



International exchange



From the world to Kumamoto University, then to the world

Making use of what I have learned at Kumamoto University To contribute to organ transplantation treatment in Costa Rica

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From October 2002 to March 2007, Dr. Ramirez studied as a doctoral student of the Graduate School of Medical Sciences, Kumamoto University, as a government-sponsored international student. He currently works as a surgeon at a medical institution in his mother country.

I came to Kumamoto University as an exchange student to study the latest lung transplant treatment to contribute to the medical field of my home country, Costa Rica. Under the supervision of Professor Yasuhiro Inomata, I studied Pediatrics Science and Transplant surgery, and specialized in lung transplants and Amyloidosis*. I returned to Costa Rica in 2007, worked at two hospitals, and I am currently working as a surgeon in the national public health sector. I work the evening shift from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m., taking care of patients and performing surgery on patients with tumors. Hoping for the quickest treatment for patients waiting for their surgery, I spend most of the day in the operation room.

I think Kumamoto University has a good line of communication between research and clinical practice. Costa Rica puts weight on patient's care, and our next issue is the improvement of research. Japan's medical progress is based on years of research. I believe that we can also use this method in Costa Rica, by engaging in the deep research of medical conditions of

each individual as we take care of them. Moreover, in Costa Rica, there are very few doctors who can conduct advanced lung transplants, and many patients decide to have their surgery abroad. My dream is to conduct those difficult surgeries as a lung transplant specialist.

I reminisce about the people I met in Kumamoto University and the city of Kumamoto, and I am thankful that I was able to learn many things. I want to continue to contribute to the advancement of the medical field of Costa Rica using the technology and knowledge I acquired at Kumamoto University.



Dr. Ramirez performing a lung transplant in a hospital in Costa Rica. (Front. Picture taken in 2010)



At a hospital where he worked in 2009
Staff discussion about patients

*Amyloidosis ---- A disease that occurs when proteins called "amyloids" build up in organs and causes a functional disorder.