

CULTURE, CONTEXT AND QUALITY  
IN HEALTH SCIENCES RESEARCH, EDUCATION,  
LEADERSHIP AND PATIENT CARE

# Enhancing the Professional Culture of Academic Health Science Centers

Creating and sustaining  
research communities

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# Sparking and Sustaining the Essential Functions of Research

How the Seeds were Sown and Grown at a Summer Camp for Young Clinicians

*Shunichi Fukuhara*

## ***Shunichi Fukuhara's Story of a Success in Science: Following Your Dreams***

Ten years after I graduated from medical school I took the Clinical Effectiveness summer curriculum, a joint program of Harvard Medical School and the Harvard School of Public Health. I continued in my studies there and received the MPH degree. This was very valuable experience for me because it changed my career. Before then, I had been a 100% clinician, but that program put me on a clinician-investigator path. After that experience I thought of myself as a clinical epidemiologist and a health-services researcher, both of which are definitely lacking in Japan. I realized that nobody learns this kind of science in medical school in Japan, and I felt that some day it should be introduced into Japanese medical education and/or postgraduate training. I never dreamt that I would be the pioneer for that introduction, except maybe somewhere in my subconscious.

Over time I began to feel that this innovation in education was certainly necessary. When I was at the University of Tokyo, with my educator colleague Joe Green I offered a seminar course to teach clinical research design to master's and PhD students in the graduate school of medicine. It was 1996.

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That offering attracted almost no attention. Most of the students were from foreign countries. This was very disappointing, but still I felt strongly that this type of teaching program was going to be necessary. I remember outlining my dreams on a whiteboard to review with Joe Green. Even now we reminisce about that day. I told Joe that in Japan we needed some academic center for health research, not just biological research. He and I were laughing because it seemed a ridiculous idea when we had just given a seminar to which almost no Japanese students came. He suggested that the idea and vision were correct, but that the time and place might not be right. Not too long afterward, I accepted an appointment and department chair's position at Kyoto University. From that point on, the story again had ups and downs, and is described in the chapter I have written for this book.