and there are different vocational schools corresponded to each nurse. I consider that this makes it possible for nurses to have specialty and work faster.

Moreover it was impressive for me that there are a lot of female doctors and doctors from foreign country.

Third, as for job description, each jobs are highly specialized and job description are also subdivided, so lines of works are smooth and very efficient. It was impressive for me that there are few conferences and paper work, and doctors finish their work faster than Japan. I think it may have relation to the large number of female doctors.

Through this one-month practice, I could broaden my view and have valuable experience. I really appreciate that many people give us this kind of precious opportunity.

Montpellier is in the southern of France, faces the Mediterranean sea, and it famous for its oldest medical school in Europe. In Montpellier there are a lot of students or residents come from other countries and have been studying or working. I’ve been in such an international town and experienced the joys and difficulties in the foreign culture. One of the most difficult things is communication. Most people in Montpellier are kind and helpful. But most French people don’t speak English very much. So I always had to look for someone who speaks English in daily life and during the clerkship. Beside my poor English skill, it was very difficult to tell them what I want.

The anesthesiology department of Laperonie hospital is noted for its nerve block operations. The anesthesiologists in France have heavier authority and responsibility for surgery than in Japan. They can decide whether to do operations or not or actual process of operations. I think that makes them closer to the surgeons and they can work together to perform quick operations.

From March 31 to April 25, we took part in the internship program at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. This experience gave us plenty of time to see what the differences were between the two countries.

First, I would like to talk about the daily routine. The day started with the morning conference from 7:45 and then we participated in three operations from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. We were able to see various operations such as gastrointestinal, neurosurgery cardiovascular and so on. We also took part in surgery using Da-Vinci. During most of the operations, the anesthesiologists were kind enough to let us participate in some procedures such as inserting IV lines and holding the anesthesia gas masks. Since the conferences and brief meetings before the operation were held in Dutch, it was hard for us to follow along. One important thing we realized during our stay was that medical tasks are more categorized than in Japan, which means the burden of each staff member is reduced.

Second, I would like to talk about how we adjusted to Dutch culture in the hospital. We had to justify our presence in the operating room and conferences at all times, otherwise some people might have wondered who we were. In order to avoid that situation, we found the best way was to introduce ourselves and shake hands with every person we met for the first time.

On the weekends, we were able to have fun by renting cars. That let us do some touring around Europe, we were able to visit five countries.

We would like to thank everyone who supported this internship program. It was an invaluable experience.