

Report on Visiting Professorship at Kobe Gakuin University

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I am pleased to report that my recent one-month appointment as a visiting professor at Kobe Gakuin University was a complete success. The experience was professionally productive and personally rewarding, and it provided valuable opportunities for teaching, collaboration, and cultural exchange.

Teaching Activities

During my visit, I taught an elective course for students in the pharmacy program titled *The U.S. Drug Development and Regulatory Approval Process*. The course attracted a large enrollment of more than 200 students. Despite the size of the class, student engagement was maintained through the effective use of a web-based audience response system, Nearpod. This tool allowed interactive participation during lectures and helped ensure that students remained actively involved throughout the course.

The course covered a broad range of topics, including drug discovery, preclinical research using animal models, alternatives to animal studies, clinical trials, post-approval monitoring of pharmaceutical products, and international efforts to harmonize regulatory frameworks. In addition, case studies were presented to compare the regulatory systems of the United States and Japan, which students found particularly relevant and informative.

To assess learning outcomes, quizzes were administered after each lecture. The results demonstrated that the students performed very well on average, indicating strong comprehension of the material. Their consistent performance reflected both their dedication and the effectiveness of the instructional approach.

Academic Interactions

Beyond classroom teaching, I engaged in numerous discussions with faculty members in the School of Pharmacy. These conversations focused on pharmaceutical education, curriculum development, and research collaboration. The exchanges were highly productive and provided insight into both shared challenges and potential opportunities.

I also met with students outside the formal classroom setting. These smaller, informal interactions allowed for more open discussion and helped build stronger connections with the students. In addition, I delivered a presentation on my own research projects, which was well received and generated thoughtful questions and discussion. As part of my visit, I attended student research presentations, where students shared their ongoing projects. I was impressed by the quality and scope of their work. A major difference between my home school and KGU is the level the Japanese pharmacy students are involved in research. It was great to see that this could be accomplished so extensively with great success. I also had the opportunity to visit several research laboratories within the pharmacy school, which provided a deeper understanding of current research capabilities at the university.

Cultural and Social Activities

The visit included a variety of social and cultural activities that contributed greatly to the overall experience. I attended an Orix Buffaloes baseball game with a group of faculty and students, participated in several group lunches, and joined a sightseeing trip to Hiroshima with a faculty member. These activities offered valuable opportunities to experience Japanese culture and strengthen relationships with members of the KGU community. In addition, I participated in several informal gatherings with students and faculty, where we prepared traditional foods such as takoyaki and gyoza. These events created a relaxed environment for interaction and were especially helpful in fostering a sense of connection.

Hospitality and Overall Experience

The hospitality extended to me throughout my visit was exceptional. The welcome and farewell receptions organized by the university were particularly memorable and demonstrated the warmth and generosity of my hosts. I'll never forget the students playing *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* on bamboo musical instruments at my welcome reception. These events, along with the continuous support provided by faculty and staff, made me feel truly welcomed.

Conclusion

In summary, my time at Kobe Gakuin University was highly successful in all aspects. The teaching experience was effective and well received, the academic exchanges were meaningful, and the cultural experiences were enriching. I am grateful for the opportunity and for the outstanding support provided by the university. I believe this visit has continued the long collaboration between Kobe Gakuin University and Duquesne University.

Respectfully submitted by,



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