

# Tech with the Human Touch

A Japanese university is leading the way in crucial regenerative medicine work.



—Toshihiko Yamashita  
President, Sapporo Medical University

A huge factor in modern medicine, anywhere in the world, is new technology. The most important factor, however, will always be one-on-one healthcare and treatment. Sapporo Medical University in Japan specializes in both. The teaching hospital is not just at

the cutting edge of tech, it's also a vital, life-saving center of medicine, and during the pandemic, treated 75% of Hokkaido's most serious COVID patients.

Skillfully led by its president, Toshihiko Yamashita, the 900-bed institution's achievements in the last three years have been significant. Now it's about looking to the future and aiming to save even more lives with the help of pioneering

new treatments, especially in an era of acutely aging demographics around the world. "We can use technologies such as AI in a productive way, by only using the 'good' aspects to our advantage. However, keeping a people-centric focus in healthcare is vitally important, especially in areas such as elderly care where human

connection is necessary," said Yamashita. Sapporo Medical University is a leader in cutting-edge regenerative medicine in Japan. Its mesenchymal stem cell therapy has been shown to be effective in functional recovery for spinal cord injury patients. "In the context of an aging population and maintaining health, the possibilities of regenerative medicine are quite limitless," he said. The internationally-minded institution is hoping to attract greater numbers of overseas researchers and students as well as forge new partnerships with other facilities, for the benefit of all.

