

A Brief History of Jikeikai Medical Journal

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Japan was on the precipice of change, facing a future that no one could predict and that would bring into direct conflict the greatest fears of some and the most profound hopes and dreams of others. In 1853, a modest fleet of four vessels, two of them coal-burning “black ships,” had arrived to force the country open. In 1868, dissident samurai drove out the shogun and established a government in the name of the emperor, hitherto a remote, powerless figure. Their new nation-state proved a quick study, learning modern technology and science especially modern medicine.

In 1875, Kanehiro Takaki, the founder of Jikei University, was sent to study western medicine at the medical school of St. Thomas’s Hospital in London. After five years’ study, Takaki returned to Tokyo in the end of 1880.

In 1881, Sei-I-Kwai Medical School (a predecessor of Jikei University School of Medicine) was established in Yariyacho Kyobashi Tokyo City. At the school Dr. Takaki held weekly conferences called “The Advancement of Medical Science In Japan”. The last week of every month the conference was held in English and a journal was published in English as a monthly newsletter. On the 10th of January, 1882 the first journal was published. This was the origin of the Jikeikai Medical Journal. The name of this journal was The SEI-I-KWAI MEDICAL JOURNAL or Journal of Society for Advancement of Medical Sci-

ence in Japan. This journal was sent overseas to medical institutions and research institutes in exchange with their journals. In 1888, the 72nd journal and consequent volumes were reformed by the editor in chief Touan Matsuyama.

In 1895, The SEI-I-KWAI MEDICAL JOURNAL was accepting original research papers and continued to grow.

On the 1st of September 1923, a devastating earthquake, “KUWANTOU DAI-SHINSAI” struck Tokyo, and city was destroyed completely. As a result The Journal of Society for Advancement of Medical Science in Japan was forced to take a long moratorium until end of the World War II.

In January 1954, the first issue of the Jikeikai Medical Journal was published under the guidance of Professor Ken Nakao as in the chief editor. Professor Nakao made great efforts in the re-establishment of this journal until his retirement from office.

In 1974, Professor Takeshirou Matsumoto became the editor-in-chief, and served for eight years. From 1982 to 1987 Professor Eisei Ishikawa served as the editor-in-chief.

In 1987, Professor Kenji Sakurai became the editor-in-chief, and the journal was reformed to better achieve its tasks. The torch was handed over to the current editor-in-chief, Professor Tsuneya Ohno, an editorial board members since 1994.