

# PATHOLOGIST IN ATOMIC FIELD



Challenge about Atomic Bomb  
Diseases from Dr. Tamagawa  
(Hiroshima University)

August 3  
~September 20, 2018

Museum of Medical History  
School of Medicine, Hiroshima University

Special cooperation

Department of Molecular Pathology, Graduate School of Biomedical & Health  
Sciences, Hiroshima University

Co-host

Research Institute for Radiation Biology and Medicine (RIRBM), Hiroshima University  
School of Medicine, Hiroshima University  
Research Center for Radiation Disaster Medical Science  
(Hiroshima University, Nagasaki University, Fukushima Medical University)

Planning and production

Division of Radiation Information Registry, RIRBM, Hiroshima University

## Greeting



Thank you for your attendance today.

As a place for “Higher Education” and “Academic research Institution” in Hiroshima, Hiroshima University has tried to accomplish this mission. The roots of Hiroshima University can be traced back to the Meiji Era. Since founded in 1949, it will be the 70th anniversary next year for Hiroshima University.

As a university from the atomic bomb site, one essential thing in its history is the relationship with the atomic bomb. That is why we choose this symbol mark (besides the greeting) representing our university. The Phoenix leaf is a motif in philosophy which was set in 1956, it symbolizes new life from the ashes by burning itself. Just as the same meaning that Hiroshima restored itself from the atomic field, then born the Hiroshima University. Now I would like to introduce dr. Tamagawa, a medical scientist in Hiroshima University, who faced the atomic bomb disease in the severe atomic field.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to express my appreciation to the interrelated people and Professor Wataru Yasui, from Molecular Pathology Laboratory, Graduate School of Medicine and Drug Health Sciences, Hiroshima University.

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Director of  
Research Institute for Radiation Biology and Medicine,  
Hiroshima University  
Shinya Matsuura

## About the Exhibition

It is my pleasure to introduce this exhibition for you.

The atomic bomb dropped on August 6, 1945, erased the living community of Hiroshima's people. The phrase "Radioactivity from the atomic bomb would be fatal to anyone entering Hiroshima for a period of seventy years" from Dr. H. Jacobson who involved in the Manhattan Project (American atomic bomb development plan), was published on the Washington Post, August 8, 1945. Although we know well that this was an error (and he denied afterwards), the words seemed to be true, to the people who survived in Hiroshima at that time.

However, the atomic field (Hiroshima) was not barren, a lot of people survived. Also scientists went through the atomic field in order to elucidate this unprecedented event. This time I would like to introduce one of scientists, Dr. Tamagawa who specialized in atomic bomb disease. As a small immature exhibition, I'd appreciate if you would be satisfied with it.

Research Institute for Radiation Biology and Medicine,  
Hiroshima University  
Division of Radiation Information Registry

Breezing in without pausing or greeting, he addressed me abruptly:

**“Hachiya!**

**Do you know I went to the Prefectural Office today and those idiots had the cheek to tell me they wouldn’t allow autopsies in Hiroshima! Those great fools!”...**

**“What a stupid policy-not to permit autopsies!**

**Don’t you think so? Without autopsies in a situation like this, what can you learn? Come! You must agree!”**



# 1. Dr. Tamagawa came to Teishin Hospital

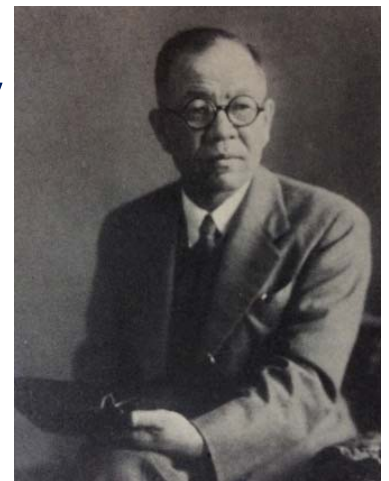


Dr. Hachiya in 1945

The left page is Dr. Tamagawa's phrases when he debuted in Michihiko Hachiya's "Hiroshima Diary". On August 27, 1945, shortly after the atomic bombing, he came to Hiroshima Teishin Hospital in the midst of anxiety and confusion.

Although Dr. Michihiko Hachiya himself suffered from the atomic bomb, he needed to help the other atomic-bomb victims because he was a doctor. As a senior from the same university, Dr. Tamagawa was a reliable person to Dr. Hachiya at that time. The phrases included his respect, familiarity and loving expression. And the response from Dr. Hachiya was that "Thanks for helping me. As you said that we should have anatomies if we want to assist them." In other words, they decided to undergo pathological dissection without permission. It is a mission for the medical scientists to have a pathological anatomy as there is no other choice.

By the way, the words such as "stupid" "foolish" or "Prefectural Government" Tamagawa is referred to Dr. Kitajima, who was the prefectural health department manager from the same Faculty of Medicine, Okayama University. It may be pitiful for him as Kitajima came to Teishin Hospital for helping atomic-bomb victims immediately after the atomic bomb.



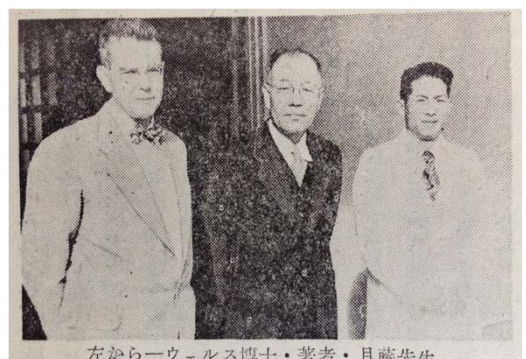
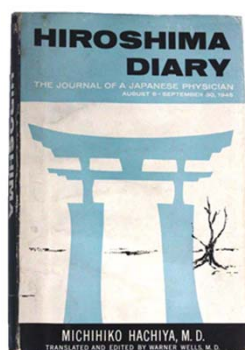
Dr. Hachiya in 1950s

## 2. Dr. Hachiya and "Hiroshima Diary"

Dr. Michihiko Hachiya (1903-1980), author of "Hiroshima Diary", was born in Okayama Prefecture. And he graduated from the Sixth Higher School (under the old system) to Okayama Medical College (Faculty of Medicine, Okayama University), after that he entered the first internal department of the same university and studied under Professor Inada Susumu. In 1942, he took up a new post in Hiroshima as the director of Teishin Hospital. And then he suffered from the atomic bomb.

Dr. Hachiya left the diary from August 6th. And he began to serializing that titled "Hiroshima's A-bomb Talk" in "medical science of Teishin", which named "Hiroshima Diary" later.

At this time, Warner L. Wells (1913~1991) kept an eye on this series. He was a surgeon advisor to ABCC (Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission) in Hiroshima and the emeritus professor at Hiroshima Medical University (Hiroshima University) later. Wells started the translation of "Hiroshima Diary" with Neal H. Tsukifuji (1923 - 2012) who also worked at ABCC. And in the 1955, 10 years after the atomic bomb, the English version "Hiroshima diary" was published in the United States before Japan. It is popular all over the world as written in English, and always mentioned in the lectures of American universities.



### 3. Dr. Tamagawa built an Autopsy room

August 28... Dr. Tamagawa was welcomed by everyone, but his coming did create a problem as to where he could work. ... The only place I could think of was the rude, wooden shack the soldiers had thrown up near the outdoor latrine. With some misgivings I showed it to him and asked if it would do.

“Do?” he exclaimed. “Why, this is just fine!”

The boards he tore out to make windows he used to make an autopsy table and work benches.

This is a description in “Hiroshima Diary” when Dr. Tamagawa built an Autopsy room in Teishin Hospital, and we can now confirm it with this two photographs as follows.



It was renovated from a barrack that built by an engineer corps after the atomic bomb, according to “Hiroshima diary”. In the left one, the building behind the dissecting-room is the Teishin hospital.

Dr. Tamagawa visited the Teishin hospital after he heard that his fellow-student, an old ophthalmologist named Dr. Koyama died (in fact he was surprised that Dr. Koyama was alive and he waited for Dr. Tamagawa at the entrance). In the meanwhile, they felt the urgency of pathological autopsy from the unique symptoms as medical scientists. For example, Dr. Tamagawa returned to Hiroshima immediately after the atomic bomb dropped. And Dr. Tamagawa built the autopsy room the next day after he made a hot debate with Dr. Kitajima. It is amazed by the power of Dr. Tamagawa.

## 4. Dr. Tamagawa performed Autopsy

August 29... Dr. Tamagawa was already at work. ... Dr. Tamagawa was busy at his grim task. ... I stood for a while watching Dr. Tamagawa as he worked swiftly and skillfully. Perhaps he could discover why our patients were dying. If he could do this, we might somehow learn to save them.

“You are skillful, Tamagawa-san,” I said, finally. “Hiroshima Diary”

The autopsy of the atomic bomb disease was used after the autopsy room constructed immediately. As reported in the “Atomic Bomb Disaster Survey Report”, the valuable 19 cases of Autopsy in an early stage were carried out at Teishin hospital. Not only medical doctors at Hospital, but also Okayama Medical University’s students came to help Dr. Tamagawa with his autopsy.



The left one is Dr. Tamagawa. It is the condition after the Autopsy around autumn 1945.

In September 20, at room of Teishin hospital, a premature baby was born from one of a-bomb survivor. However, the condition for a baby to live for a long time was not qualified. The anatomy was ended at 9 o'clock in the evening, however, 39 years old’s mother was brought to the dissection room again the following morning. Her husband with tears, stood in the doorways of the room, said to a boy about the third grade of elementary school that “Farewell to your mother”. And then they prayed with folded hands.

It is the description of Yoshio Sugihara (The Department of Pathology and Oncology, Hiroshima University) who was a student at Okayama Medical University. Such scenes always happened behind the dissection. But the doctors challenged the atomic bomb diseases in the autopsy room inside “atomic fields”.



## 5. Dr. Tamagawa appear in “The Devil's Heritage”

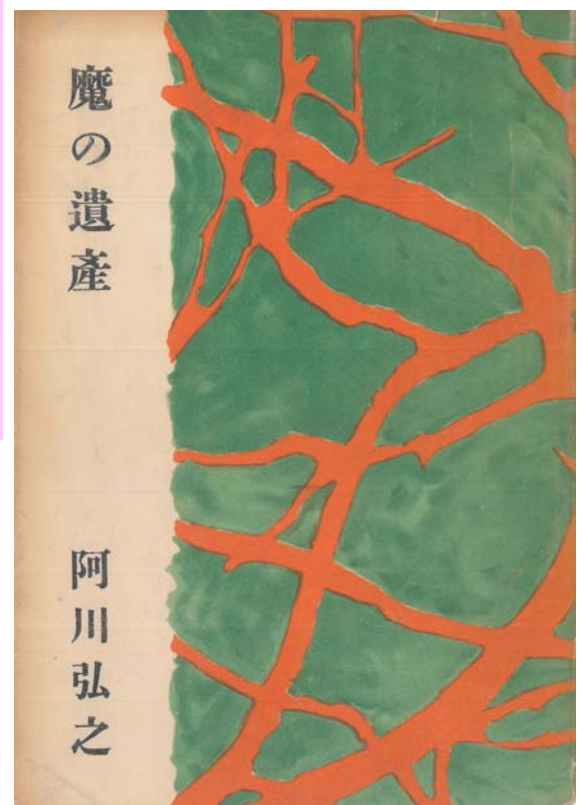
Hiroyuki Agawa is a famous writer born at Hakushima, Hiroshima City in 1920. And he is an honorary citizen of Hiroshima from 2003. Among his works, the only thing that related Hiroshima's atomic bomb was “The Devil's Heritage”. The character “**Dr. Yanagawa**” is modeled on Dr. Tamagawa.

**Dr. Yanagawa** grew mustache and had clothed a clumsy so that the geese could squeeze the neck. He was a dull man. ...“I would not like to tell you anything about the atomic bomb” said **Dr. Yanagawa**.

Regarding this description, Yoshio Sugihara said “characteristics of Dr. Tamagawa are clearly expressed”. Although Dr. Yanagawa said that he wouldn't say anything, He positively mentioned the specimen the medical care of atomic bomb survivors, keloid and medical specimen. In addition, this work is famous for mentioning ABCC as well. **Dr. Yanagawa** is also talking about ABCC.

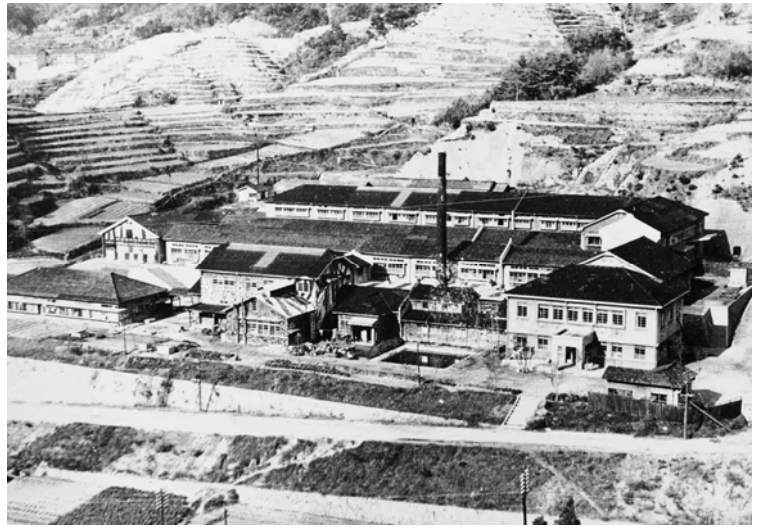
...There are various criticisms about ABCC among Japanese. However, in Hiroshima who suffered the massive damage, was it possible to investigate organized on a large scale? I think that I could not do it.

In fact, Dr. Tamagawa did not leave a word about ABCC, and had a strict attitude to U.S.. However, he may possibly think calmly like this depiction, perhaps.



## 6. Dr. Tamagawa works hard for Hiroshima Medical University

Why did Tamagawa come to Hiroshima? According to “History of Hiroshima University School of Medicine Thirty Years”, the decision that Hiroshima Prefectural Medical College’ establishment was made in April 1945. Dr. Kitajima suggested that the president and professors of this college be invited from Okayama Medical University.



Hiroshima Prefectural Medical College in 1947

There was a fateful coincidence. The opening ceremony of Hiroshima Prefectural Medical College was held at the school building in Minami Town, Hiroshima City on August 5, 1945, and destroyed the next day. However, many staff and students evacuated the night before, and Dr. Tamagawa was also here.

In the December of that year, Medical College’s pathologists including Dr. Tamagawa relocated to the old Yasuura Marine Corps. But, the college burned down in April the next year. Then they reconstructed Kure in next April and destroyed again. In order to reconstruct the college, the related people with Dr. Tamagawa was busy preparing for it.

And in February 1948, it settled at the Navy Mutual Aid Hospital in Kure. Not only did Dr. Tamagawa challenge atomic bomb diseases in the dissection room, but also vigorously devote to reconstruction of Hiroshima University.

## 7. "I may be die after three days, shit!" ~ Person's character of Dr. Tamagawa ~

Dr. Tamagawa fought against the illness after he retired from Hiroshima University. In such physical condition, He received acceptance of honor and medal. Until the day of his award he wanted to survive. However, he died on October 30, before the ceremony. Three days before he died, words that spoke to his son, is the title: **"I will die after three days! shit!"**.

Life in Hiroshima of Dr. Tamagawa revives vividly with record and testimony left. Their testimony sometimes expresses disgust. Some people dislike Dr. Tamagawa. But even they can not ignore Dr. Tamagawa. Dr. Tamagawa is so unique in character. In the work of excellent artists Hiroyuki Agawa and Dr. Michihiko Hachiya, the image of Tamagawa became interesting for the readers.

**The chipper, easy-going Dr. Tamagawa made a bright spot in our ward and dining room. By nature cheerful and happy, he had food tasted good to him. And he would occasionally chide us good-naturedly by saying we should not be so extravagant.**

**He took the lead in the idle talk after supper and told us of his difficulties after he was bombed out in Okayama. The way he belittled his hardships and made jokes about his troubles helped to restore our sense of humor. He told about funny things that happened to him in the past and pretty soon had everyone laughing.**

*"Hiroshima Diary"*

For a while from the atomic bomb exposure, while Dr. Tamagawa is struggling to rebuild Hiroshima University, and he challenged on atomic bomb disease in a poor autopsy room. On the night before the atomic bomb survivors' autopsy, Dr. Tamagawa enjoyed and consoled Atomic bomb survivors who survive the survival. He was not a type scholar who kept shutting in the room and studying. He was a scientist running through Atomic Field. This is very important. It is recognized as the ideal scientist's quality that he confronted the serious disaster.

# Dr. Chuta Tamagawa

(1897~1970)



| year | information   |
|------|---|
| 1897 | Born in Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture   |
| 1920 | Graduated from Okayama Medical College. Entered the pathology school of Okayama Medical College.                            |
| 1940 | Became an assistant professor at Okayama Medical University.  |
| 1945 | In June, he became a professor at Hiroshima Prefectural Medical College. Become the first professor of pathology classroom. |
| 1945 | <b>Visited Hiroshima Tsunami Hospital on August 27.<br/>After that, valuable initial pathologic anatomy is done.</b>        |
| 1948 | In March, he became a professor at Hiroshima Prefectural Medical University.  |
| 1952 | Became professor at Hiroshima Medical University.   |
| 1953 | Became professor of the Faculty of Medicine, Hiroshima University.  |
| 1956 | Inauguration of Hiroshima University Medical Library Director (~1958)   |
| 1961 | In March, retirement age, will become Professor Emeritus of Hiroshima University  |
| 1970 | Died at Hiroshima University Hospital on 30th October   |