

Panel Discussion II

Nuclear Medicine in Japan

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During recent 5 years after the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine had been held, the researches and clinical applications in this field becomes popular, but the definition is not yet completely confirmed. Because the field of Nuclear Medicine is systematized as to use radioisotopes in medicine, it occupies also some part of many other fields of medicine and it is important to avoid the meritless divergence. Technological part of nuclear medicine is of course one of the important parts of this field, but the main part of

nuclear medicine must be contributed to medicine and the doctors who work in this field must have enough knowledge about radiation. Education program of nuclear medicine is also an important problem.

Such problems are discussed by the authorities in nuclear medicine in Japan.

Former works of Dr. Miyakawa mainly depend on radiation biology and radiation therapy, Dr. Nakao hematology, Dr. Kakehi nuclear medicine and Dr. Hiramatsu radiation biology and X-ray diagnosis.

My Opinion on "Nuclear Medicine"

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In all sciences as well as in medicine a new establishment of an novel idea or of dexterous methodology has usually brought on rapid progresses.

Regarding methodology, many real examples can be given, for instance the invention of microscope and electronmicroscope. It is a well known fact that the introduction of microscope into biology and medicine has led a philosophy of microcircumstances at cell-

level, and furthermore that of electron-microscope has clearly demonstrated a intimate relationship between the ultrastructures of cell or tissue and its functional activities at molecular level. No body doubts that nowadays a microscope has become an indispensable tool in practical medicine.

The application of radioactive isotopes in the field of medicine prospectively is expected to become so popular even in routine practical