

## **Visit to UK Community Hospitals and CHA National**

### **Conference: Reflections from Japan**

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Hello CHA members. On 10th October 2025, Dr Yoshida, from the Department of General Medicine, Kaita Hospital, Fukuoka, Japan, and Dr Honda, Chief Executive of the same hospital, were invited by Dr Helen Tucker, President of the CHA, to visit Tewkesbury Hospital and North Cotswolds Hospital in Gloucestershire. During our visit, I observed hospital functions that I had not closely considered in Japan, such as the testing centre and day surgery. Additionally, I was able to find an answer to my long-held question: 'What is the specialty of a doctor working in a community hospital in the UK?' I was particularly inspired by the model where wards are supported by local general practitioners and specialists who make rounds, as well as by nurse practitioners and skilled nurses, especially at night. Emergency Practitioners and Advanced Practitioners have been empowered to offer a one-stop service in trauma centres and facilitate the collaboration between home visits and the CATU. Other roles, such as physiotherapist ward managers and ward clerks collecting feedback from inpatients, also contribute to the effective operation of community hospitals. This experience highlighted the importance of rethinking teamwork dynamics from multiple perspectives, including job roles, positions, training, and treatment approaches.

At the subsequent CHA national conference, Dr Helen Tucker's keynote speech helped to consolidate our thoughts by explaining that community hospitals in the UK can be classified into three categories: classic type, acute type, and community health hubs. In addition, Dr Steph Haydon's lecture informed us about the impact on residents' activities when a community hospital is forced to close, emphasising that in the future, our hospital should take initiatives to foster 'residents' ownership of the community hospital'. This could include visual displays within the hospital, proof of connection with residents, and nurturing attachment to the building itself. The need for initiatives to

evoke a 'sense of ownership', as demonstrated by the two community hospitals we visited, was also recognised.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr Helen Tucker, Dr Kirsty Protherough, the association members, and both hospitals for their warm hospitality and kindness throughout the three days. As Dr Honda expressed at the close of the conference, with the philosophy of 'Small is Beautiful', we intend to continue our efforts to ensure our community hospital, positioned between primary and tertiary care, serves the residents of Japan effectively. We also look forward to welcoming the new President, David Seamark, to Japan next year and hosting an international conference. Thank you very much indeed.

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■ Message of deep appreciation from Yoshihisa Honda, CEO of Kaita hospital

Not only did I learn about the excellence of community hospitals and CHA during this visit, but I was also reminded of how much Japan has learnt from the UK.

Almost all Japanese people grew up reading the picture book, "The Three Little Pigs". It was exciting to see a typical brick house like the one in the storybook for the first time in Cotswold.

When I was in primary school, I loved reading the novel "Voyages of Dr Dolittle". His kindness and respect for children and even for animals form, deep in my heart, the image of my ideal doctor.

The words of Samuel Smiles, 'Heaven helps those who help themselves', inspired many Japanese people who lost their way when closing the Samurai Era in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

I love the quote of the German-born British economist Schumacher, 'Small is beautiful'. It is perfectly suited to the way community hospitals should be. Small in size, but therefore accessible, easy to get to know each other, and responsive to changing local needs, it describes how community hospitals work very well.

I strongly hope to hold an international community hospital conference in Japan in the near future. May our good relationship last deeper and longer for our community hospitals, for the development of both countries and for our small, beautiful planet.







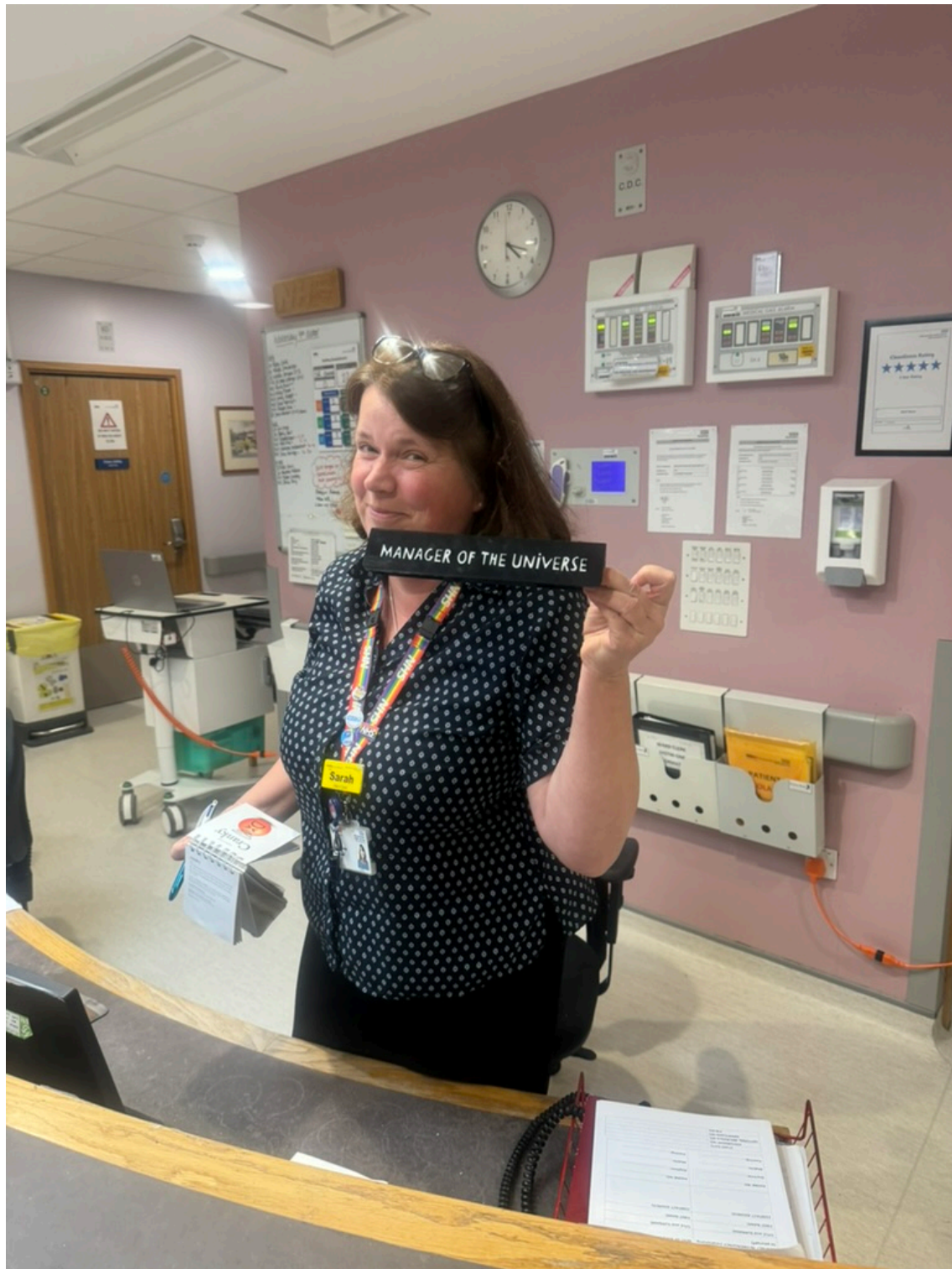






















英国のコミュニティホスピタルへのご招待を受けての謝辞

2025 年 11 月 3 日

3日間を通して、ヘレン・タッカー先生、協会のみなさま、2病院の皆様には、多大なるおもてなしとご厚情を賜り、深く感謝いたします。最後に本田院長が申し上げましたように、「**Small is Beautiful**」の心持ちで、一次医療と3次医療の間にあるコミュニティホスピタルが日本の住民に貢献できますよう活動していきたいと考えております。来年にも、デビッド・シーマーク新会長を日本にお迎えして、国際的なカンファレンスを開催するなども企画してまいります。本当にありがとうございました。



