

## **Okayama University Graduate School of Medicine and Dentistry/Dental School**

President of the University: Ichiro Kohno, Ph.D.

Dean of the Graduate School of Medicine and Dentistry: Yoshiki Seino, M.D., Ph. D.

Dean of the Dental School: Masaharu Takigawa, D.D.S., Ph. D.

The origin of Okayama University goes back 130 years. The Medical Training Center was founded in 1870 by Lord Ikeda, the fief lord of Okayama and become Okayama Prefectural Medical School in 1880. This institution then was transformed into the Third Higher School Medical Faculty in 1888, which was finally upgraded to Okayama Medical University in 1922. Okayama University was established in May 1949 by the National School Establishment Law (promulgated in May 1949) as a national university, by consolidating Okayama Medical University, its affiliated Medical Specialized School, The Sixth Higher School, Okayama Normal School, Okayama Youth Normal School, and Okayama Prefectural Specialized School of Agriculture. At present, Okayama University has 11 faculties and 14 graduate schools, one research institute attached to the University, one nationwide joint-use facility, and an affiliated School of Health Sciences.

### **1. Dental School**

The Dental School (D.D.S. course) was founded in October 1979, and 80 1st-year students entered the school in April 1980. Since 1988, it has admitted 60 students each year. General education courses are offered for 1st-year students at the Tsushima Campus. The 2nd-year students study half of the week at the Tsushima Campus and the rest of the week at the Shikata Campus, where 3rd-, 4th- and 5th-year students are also offered professional courses. Clinical training is offered to 5th- and 6th-year students at the affiliated dental hospital at the Shikata Campus. The school had been composed of 18 departments until March 2001; and on the occasion of the establishment of Okayama University Graduate School of Medicine and Dentistry in April 2001, these departments belonged to the newly established Graduate School and two departments were added to the Graduate School. The students' pass rate in the national examination is among the highest of all dental schools in Japan (100% of the students graduated in 2001).

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

The Dental School has a dental hospital that was established in 1982. The hospital houses 11 clinical divisions and the Central Service Facilities for the Clinical Division equipped with 154 dental units, four operating theaters, and 40 beds, thus providing the Chugoku and Shikoku areas with excellent dental services.

### **3. Graduate School of Medicine and Dentistry/Graduate School of Dentistry**

The Graduate School of Dentistry (Ph.D. course) was established in April 1986 to cultivate the students' ability to carry our research in dental science, to make a contribution to the development of social welfare and improvement of public health, and to train future leaders, researchers, and educators in dental science. By March 2001, more than 220 students had obtained their Ph.D. degrees. In collaboration with Okayama University Graduate School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Dentistry was upgraded to Okayama University Graduate School of Medicine and Dentistry in April 2001. This newly established joint graduate school aims to cultivate the ability of students to carry out research in various aspects of medico-dental science and life science, to teach the theory and application of dental science in conjunction with medical science as a field of life science, and to train future leaders, re searchers, and educators in medico-dental science as well as in life science. At present, foreign students from more than eight countries are studying at the graduate level in basic and clinical departments in the field of dental science.

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Dental School

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