
Department of Pathology and Diagnostic Pathology

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Homepage <http://pathol.umin.ac.jp/>

Introduction and Organization

Department of Pathology and Diagnostic Pathology is responsible for the practice of diagnostic pathology, education, and research in conjunction

with Division of Diagnostic Pathology of the University Hospital. Our aim is the construction of “pathology as clinical medicine” as well as “next-generation pathology for translational research”.

“Diagnostic Pathology” has been officially admitted in the fiscal year 2009 as the name of clinical department that can be shown to the patients. It was a great delight for us pathologists as indicating a general acceptance of the importance of pathology diagnosis.

Dr. Motoi moved to Teikyo University, School of Medicine as an Associate Professor. Drs. Sakatani and Morikawa moved to the Division of Diagnostic Pathology, and Dr. Kikuchi was a new member of Associates. Dr. Takazawa and Dr. Shibagara were promoted to be Lecturer and Lecturer (Hospital), respectively. Dr. Yamauchi was employed by the global COE program, Chemical Biology of the Diseases, on September.

Two postgraduate students finished the course and received Ph.D. In the new fiscal year, 2009, four new students will enter the course, and there are 13 postgraduates (including one foreign student).

We are responsible for the pathology practice of The University Hospital, and carry forward the morphology-based research targeting human diseases. On the other hand, we take charge of General Pathology course for the 1st grade students in collaboration with Department of Molecular Pathology, and also Systemic Pathology, Clinical Clerkship, and Bedside-learning (BSL) for the 2nd–4th grade students.

Clinical activities (diagnostic pathology and autopsy)

Together with Division of Diagnostic Pathology, we are responsible for the pathologic diagnosis and autopsy in the University Hospital (see the corresponding section of Division of Diagnostic Pathology).

Surgical pathology conferences are regularly held with each clinical division, and the cases of various tumors, including thorax, brain, liver, pancrea-biliary tract, urology, gynecology, breast, and orthopedics, as well as biopsy cases of liver, kidney and skin are discussed.

Clinico-pathological conferences (CPCs) for two autopsy cases are held every month in the

hospital. They are useful for the education of clinical residents, in addition to the weekly autopsy conferences.

A model project for the survey analysis of deaths related to medical treatment (DRMT) has been in operation since September 2005. We have participated in the autopsy inspection in corporation with Department of Legal Medicine. We have also started the two-year project, “Feasibility of post mortem imaging as a method assisting the autopsy inspection of DRMT” (Grants-in-Aid from Ministry of Health, labor and Welfare). The report 2008 is now open to the public and available at the website of the study group (<http://humanp.umin.jp/>).

Teaching activities

We take on General Pathology course for the 1st grade of undergraduate students, especially in its morphological field. The course program and lecture notes are open to the public and available in UT Open Course Ware (<http://ocw.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>).

Each class of Systemic Pathology course and exercise is held in parallel with that of Systemic Medicine course. Handouts are available in every half course of the pathological exercises, and all slides used in the course are accessible on our website as virtual slides (digital images of the slides). All of the microscopes will be renewed and the virtual microscopy system will be introduced in the laboratory of the 2nd Building, partially by means of a financial aid from the head office of the university as one of its Education and Research Programs.

Clinical clerkship for the 3rd grade, and BSL for the 4th grade are carried out. In BSL, following courses are included; autopsy pathologic practices including a case presentation for paired students, surgical pathologic practices using various tumor sections, and a tour of the pathology laboratory.

The past examinations for the second grade students and for graduation are also referred to the website.

We have started the lecture series of tumor pathology for the Cancer Profession Training

Program in postgraduate school, and the key slides are distributed as DVD to the students.

Research activities

The first major theme is “chronic inflammation and neoplasms”, for which various investigations are developed, in the fields of Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) associated gastric carcinoma (GC), lung carcinoma and scar formation, and carcinogenesis in pulmonary fibrosis. We clarified the role of latent membrane protein 2A in the development and progression of EBV-associated GC.

The second main theme is the search of target molecules for cancer therapy by global analysis of expression profiles of various cancers, in collaboration with Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology (RCAST), the University of Tokyo. Drs. Ota and Shibahara carried out immunohistochemical studies with newly-developed monoclonal antibodies using the tissue microarray of various carcinomas.

Dr. Ishikawa developed a new method for analyzing the precise copy number of genes in genome wide (EG-method) in corporation with Prof. Aburatani (RCAST). It is the essential method for the medical research of the diseases, and he is expected to develop a new field of genome pathology. His method also gets a lot of attention from industries as a new method available for identifying the patients susceptible to adverse effects of a drug.

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