WELCOME

Welcome to Japan Medical Women's Association (JMWA) website.
JMWA is a public interest incorporate association and a representative of women doctor in Japan.
We have improved the status of women in medicine since 1902.

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About JMWA

JMWA was founded in 1902 mainly by Sonoko Maeda and Yayoi Yoshioka. JMWA have been engaged in medical research, promote of medical care, and cooperation between female doctors since the establishment of the association. JMWA was approved in 1969 as an incorporated association and in 2012 as a public interest incorporated association.

Purpose of JMWA

Improving the status of female doctors and mutual training.
Welfare promotion, community medicine, and social activities.
International exchange.

Key Persons for the Establishment of JMWA

**Ginko Ogino M.D. (1851～1913)**

The first woman to pass the national medical examination in Japan in 1885. At the time, women were not allowed to take the National Doctor Examination in Japan. She urged the government for three years to allow women to take national exams for practitioners.

**Sonoko Maeda M.D. (1872 ～?)**

Founder of JMWA (1902). She published the Japan Women's Medical Association magazine in 1913. She conducted human rights activities for women in cooperation with various women groups.

**Yayoi Yoshioka M.D. (1871～1959)**

The first president of JMWA (1920-1959). She established Japan's first female doctor training school in 1900, Tokyo Women's Medical University (now Tokyo Women's Medical University).
## Activity History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>The Japan Medical Women's Association (JMWA) established</td>
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<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>The Japan Medical Women's Association (JMWA) established</td>
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<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Participated in establishing the Medical Women's International Association (MWIA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Donation of relief money to defeated Germany after World War I&lt;br&gt;Donation of therapeutic drugs for the spread of the flu in Siberia</td>
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<td>1924</td>
<td>Established a facility for relief from the Great Kanto Earthquake</td>
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<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>Construction of free medical care facility for Hansen's disease&lt;br&gt;Social activities such as tuberculosis prevention</td>
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<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>JMWA temporarily discontinued to publish magazine under the Pacific War</td>
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<td>1958</td>
<td>After the war, JMWA magazine reissued first issue</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Approved as an incorporated association&lt;br&gt;Yoshioka Yayoi Award established</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>Activities as a medical volunteer at the Japan World Exposition</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Harumi Ono appointed as MWIA president</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>The 15th International Congress of the MWIA was held in Tokyo</td>
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<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>The Ginko Ogino Prize was established to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Ginko Ogino becoming the first female doctor in Japan</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>The 5th West Pacific Regional Conference of MWIA held in Kyoto</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>JMWA conducted the Hanshin Awaji Earthquake Medical Relief Activity&lt;br&gt;Donation of relief money to disaster victims and affected members</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Received a letter of appreciation from the Minister of Health and Welfare for medical care and health activities for the Hanshin-Awaji earthquake victims</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>The 100th Anniversary Ceremony of JMWA held&lt;br&gt;Empress Michiko was present and gave a speech</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Japan-Middle East Women's Exchange Public Forum held in Nagoya</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>The 26th International Congress of the MWIA held in Tokyo</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>&quot;Maintenance and suggestion business of pediatric emergency care&quot; and&lt;br&gt;&quot;Medical care training program for elderly people and disabled people&quot; held</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>&quot;Female doctor career support symposium&quot; held&lt;br&gt;Atsuko Heshiki appointed as MWIA President</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>&quot;Teen sexual health support network business&quot; held&lt;br&gt;Japan-Arab Women Exchange Open Forum held in Tokyo</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Attend the APEC Women Leaders Network meeting in Tokyo</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Donation of relief money to areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Certified as a non-profit incorporated association</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Japan Medical Women's Association (JMWA) was founded in 1902 mainly by Sanoko Maeda and Yayo Yoshishita. JMWA is a women's doctor group which have been engaged in medical research, promotes of medical care, and cooperation between female doctors since the establishment of the association. JMWA was approved in 1908 as an Incorporated association and in 2012 as a non-profit incorporated association.

**Female doctors involved in the establishment of JMWA**

- **Sanoko Maeda M.D. (1881-1919)**
  - The first woman who passed a doctor national examination in Japan in 1908.
- **Yayo Yoshishita M.D. (1870-1956)**
  - The founder of JMWA (1902).
  - She established Japan's first female medical training school "Goshin Women's Medical School" (present: Tokyo Women's Medical University) in 1908.

**Activity History**

- 1902: The Japan Medical Women's Association (JMWA) established
- 1914: The 1st JMWA general meeting held
- 1917: Participated in establishing the Maternal Welfare's International Association (PMIA)
- 1920: Outbreak of mental hospital in Imperial Army after World War I
- 1922: Establishment of legal recognition of doctors and the start of the 3rd General Hospital
- 1934: Establishment of a medical service for women and child care
- 1955: Establishment of a medical service for women's diseases
- 1961: JMWA was approved as a non-profit incorporated association
- 1965: Establishment of the Japan Medical Women's Association (JMWA)
- 1968: After the war, JMWA magazine reestablished first issue
- 1969: Approval as an incorporated association
- 1993: Activities as a medical service in the Japan World Exhibition
- 1994: First women attended as JMWA president
- 1996: The 19th International Congress of the IMA was held in Tokyo
- 1998: The 13th International Congress of the IMA was held in Tokyo
- 1999: The 100th anniversary of the founding of the JMWA
- 2001: Recognition of the JMWA as a non-profit incorporated association
- 2005: The 100th anniversary of the founding of the JMWA
- 2006: The 15th International Congress of the IMA was held in Tokyo

**Board Members 2018-2020**

**President:** Yoshiko Maeda MD, PhD

**Vice President:** Michiko Suwa MD, PhD
Akiko Baba MD, PhD

**Director:** Masami Aoki MD
Akiko Isogai MD
Prof. Toshiko Sawaguchi. M.D., PhD., Bachelor
Atsuko Tsukada MD, PhD
Ekuko Nakada MD, PhD
Wakako Hanaoka MD
Nanako Hiwatari MD, PhD
Hiroko Fujitani MD
Kyoko Murakami MD, PhD
Taeko Yoshikawa MD
The Japan Medical Women’s Association was founded in 1902 by Sonoko Maeda, the 12th licensed female doctor. The philosophy of the establishment was “improvement of social status of female doctors and mutual study”. Even now, we have inherited the philosophy and continue our activities on three pillars, including "Social activities such as welfare enhancement and community medicine" and "international exchange and goodwill". In 1969, it was approved as an incorporated association, and in 2012 it was converted to a public interest incorporated association. Currently, 13 public utilities such as supporting female doctors, granting academic research, and international women's medical association activities. In addition, there are branches throughout the country, and each branch also carries out various activities rooted in the region.

In recent years, women accounted for about 30% of medical students and about 20% of doctors, and it was no special thing for women to choose a career as a doctor. However, there is no change in the responsibilities of a doctor as a profession, and I hope that you will fulfill your responsibilities as a professional. Looking back on the long history of female doctors in Japan, Ine Kusumoto, the first to acquire Western medicine in Japan, Ginko Ogino, the first Japanese medical doctor to pass the national medical examination, and Yayoi Yoshioka, the first female doctor training school to be established in Japan. Don't forget the hardships of our predecessors. Because of their efforts, the path of doctors was opened to many women.

In order for women not only to work as men as doctors, but also to be evaluated equally, it is important to create a working environment in addition to men's awareness reform. If the rules for working in shifts take root, you should be able to continue your career without taking leave due to child-rearing. In addition to providing medical care, it is also necessary to grow into a person who can carry out activities that contribute to society. To that end, the Japan Medical Women’s Association wants to devote its efforts to developing the next generation.

The Japan Medical Women's Association is seeking members who can support the philosophy and activities of the association and work together. We look forward to your membership.
Our Public Benefit Service

- Research grants for female researchers
- Development enlightenment business of female doctor support symposium and career formation support
- JMWA Yoshioka Yayoi Award
- Medical care training program for elderly people and disabled people
- Public lecture by national open call for participants
- Ginko Ogino Award
- MWIA activity
- Regional discussion meeting
- Women’s health support network business
- Maintenance and proposal business of pediatric emergency care
- Collaboration with each women’s group
- Publication of Journal (JMWA Magazine)
- Issuing publications

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Official Statements

Official statement for “Relief for the examinee who received discrimination on Tokyo Medical University”.
Yoshiko Maeda MD, PhD

President of Japan Medical Women’s Association Tokyo Medical University announced that it will confirm the intention to enroll for 101 students who passed the entrance examination in 2017 and 2018 according to the recommendation of the third party committee. When all the students wished to enroll in order from the top grades, it was explained that up to 63 people could enroll. The new dean of Tokyo Medical University repeatedly repeated that she would not know at all about the manipulation of the entrance examination until the incident was discovered, never again. For at least the last two years, it is worth assessing that we have expanded the door to admission to inappropriately rejected candidates. It is an unprecedented response in the entrance examination of the medical university. There are some disappointing points. First of all it is not clear that there is no response to students who have taken the exams before 2016. Students who are unable to obtain opportunities in the examination year that was the object of relief this year and one-year difference must have a toothy feeling. To the second, the criteria for redetermination are uncertain. It is said that the new entrance examination committee made a re-judgment with the intention of newly entering the entrance examination, but how did it re-judge on the evaluation of the interview which could not be reproduced? The third thing is that some people have the possibility of failing even if they express their intention to enter the university. What is the mental burden that is said to be rejected again after being treated inappropriately in the entrance examination? Of the 101 people who express intent, what is the reason why all students wishing to enter cannot enroll? The fourth is that there were no concrete proposals other than the word under consideration for various compensation including monetary. However, attention of the media gathers only at the correspondence of Tokyo Medical University, and the essence of discrimination must not be forgotten. Originally from the entrance into the back door, this case was discrimination against gender, which gave the world a big deal of attention. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology ask voluntary countermeasures against universities other than Tokyo Medical University, but most universities keep silent. Regardless of
whatever reasons, it is a fact that the acceptance rate of female students is lower in numbers than in other undergraduate departments of science. If it is not possible to explain the special reasons for such a difference only in the medical department, it is necessary to promptly clarify the facts and present remedial measures. It is of greatest concern that the entrance examination in 2019 will begin as it is and the discussion of discrimination against women will be ruined. Unless a clear action is taken to eliminate the "unconscious bias" overcome by a senior female doctor, clues to the solution cannot be seen.

(2018/12)
Official statement for “Tokyo Medical University has manipulated the entrance exam results of women”.  
Yoshiko Maeda MD, PhD President of Japan Medical Women’s Association

The first impression that I heard the report of Tokyo Medical University is “This is really setting the clock back!”. It is astonishing that women in Japan are still being stripped of their right to seek entry into the medical profession. In Japan, the Promotion of women’s participation and advancement in the workplace Act was enacted on April 1st, 2016. The Japanese Government is aiming for “Promoting Dynamic Engagement of All Citizens” and that should include woman. Medical university institutions should not in this day and age shut the door on any qualified entrants and more specifically should never shut the door on qualified entrants who happen to be women. Ginko Ogino is the first woman who passed the doctor's national examination in Japan. She wanted to become a doctor when she was 19 years old but was not allowed the chance to learn medicine just because she was a woman. Because there was gender discrimination, it took nine years before she was allowed to enter the private medical college. She graduated from a college with excellent results but still she was not allowed a chance to take the national examination because of gender discrimination. She negotiated with a government official to take a national examination and she ultimately was able to take an examination two years later and passed it. Ginko Ogino would certainly be surprised that women are still being subjected to such insidious gender discrimination in modern Japan. The ratio of women among all medical students in Japan rose steadily to 10% in 1965 then it was with 30% in 1995. After that the levels remained at the same levels to up until this date according to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology’s "school basics investigation". The ratio of female medical students is higher than 50% in some Japanese universities as stated in this investigation's findings. I cannot help wondering that the ratio of female medical students remains at the same level at 30%. Instead of worrying about women quitting jobs, they should do more to create an environment where women can keep working. Work reform should not be strictly limited only for "karoshi" prevention but must also aim to make the workplace a more inclusive environment where individuals can demonstrate their talents regardless of one’s gender. The nonprofit foundation
Japan Medical Women's Association set up a gender equality committee in 2007 and holds "the carrier symposium for women who want to become a medical professionals" once a year. We continue to appeal for the creation of ideal workplaces for female doctors and continue to work to challenge preconceptions about the division of roles of men and women. We are continuing our efforts to fight gender discrimination and will work to prevent women from being stripped of their right to seek entry into the medical profession.

(Aug.2nd, 2018)