recognized by medical professionals in the near future.

March 2005

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