

Clinical Observership in Gastrointestinal Oncology at Kyushu University Hospital, Fukuoka, Japan

Two experienced surgical oncologists and surgical gastroenterologists from four government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu underwent two-week observership training at Kyushu University Hospital (KUH), Fukuoka (southern region) in Japan in two batches from 1st to 26th September 2025. The specialist doctors, selected by the Directorate of Medical Education & Research (DME&R), were from Royapettah MCH, Madurai MCH, Stanley MCH, RGGGH.

Training Objectives

The training in gastro-oncology aims to improve the clinical competencies of surgical gastroenterologists and surgical oncologists, who are positioned to practise and disseminate the skills and knowledge learnt in Japan, in gastrointestinal cancers for enhancing health outcomes and quality of life in applicable patients. The training focused on the following minimally invasive surgery techniques.

Main Topic	Learning about the treatment and management of gastrointestinal cancer practised in Japan , including treatment planning for each case, surgical techniques and intraoperative patient management, and post-operative care and follow-up.
Main focus	Skill enhancement of minimally invasive surgeries for colorectal cancer , such as 1) D3 lymph node dissection 2) Total Mesorectal Excision (TME) and Complete Mesocolic Excision (CME) 3) Trans-anal Total Mesorectal Excision (TaTME) 4) Right/Left hemicolectomy 5) Lower Anterior Resection (LAR)

ATTACHMENT TRAINING at KYUSHU UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

The four specialist doctors were attached to the clinical surgical oncology department, KUH and learned the above-mentioned surgery procedures under the mentorship of Dr Kinuko NAGAYOSHI. During the two weeks, the doctors from Tamil Nadu not only observed gastrointestinal cancer surgeries, but also received a lecture on TaTME, watched the recorded videos of procedures, practised on the robotic simulator, as well as engaged in close discussions with KUH doctors. Since TaTME is a new for trainees and an advanced and complicated technique requiring intensive resources, they expressed that “it was a great opportunity to understand the procedure from scratch. Dr Nagayoshi kindly explained it to us in great detail. After going back to Tamil Nadu, we can start considering applying the technique”. Regarding the other five surgical procedures, the trainees stated: ‘Observing

these operations proved immensely beneficial in fine-tuning each technique. Additionally, the meticulous aspects learned throughout the training—such as port positioning and the utilisation of green gauze and ICG clips—provided highly valuable practical applications for implementation upon returning to Tamil Nadu'.



Batch A: trainees and Dr Kinue NAGAYOSHI



Batch B: trainees with robotic simulator

PRESENTATION and COMPLETION CEREMONY

On the last day of the training, presentation session and completion ceremony were held in the presence of KUH doctors and JICA officials. The trained specialist doctors explained (1) the key learnings through the training, (2) progress of standard operating procedures (SOPs) development, and (3) action plan to disseminate the skills and knowledge learned to other doctors in Tamil Nadu. They also started drafting SOPs, which are like clinical reference materials, for right colon cancer and left colon cancer respectively, based on the observed techniques at KUH. The SOPs will be further developed within this year and are envisaged to be distributed to government tertiary care hospitals early next year. At the end of the presentation session, Dr Nagayoshi remarked that KUH faculty members also learned from the trainees through this training programme, and would like to continue networking/communication to enhance the mutual learning. Finally, certificates of completion were presented to the trainees after the closing addresses by Mr Hidefumi Nagai, Head of the Training Operations Division at JICA Kyushu for Batch A, and Mr Shinji Sato for Batch B.



Batch A: presentation session



Batch B: completion ceremony