

## **Niigata University Faculty of Dentistry**

President of the University: Akira Hasegawa, Ph.D.

Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry: Koji Hanada, D.D.S., Ph. D.

Niigata University, founded in 1949, has developed into one of the largest institutions of higher education in the region along the Sea of Japan. The university currently consists of nine faculties, seven graduate programs, one research institute, and one attached college. There are approximately 13,000 students (about 350 foreign students) at the two Niigata City campuses in Ikarashi and Asahimachi. Niigata University strives to seek out and educate unique and talented individuals, to carry out original, pioneering research, and promote its connections with the surrounding community and the world.

### **1. Faculty of Dentistry**

The Niigata University Faculty of Dentistry was founded in 1965 and boasts the third longest history among dental faculties of national universities in Japan. The faculty is located in the heart of Niigata City (Asahimach District), and admits 50 students each year and five transfer students per year from the 3rd year. The mission of the Niigata University Faculty of Dentistry is to foster students having a warm and rich human nature, who can understand the suffering of patients, and so produce thoughtful and creative dental clinicians and researchers who can solve problems when faced with difficult situations. Student first take a one-year course in the liberal arts at the Ikarashi Campus with students in other fields, and also take a special course to experience dentistry (named "early exposure to dental practice") at the University Dental Hospital. The later has been designed to motivate students to careers in dentistry.

They then receive five years of basic and clinical instruction at the Asahimachi Campus, including a year-long practicum after preclinical training. The Niigata University Faculty of Dentistry is proud of its practicum in which students practice their skills in actual conditions under the tutelage of excellent instructors and learn how to acquire the basic skills and attitudes which are necessary for a dentist. The faculty has reexamined the conventional framework of dentistry, which had been limited to the narrow domain of "teeth," in order to grasp its framework as oral life science. It has now taken on the goal of training personnel who will lead the field of dentistry in the future.

### **2. Affiliated Dental Hospital**

Niigata University Dental Hospital is the only dental hospital attached to a national university on the Japan Sea Coast, and forms a leading medical center not only for the Niigata area but also for the Pan-Japan Sea region, together with the adjoining Faculties of Medicine and Dentistry, Medical and Dental Hospitals, and Brain Research Institute. There is a staff of almost 100 teachers and even more residents and graduate student in the Dental Hospital, where they engage in dental treatment and in the teaching of undergraduate students. The hospital houses four clinical divisions (Surgical Care, Oral Health Control, Dental Health and Occlusal Function) and two central clinical facilities (General Practice and Polyclinic Intensive Oral Care). Furthermore, it has 16 advanced dental cares. The Dental Hospital accepts an average of more than 500 patients each day from both within and outside Niigata City.

### **3. Graduate School of Dentistry**

The Graduate School of Dentistry (a four-year Ph.D. course) was founded in 1972 to offer the most advanced instruction and internationally acclaimed research, to teach high-level dental treatment techniques, and to train high-quality instructors and researchers in the field of dentistry. In order to respond to academic advances and changes in society, the Graduate School of Dentistry has been reorganized as of April 2001, and together with the Graduate School of Medicine now forms the Niigata University Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences. It consists of four major courses (Oral Life Science, Molecular and Cell Biology, Bio-function Adjustment Studies, and Regional Disease Control). Staffs from 19 departments in the Faculty of Dentistry and a division in Dental Hospital are now

incorporated into the three major departments of Oral Life Science: Oral Health Science, Oral Biological Science, and Tissue Regeneration and Reconstruction. The student capacity of Oral Life Science is 160 students for four years, and more than 20 foreign exchange students hailing from countries around the world are currently enrolled. Information on application for enrollment for foreign students is available on the web site (<http://www.dent.niigata-u.ac.jp/PGSD/PGSDindex.html>).

#### 4. School for Dental Technicians

The School for Dental Technicians was founded in 1976, and admits 20 students each year. Students undergo training and education for a period of two years under the guidance of three full-time staff as well as staff members of the School of Dentistry. The curriculum comprises 60 hours of general education, 618 hours of technical lectures, 982 hours of basic training, and 740 hours of clinical technical training.

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