

Higashi Sapporo Hospital ; A Summary

Higashi Sapporo Hospital was founded in 1983 by Dr. Kunihiko Ishitani as a hospital for patients with advanced, recurrent, or terminal cancer. Currently, the hospital operates in Sapporo City as a nationally certified specialist cancer hospital with a particular focus on palliative care. Its operations are centered on a 243-bed facility (with 58 beds for palliative care), but it also provides home care services and a 100-bed nursing home. One special feature of Higashi Sapporo Hospital is that it can provide chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy as necessary adjuncts to palliative care for cancer patients, and it currently provides care for approximately 20% of deaths from cancer in Sapporo City each year.

Higashi Sapporo Hospital has had a sister institution relationship with Calvary Hospital in New York City since 1993, and is engaged in a regular staff exchange program. Calvary Hospital, with 130 years of history, specializes in palliative care. The two hospitals conduct mutual staff training and hold joint conferences.

Further, Higashi Sapporo Hospital in collaboration with Calvary Hospital and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) jointly held the 1993 Hawaii Conference: Cancer Care in the 1990's Supportive Care Issues, an international conference that attracted many medical professionals from Japan and represented the birth of palliative care in Japan.

The 1st Congress of the Japanese Society for Palliative Medical Association was held in Sapporo City in 1996. At that time, Dr. Jean Klastersky, one of the founders of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer (MASCC), was invited to provide advice on the establishment of the conference. Dr. Russell Portenoy, an authority on cancer-related pain and a close friend of Dr. Ishitani, also gave a special lecture. Since then, we at Higashi Sapporo Hospital are proud to have hosted a number of domestic conferences related to palliative care and helped to develop cancer palliative care in Japan.

Forty years have now passed since the establishment of the Higashi Sapporo Hospital. During that time, based on a team approach, medical examinations and subsequent care have been provided on a daily basis for the benefit of patients, their families, and the community as a whole. Care is a collaborative act between the caregivers and recipients in which both parties grow together. Currently, we hold a triennial international conference to commemorate our steady growth to date and to connect the vision of Higashi Sapporo Hospital with the future.

The 1st Sapporo Conference for Palliative and Supportive Care in Cancer was held in 2014, with more than 800 participants from 22 countries participating. The 2nd Conference took place in 2017 and the 3rd /4^t Joint Conference has been set for 2023(<http://www.sapporoconference.com/>).