
The Medical English
Communications Center
(MECC)
University of Tsukuba

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Outline

- ❖ Establishment of MECC
- ❖ MECC services
- ❖ MECC milestones
- ❖ Benefits of a communications center
- ❖ Setting up a communications center

MECC: a Global 30 Project opportunity

G30 Project: MEXT project, 2009–2014

“to promote internationalization of the academic environment of Japanese universities and acceptance of excellent international students studying in Japan”

<http://www.mext.go.jp/en/policy/education/highered/title02/detail02/1373875.htm>

G30 at the University of Tsukuba

Intensified internationalization

- Curricula
- Research

G30 at the Faculty of Medicine

Intensified emphasis on English

- EMP faculty 1 ➤ 3
- Impetus to establish a medical communications center modeled after International Medical Communications Center (IMCC) of Tokyo Medical University

MECC: its mission

To support the medical faculty's scientific communication in English

❖ Educational Editing

- Manuscripts submitted to international journals
- Slides/posters presented at international conferences

❖ Presentations Coaching

Educational: with explanation on edits and how to improve writing

MECC: editing process step 1

Editing Request

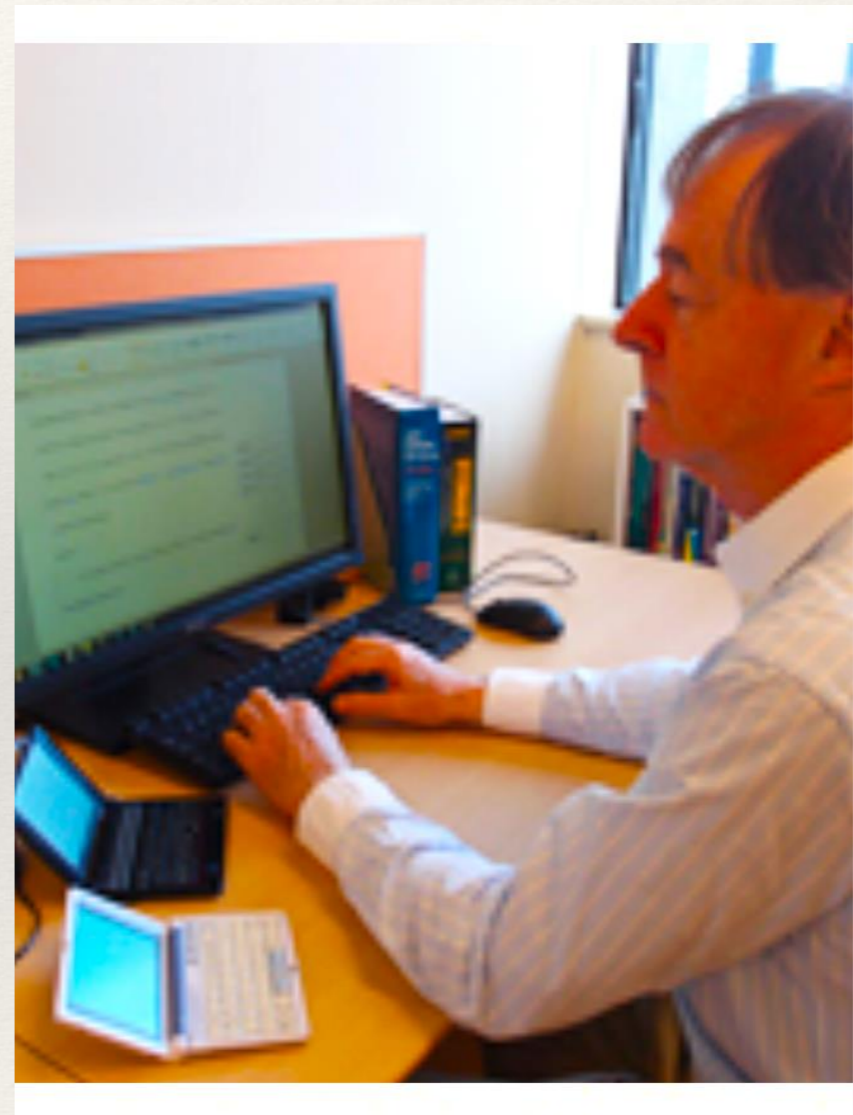
- Submission of online application form
- Manuscript attachment



MECC: editing process step 2

Editing by MECC editor

- WORD Track Changes
- Within 3 weeks



MECC: editing process step 3

Edited paper returned to author

- Author and editor may meet to discuss edits

Introduction

→ Experimental studies suggest that green tea may prevent various cancers including hematologic neoplasms.¹⁻³ Green tea constituents, such as (-)-epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), induce apoptosis in a variety of cancer cells including human leukemia HL60 cells.⁴⁻⁶ However, the epidemiological evidence is limited. A previous Japanese cohort study showed that a higher frequency of green tea consumption was associated with a lower risk of hematologic neoplasms.⁷ Case control studies conducted in China and Taiwan,⁸⁻⁹ but not the other Chinese one,¹⁰ reported that high intake of green tea was associated with lower risk of leukemias such as acute myeloid leukemia.

The incidence of hematologic neoplasms is known to be relatively high among Caucasians and low among Asians.¹¹ And ecologically, tea production was 1050 g/person in Asia, 120 g/person in the America, and 0.4 g/person in Europe.¹² In this context, we hypothesized that this cross-cultural difference may be explained partly by green tea consumption. We therefore conducted a population-based cohort study to examine the association between green tea consumption and risk of mortality from and incidence of hematologic neoplasms among Japanese men and women.

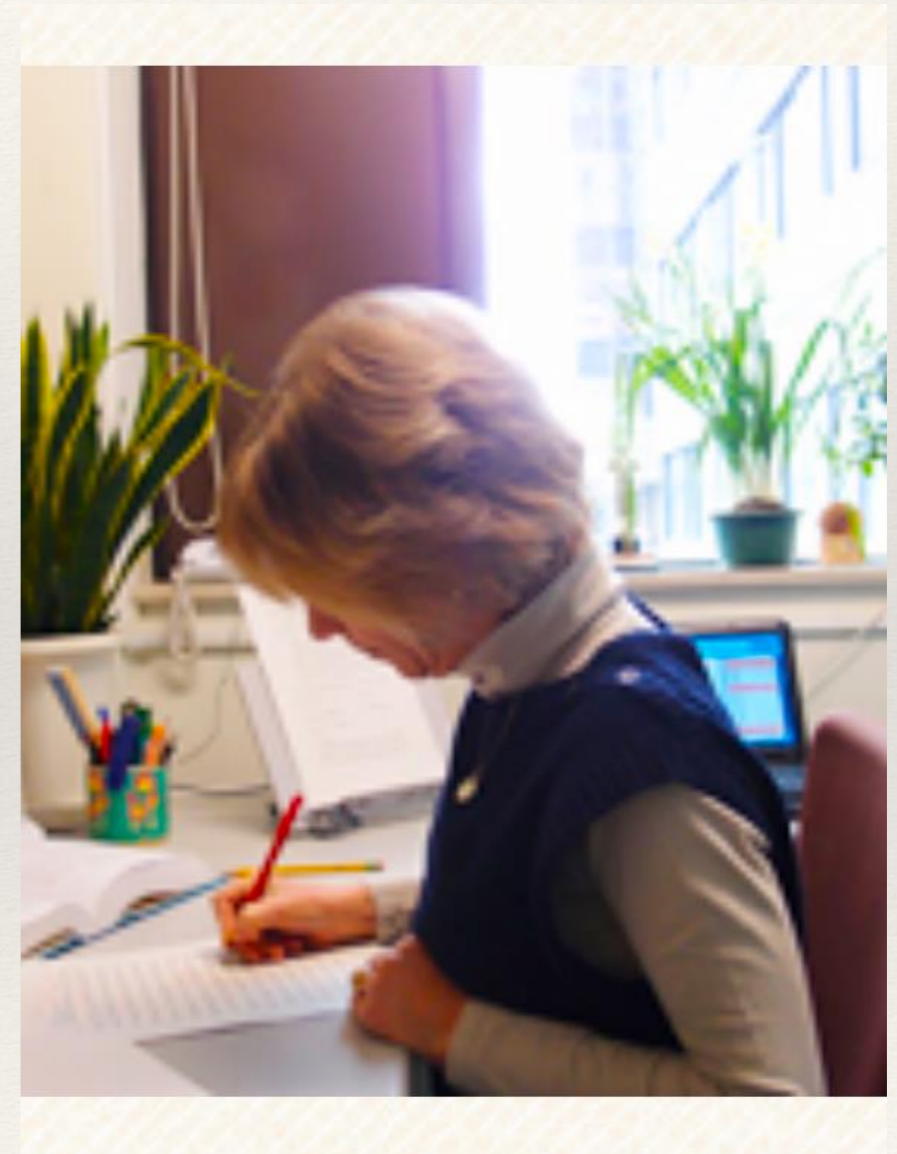
Annotations:

- Deleted: [redacted]
- Deleted: ,
- Deleted: ,
- Deleted: a
- Deleted: have been
- Comment [3]: AMA style prefers: 'whites'
- Deleted: [redacted]
- Comment [4]: 'the' is confusing here. Do you mean:
'in the United States'
'in North America'
'in the Americas' -?
- Comment [5]: Or:
'that this difference between white and Asian populations'
- Comment [6]: Was this the specific aim of the cohort study? Or do you mean:

MECC: editing process step 4

Response to journal

- “Re-revisions”: editing of revisions



MECC: editing process step 5

Post-editing

- Invoice processed (1500 yen/page)
- MECC editor receives reprint



MECC: other services

- ❖ Slides editing (100 yen/slide)
- ❖ Poster editing (250 yen/text box)
- ❖ Presentations practice (free of charge)

MECC: milestones

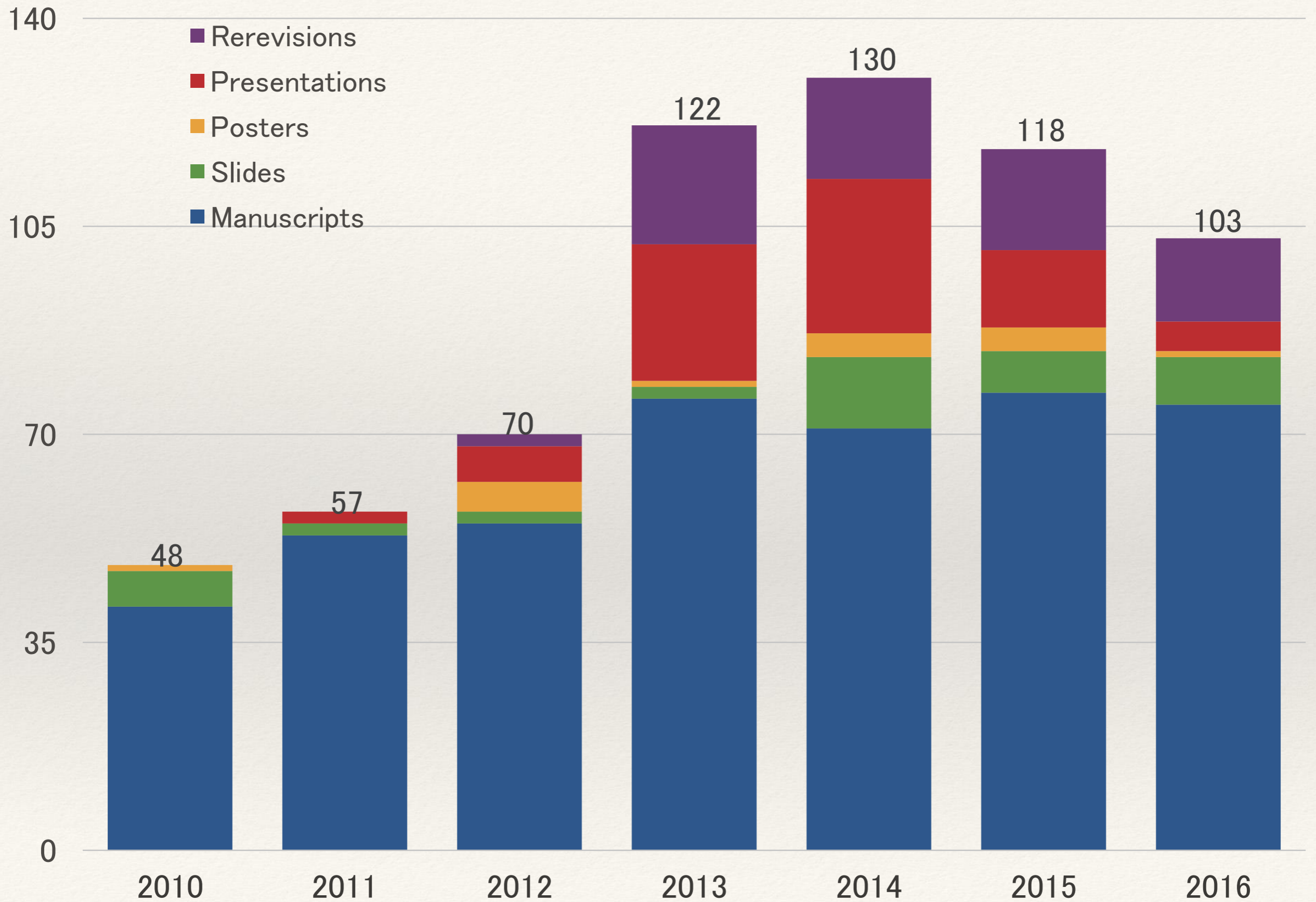
- ❖ **May 2010: launch of History–Taking in English Workshop**
 - With Ibaraki SP Association
 - M4 students, pre–OSCE
 - 10–session workshop
- ❖ **April 2013: New website**
 - All English
 - Online application system
 - Self–study worksheets

MECC: more milestones

- ❖ January 2014: EMP faculty 1 ➤ 3
- ❖ April 2015: new, refurbished **MECC office**
- ❖ April 2016: **proposal** for new undergraduate Medical English program
- ❖ April 2017: launch of new undergraduate **Medical English program**



MECC Output 2010–2016



MECC: benefits gained

- ❖ Informal ‘proofreading’ now a formal part of our job
- ❖ Editing feeds back into our teaching/research
- ❖ Stronger relationships with other medical faculty
- ❖ A physical space, associated with English, consolidates the EMP staff’s place within the medical faculty
- ❖ Develop professional editing skills in addition to our work as educators/researchers

Setting up a medical communications center

- ❖ Detailed, solid proposal is a must
 - aims / rationale
 - specify services
- ❖ Guidelines on using the editing services plus conditions of use a must
- ❖ Communicate quickly and clearly to deal with problems
 - with each other
 - with authors

FOR MEDICAL FACULTY USE ONLY

- ◆ MANUSCRIPT EDITING
 - ◆ SLIDES EDITING
 - ◆ POSTER EDITING
 - ◆ PRESENTATIONS PRACTICE
-
- ◆ HIGHLIGHTS
 - ◆ USER COMMENTS
 - ◆ SELF-STUDY
 - ◆ PROFILES

**MEDICAL ENGLISH COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (MECC)**

Proficiency in English is a must for scientists today. Without it, chances are high they will not gain the international recognition their work deserves and will be unable to participate fully in the sharing of ideas and cutting-edge information with other scientists. At the Medical English Communications Center, we help students and staff of the Medical Faculty to become proficient science communicators by providing editing and other English-language support services. The services we offer include the following:

- Manuscript editing
- Slides editing
- Poster editing
- Rehearsals for oral presentations
- English conversation for teaching staff

We also have a repository of biomedical dictionaries and books on scientific writing and English as a second language.

Manuscripts edited by us have been published in journals such as *Molecular Cell*, *The Journal of Immunology*, *International Journal of Cancer*, *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*, *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications*, *Journal of Surgical Research*, *Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive and Aesthetic Surgery*, *International Journal of Hematology*, *Dermatologic Surgery*, *European Journal of Dermatology*, *Journal of Orthopaedic Research*, *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, *Experimental Physiology*, *Medical Oncology*, and *The Journal of Kampo, Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine*.