

Cancer Sociology and Patient Support Services – A Japanese Case

Abstract:

Japanese government recently developed a District Cancer Hospitals Network. The hospitals are expected to provide top-ranked cancer treatment with cutting-edge medical technology and through support for patients.

Shizuoka Cancer Center takes the initiative in the Network. To provide “patient-first” medical care, the hospital features the world's most advanced proton-beam therapy facilities and the latest equipments for cancer treatment. Based on the traditional Japanese culture of “harmony”, the hospital also utilizes a multi-professional team approach to healthcare that calls for close collaboration among physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists and other employees.

Another remarkable approach of the center is to tackle a difficult problem of patient support services. The research on anxieties and burdens of cancer sufferers was conducted and a report entitled “The Views Of 7,885 People Who Faced Up To Cancer” was published. The Patient Support and Inquiries Division makes the full use of the database on anxieties and burdens of cancer sufferers. The division allows patients to discuss issues they might feel uncomfortable during medical care, including details about their illness, vague personal concerns, or even the desire to obtain a second opinion. In the Research Institute, the Cancer Survivorship Research Division is promoting research to systematize problems and needs of cancer patients and to develop methods for their ideal care.

Cancer Sociology developed in Japan and Shizuoka Cancer Center will play an important role in patient support and inquiries in cancer clinics.



Curriculum Vitae:

Ken Yamaguchi, MD, PhD
President, Shizuoka Cancer Center
1007 Shimonagakubo, Nagaizumi-city, Sunto-gun, Shizuoka
411-8777, Japan E-mail : k.yamaguchi [at] scchr.jp

Current Research Area:

Molecular therapeutics in cancer and immunotherapy
Tumor markers for cancer diagnosis
Basic and clinical research on ectopic hormone/cytokine syndromes
Cancer survivorship research

Award: Princess Takamatsu Cancer Research Award, 2000

Academic Career:

1974 M.D., Keio University School of Medicine, Tokyo
1981 D. Med. Sci., University of Tokyo, Faculty of Medicine

Brief Chronology of Employment:

1974-1975 Research Fellow, The Department of Pathology, Keio University School of Medicine;
Visiting Fellow, Endocrinology Division, National Cancer Center Research Institute
1976-1983 Research Fellow, Endocrinology Division, National Cancer Center Research Institute
1976-2002 Staff Physician, Department of Internal Medicine, National Cancer Center Hospital
1983-1987 Section Head, Endocrinology Division, National Cancer Center Research Institute
1986-1987 Chief, Endocrinology Division, National Cancer Center Research Institute
1987-2002 Chief, Growth Factor Division, National Cancer Center Research Institute
1999-2002 Deputy Director, National Cancer Center Research Institute
1999-2005 Special Advisor to the Imperial Household
2002- President, Shizuoka Cancer Center