The Role of Pathology in Medicine

Yoichi Konishi a), Masahiro Tsutsumi b), and Hiroshi Maruyama c)
a) Professor Emeritus, Nara Medical University
   Yamamoto Green Village 2-303, 2-34 Nakamozu-cho, Kita-ku, Sakai-shi, Osaka 591-8023, Japan
b) Saiseikai Chuwa Hospital, Pathology
   323 Abe, Sakurai-shi, Nara 633-0054, Japan
c) Dept. of Clinical Laboratories, Hoshigaoka Koseinenkin Hospital
   4-8-1 Hoshigaoka, Hirakata-shi, Osaka 573-8511, Japan

Summary
Pathology is the essential discipline belonging to basic medical science that plays important roles in research into disease processes and also in clinical medicine through diagnostic and decision-making for treatment purposes. It has long been officially recognized as a distinct hospital and academic department along with internal medicine, surgery, radiology, etc. Unlike the other clinical medical specialities, however, pathology is not as well understood by the general population, since there is less opportunity for direct contact between pathologists and patients. In this paper, the authors introduce details of the daily practice and research activities of pathologists to demonstrate the importance and utility of pathological data as part of the medical knowledge needed for the clinical response to diseases of whatever type.