

## Poster Abstract Book (All Poster)

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What Areas of Medical School Education do Graduates Consider Important? Findings from an Alumni Survey

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**Abstract:** Alumni data collection has become increasingly important as part of quality assurance in higher education as alumni feedback can provide valuable implications for current education. As such, we conducted the first alumni survey to explore the educational experiences of the medical school graduates at a Japanese medical school. The questionnaire includes demographic information, reasons for selecting a medical school and our school, their educational experiences, and skills and abilities required for the current job, as well as their opinions on how to improve current education. All the alumni since the establishment of the school in 1973 were invited for the survey. The response rate was 21.7% (710 responses out of 3,297 questionnaires sent). The survey results identified various aspects of education that are conducive in their current jobs and needs improvement. This presentation will provide survey findings and discuss their implications for the advancement of current medical education.

### Poster Outline:

#### Background

As part of quality assurance in higher education, alumni's feedback on education they received to improve the quality of current education. As such, we conducted an alumni survey to explore educational experiences at a Japanese medical school.

#### Methods:

The survey was conducted at Asahikawa Medical University (AMU) in Japan. As the first alumni survey at AMU, all graduates since its establishment in 1973 were invited. The questionnaire included demographic information, reasons for selecting a medical school and AMU, their medical school study, extracurricular activities, skills and abilities required for the current job, as well as their opinions on how to improve current education. The questionnaire was sent via post and the responses were collected either via post or webform.

#### Findings:

The response rate was 21.7% (710 responses out of 3,297 questionnaires sent). The average age of the respondents were 49.8 years old for men and 42.5 years old for women. The major reason for selecting a medical school was to become a physician (67.1%), and the main reasons for choosing AMU was that the required academic abilities (69.8%) and the admission methods (50.4%) were suitable. During their medical school study, respondents worked diligently on clinical practicum (89.5%) and experiment/practice (79.4%) respectively, while they wished that they had

worked more diligently on foreign language (57.2%) and lectures (46.5%). Majority of the respondents currently work as a physician and the top three areas of education that are helpful in carrying out their current occupation were clinical practicum (90.1%), undergraduate education in general (81.8%), and lectures (74.9%). In their daily work, respondents recognized specialized medical knowledge (72.5%), medicine techniques (46.3%), and communication skills (40.5%) gained at AMU study were essential for their current job. In contrast, they perceived a lack of language skills (44.8%) and writing skills (32.7%). Furthermore, respondents indicated that there should be more emphasis on teaching language skills (38.1%), communication skills (33.2%), and specialized medical knowledge (31.2%).

**Conclusion:**

Feedback on education was successfully collected through the first AMU alumni survey. Most alumni have found their studies at AMU useful in their current jobs. However, the analysis of the survey highlighted the need for placing more emphasis on teaching generic skills for future improvements.

**Poster References:**