



October 1, 2021

Rector Sergey A. Sayganov, MD, PhD

North-Western State Medical University named after I.I. Mechnikov

Kirochnaya ul. 41. Saint-Petersburg, 191015, Russian Federation

Dear Prof. Siganov,

The 10th anniversary of the founding of North-Western State Medical University named after I.I. Mechnikov is an occasion for academic partners around the world to reflect on your many achievements and our shared history. No doubt there have been many challenges during and since the merger of predecessor institutions. Even so, the past 10 years show the successful establishment of a premier medical university in St. Petersburg.

Now, three and a half years have passed since signing an Academic Cooperation Agreement and MOU with your university. That ceremony was the highlight of my first visit to Russia, all the more impressive because your university, and its predecessors, have walked with the history of Russia, delivering nationally-regarded regional medical care then and now.

Although our exchange agreement is quite recent in the context of your noble history, faculty members and students here in Japan speak admirably of their Russian counterparts. We have steadily cultivated collegial friendship through physical and virtual academic exchange. In particular, it is a great honor for us to be part of a trilateral program in disaster and radiation medicine with Nagasaki University and your university.

Ten years ago, we were in the midst of a chaotic recovery period after the Great East Japan Earthquake. We still face a mountain of related medical issues, but with your cooperation, we will move forward. Despite COVID-19, I hope we can continue and further develop academic exchanges, face-to-face and online, to strengthen our ties.

Sincerely yours,

Seiichi TAKENOSHITA, MD, PhD

President, Fukushima Medical University

Hikariga-oka 1, Fukushima 960-1295 Japan