

Preface

Aino University has celebrated the 10th anniversary this year and now consists of one faculty of health science with four departments of nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy and medical engineering to educate medical professionals.

Aino University is a member of a school organization called Aino Gakuin dedicated through 35 years to the education in the fields of medicine and health care and also has close relationship with many hospitals and facilities of Aino Group.

On behalf of Aino Gakuin, Aino University publishes two scientific journals ; Bulletin of Aino Gakuin (Aino Gakuin Kiyou) written in Japanese and Aino Journal written in English every year. In Japan, bulletins written in Japanese are published by a number of universities but the publication of English journal is extremely rare. Aino Journal is thought to be of great merit for Aino University with special emphasis on the internationalization of the medical fields. The history of the important Aino Journal from the birth through today is suggestive.

At the era of predecessor Aino Gakuin College, the first volume of the Bulletin of Aino Gakuin written in Japanese was published in 1987. Eleven years later, one review article in English appeared for the first time in 1998. The number of the English papers then gradually increased and reached the peak in volume15 which the number of the articles in English accounted for almost half of the articles published in the Bulletin of Aino Gakuin in 2001.

To meet the need for publication in English, Aino Gakuin College determined to try to publish a new journal, "Aino Journal" for the articles written in English only. The first volume of Aino Journal was published in 2003.

Although the publication of an English scientific journal is naturally valuable, it was also expected to be inevitably considerable burden to a small college like Aino Gakuin. Never the less they decided to continue the publication of Aino Journal. Their strong motivation to keep the publication of English Aino Journal is easily understandable for the people in Aino Gakuin or Aino Group. Since they recognize the necessity of higher education and research for the ideal cure and care of the patients based on the concept of "sym-medical" of Aino origin.

The "sym-medical" services are provided by the cooperative networks of multiple medical staffs, including doctors, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, medical engineering specialists and so on. The concept of sym-medical may be evaluated as the recent idea of team medicine. To promote the sym-medical service, co-medical professionals should cooperate with doctors and also with each other, and realize the need of higher education and research. This sym-medical concept underlies the principle of Aino

Group including Aino University which stimulates active achievements in various fields of education and research, and serves for the development of Aino Journal.

Aino Journal has been succeeded to Aino University and is thought to be indispensable for the future of Aino University which has celebrated the 10th anniversary this year and prepared to establish the postgraduate course next year.

To develop both Aino University and Aino Journal further, editors of Aino Journal sincerely place high hope on the contribution of many English articles from the researchers of Aino Group and others.

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