

Preface

I was installed as Dean of Aino University's Faculty of Nursing and Rehabilitation in April. It is a great honor to write a preface for *Aino Journal* as one of my first undertakings at the University.

In health care practice, quality care can be achieved by health care professionals making efforts to mutually acknowledge and complement one another's competence. Communication among professionals should extend their own specialties and increase understanding of the specialties of others. Similarly, in health care research, discussion among researchers with various perspectives and knowledge turns into novel and innovative studies. Interdisciplinary approaches are needed and should be promoted.

Fortunately, the University has four departments of health care science: nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and medical engineering. Few universities in Japan have such diverse specialties. Therefore, our faculty has the advantage of collaboration in research with faculty members of other departments. Also the close cooperation between Aino University and Aino Hospital leads to a favorable balance between education, research, and clinical activity.

Moreover, the University just two years ago established the department of medical engineering, which is one of only twenty or thirty such programs in Japanese universities. This department promotes new research perspectives within the University. Although health care practice builds on personal care and human relationships, the importance of technology such as information technology, artificial internal organs, robotic surgery, and caregiving robots is increasing. The department of medical engineering is expected to serve as a core of research which creates new technologies of medical treatment and patient care for the near future. These unique features of Aino University enable the faculty to be actively involved in cooperation between medicine and engineering, industry and academia, and to produce new evidence collaboratively.

The mission of our University is to educate competent health care professionals. As we are now going to establish a graduate school, our new mission is to educate health care professionals with a research mind-set. Under these circumstances, faculty members are naturally expected to be excellent researchers in their specialties, and, being aware of having received social benefits, to make efforts to contribute to society through education and research. I expect our faculty to conduct interdisciplinary health care research that takes advantage of the distinguishing characteristics of the University.

While this Journal is published on paper, the contents are exhibited also on the Internet and can be accessed all over the world. It will be necessary to strive for recognition from all that the papers of the Journal are scientific and that the research results can withstand the

evaluation of society. Because the Journal is produced inside the University, this demands the sincere attitude of faculty who contribute papers and a strict refereeing system. I have expectations of the Journal publishing papers which will be quoted by researchers around the world.

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