

# The realities of a new era featuring truly international lectures during the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic: international collaboration and advances in medical education

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About a year has passed since coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) broke out. As of January 2021, the cumulative number of people with COVID-19 around the world exceeded 100 million and the cumulative number of the dead exceeded 2 million [1]. In the Kazakhstan, the cumulative number of the infected exceeded 180,000 and the cumulative number of the dead exceeded 2,400 [2]. In Japan, the cumulative number of the infected exceeded 350,000 and the cumulative number of the dead exceeded 5,000 [3]. COVID-19 has broken out in the Kazakhstan, Japan, and the rest of the world, and people continue to be infected and die. This situation has had a massive impact on people's lives, work, and education both at home and abroad, and it has also hampered efforts at international collaboration. Despite such circumstances, routine activities need to resume at their normal pace and approaches to those activities need to be implemented from new perspectives. Kochi University professor has been visiting Semey Medical University to deliver lectures to its medical students, graduate students, instructors, and personnel pursuant to the international exchanges between the two institutions. International lectures by Kochi University professor were delivered in a new format in 2020, so this report has summarised that approach and offered recommendations for the future, with a focus on lectures as part of education.

An online lecture by a Kochi University professor for Semey Medical University's medical students, graduate students, instructors, and personnel was scheduled for December 19, 2020. Nevertheless, the Internet connection was bad. Despite numerous attempts, a stable connection could not be estab-

lished, and the lecture had to be postponed to a later date. The later date was December 27, and the online lecture took place then [4]. Questions were asked online. This provided an experience like a lecture in person and it provided an opportunity to create an environment in which students felt comfortable asking about social matters and research details.

Prior to the onset and spread of COVID-19, there were various online meetings and online research presentations in various parts of the world. However, the spread of COVID-19 may have occasioned a transition from lectures in person to lectures online [5]. Provided that attention is paid to the Internet connection, conducting lectures online allows more effective use of time by reducing travel time. Even if lectures are primarily conducted online, lectures may need to be conducted in person at times. A combination of these two approaches may be considered normal in the future.

## REFERENCES

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