KUSM was founded in 1970 as the first Japanese medical school built after WWII. Founders of the school were strongly influenced by the student uprising in Japanese universities at the end of the 1960’s. Unfortunately, the ideas and energy that burst out of the campus strife were brutally extinguished by the authoritarian policy all over Japan. KUSM, born at the end of this turmoil period, provided rare experimental opportunities for young and idealistic faculty members appointed to this new institution. Kitasato’s novel method of general medical education, collaborative research and patient care was then named the Kitasato System, and left a strong mark in the 70’s.
All facilities were designed in 1970 under the concept of Kitasato System, which was based on individualism against the notorious ‘koza’ system, the prevailing system that was under strong criticism in the 1960’s. (In most ‘koza’ system in Japanese universities, the full professor expected his members to carry out his instructions faithfully, until the members themselves became full professors to repeat the process with their own protégés.) Kitasato System had a strong influence on other academic institutions in Japan during the 1970’s. Although the system gave cost-effective and efficient environment for educational and research activities in the Medical School for the first 15 years, renovations, currently undertaken, are now required to accommodate the biotechnological revolution and contemporary life-style in Japan.