

Preface

Let's be ambitious! It is time for us to stride forward into the bright future. At last, we have sent the first graduates into the wide world. Last March, we held a commencement ceremony for the first time and a total of 250 students left the university for their new world. Eighty-eight nurses, 60 physical therapists, and 27 occupational therapists spread out all over Japan from Hokkaido to Okinawa. Now, we are standing on a new line to develop our university after completion of the first four trial years. We have to be ambitious in our efforts to build a unique university. Our great achievement will be a university that meets the needs that our students request a university that produces useful professionals in the medical world.

The ministry of education, arts, and sports has launched a new act that orders all universities to publish self-evaluation reports once every 7 years. We decided to perform a self-evaluation for the first time in 2009 and requested that the Japan University Accreditation Association (Daigaku Kijyun Kyokai) criticize our reports. We made every effort to complete our self-evaluation and we discovered many items to be improved in the future. This type of assessment is very useful for us, as it allows us to recognize shortfalls in the running of the university and to make an action plan for further development.

During this process, we realized that the consistent publication of our journal once a year for seven consecutive years should be highly valued. During the past seven years, our journal has made great progress in both content and volume. The Aino Journal has also been developed during this period, and each paper that has appeared in this volume is very attractive and exciting. Five papers are from the University and two papers are from invited contributors from outside.

One of the characteristic features of our University is diversity. It is constructed with three divisions: nursing, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. On the other hand, the teaching staff comes from a much wider variety of special fields, such as basic science, medical science, clinical science, sociology, psychology, physics, linguistics and so on. This diversity is well reflected in this Journal.

Although both the university and the journal have been developing, there so many problems to be solved that are piling up on the pathway we walk. To develop both the university and the journal further and to create medical personnel of high quality, we have to be ambitious and empower ourselves. At this time, we are planning to launch a new course — clinical engineering technologist — and we are starting preparations for a postgraduate course to be offered in the near future.

I sincerely hope that as the research and educational activity continues to rise, the content of the journal will similarly continue to increase in quality. God bless our future!

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