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# The Medical English Communications Center (MECC) University of Tsukuba

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# Outline

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

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# MECC: a Global 30 Project opportunity

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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

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# MECC: its mission

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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

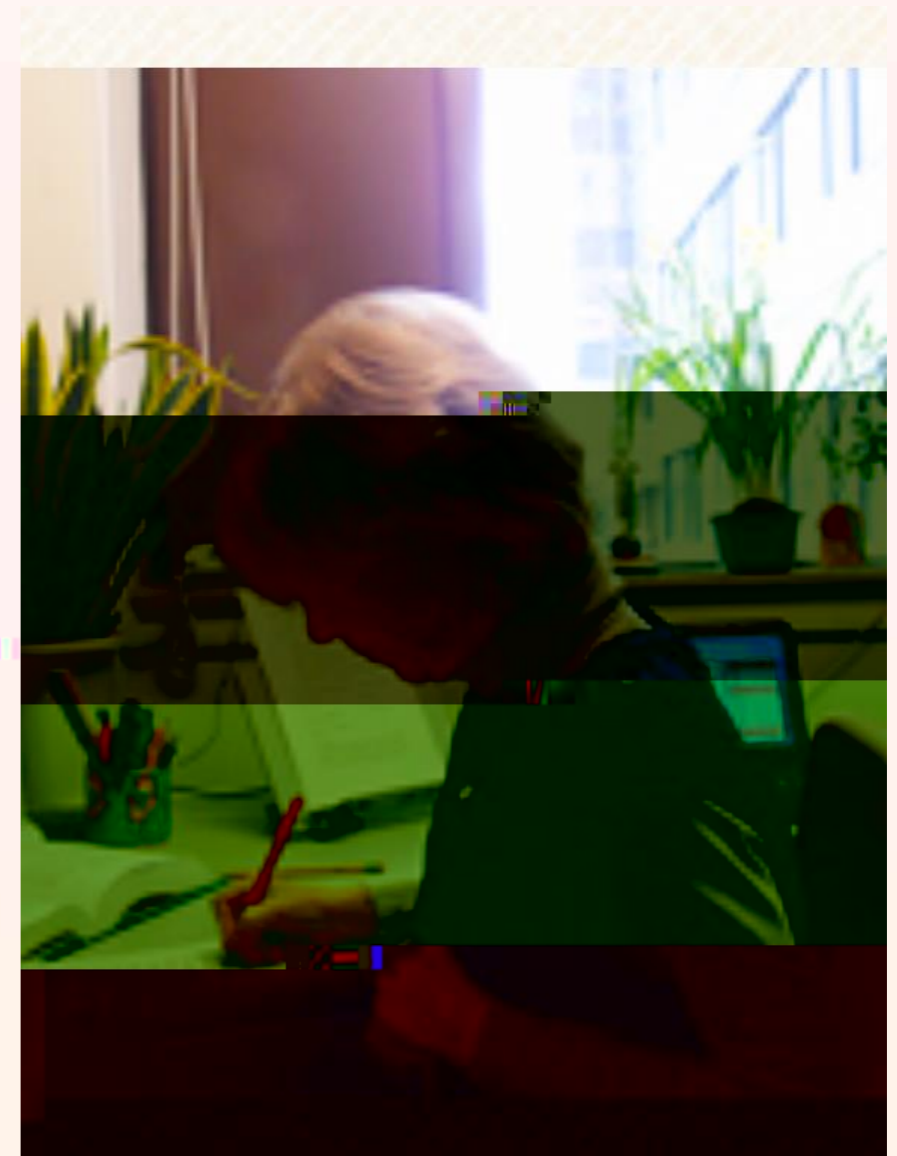
The screenshot displays a manuscript editing interface. The document title is "Introduction". The text includes phrases like "including hematologic neoplasms.<sup>1-3</sup> Green tea constituents, such as (-)-epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG), induce apoptosis in a variety of cancer cells." and "This incidence of hematologic neoplasms is known to be relatively high among Caucasians and low among Asians.<sup>11</sup> And ecologically, tea production was 1050 g/person in Asia, 120 g/person in the America, and 0.4 g/person in Europe.<sup>12</sup> In this cross-cultural difference may be explained partly by: 'in North America' and 'in the Americas' context, we hypothesized that this 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." The interface is overlaid with numerous colored comment boxes and deletion markers. A red box at the top right says "F. Miyamasu 6/16/2016 5:43 PM Deleted:". A blue box says "F. Miyamasu 6/16/2016 5:54 PM Deleted:". A green box says "F. Miyamasu 6/12/2016 5:54 PM Deleted:". A yellow box says "F. Miyamasu 6/13/2016 5:54 PM Deleted: a". A purple box says "F. Miyamasu 6/13/2016 5:54 PM Deleted: have been". A light green box contains "Comment [3]: AMA style prefers: 'whites'". A light blue box contains "F. Miyamasu 6/13/2016 5:54 PM Deleted:". A green box contains "F. Miyamasu 6/13/2016 5:53 PM Comment [4]: 'the' is confusing here. Do you mean: 'in the United States'". A pink box contains "F. Miyamasu 6/13/2016 5:53 PM Comment [5]: Or: 'that this difference between populations'". A blue box at the bottom right contains "Comment [6]: Was the cohort study? Or do".



# MECC: editing process step 4

## Response to journal

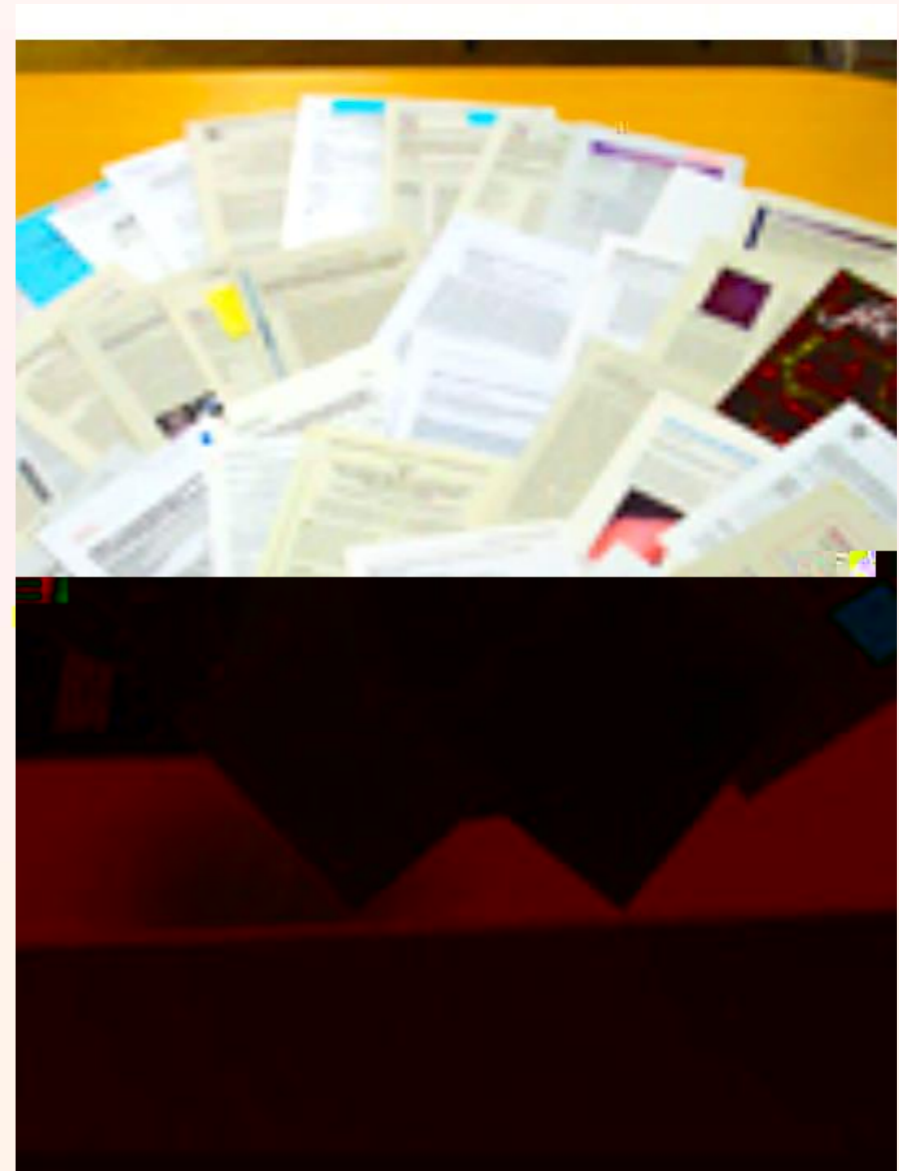
- “Re-revisions”: editing of revisions



# MECC: editing process step 5

## Post-editing

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



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# MECC: other services

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

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# MECC: milestones

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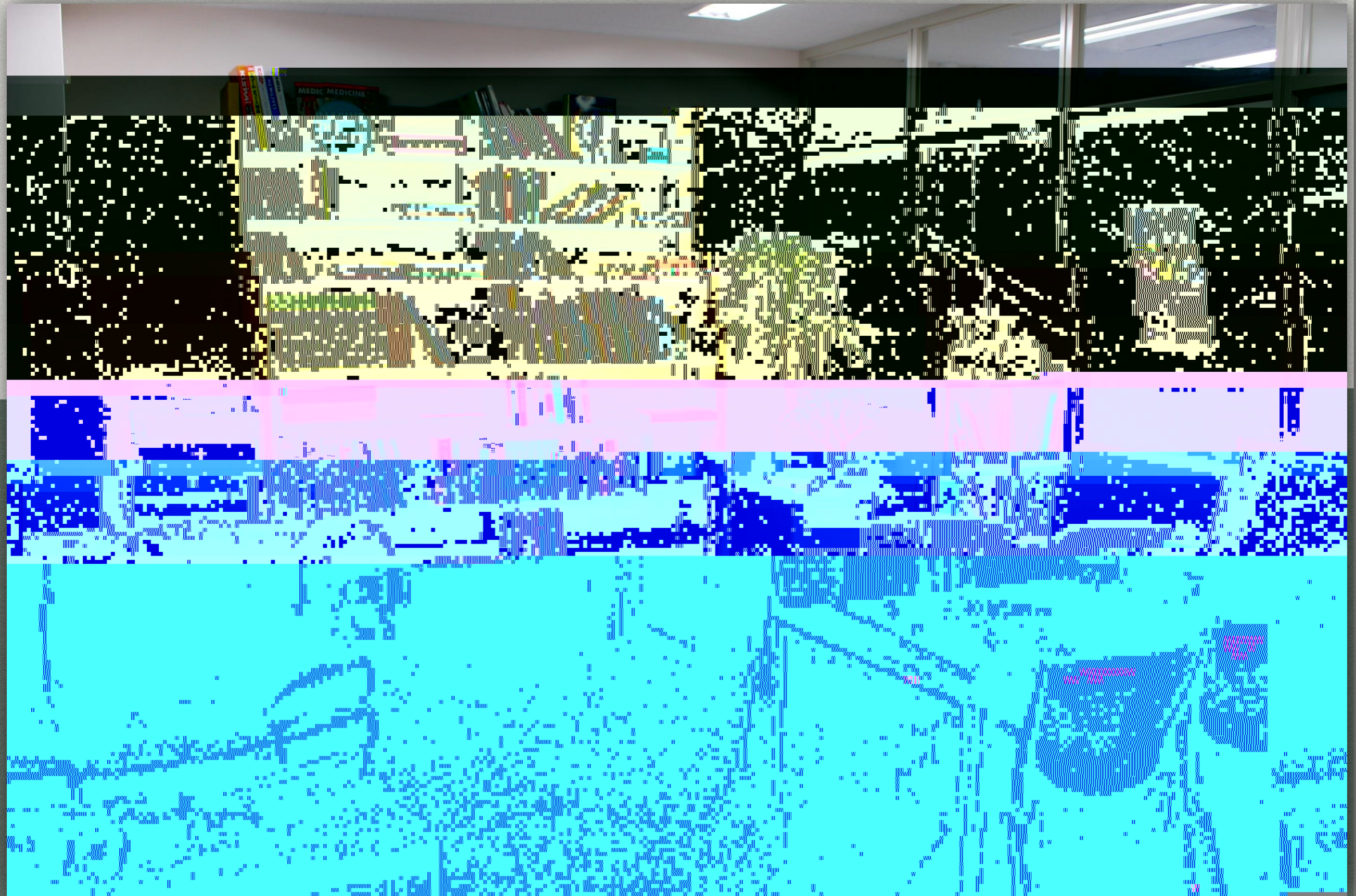
- ❖ May 2010: launch of **History–Taking in English Workshop**
  - With Ibaraki SP Association
  - M4 students, pre–OSCE
  - 10–session workshop
- ❖ April 2013: **New website**
  - All English
  - Online application system
  - Self–study worksheets

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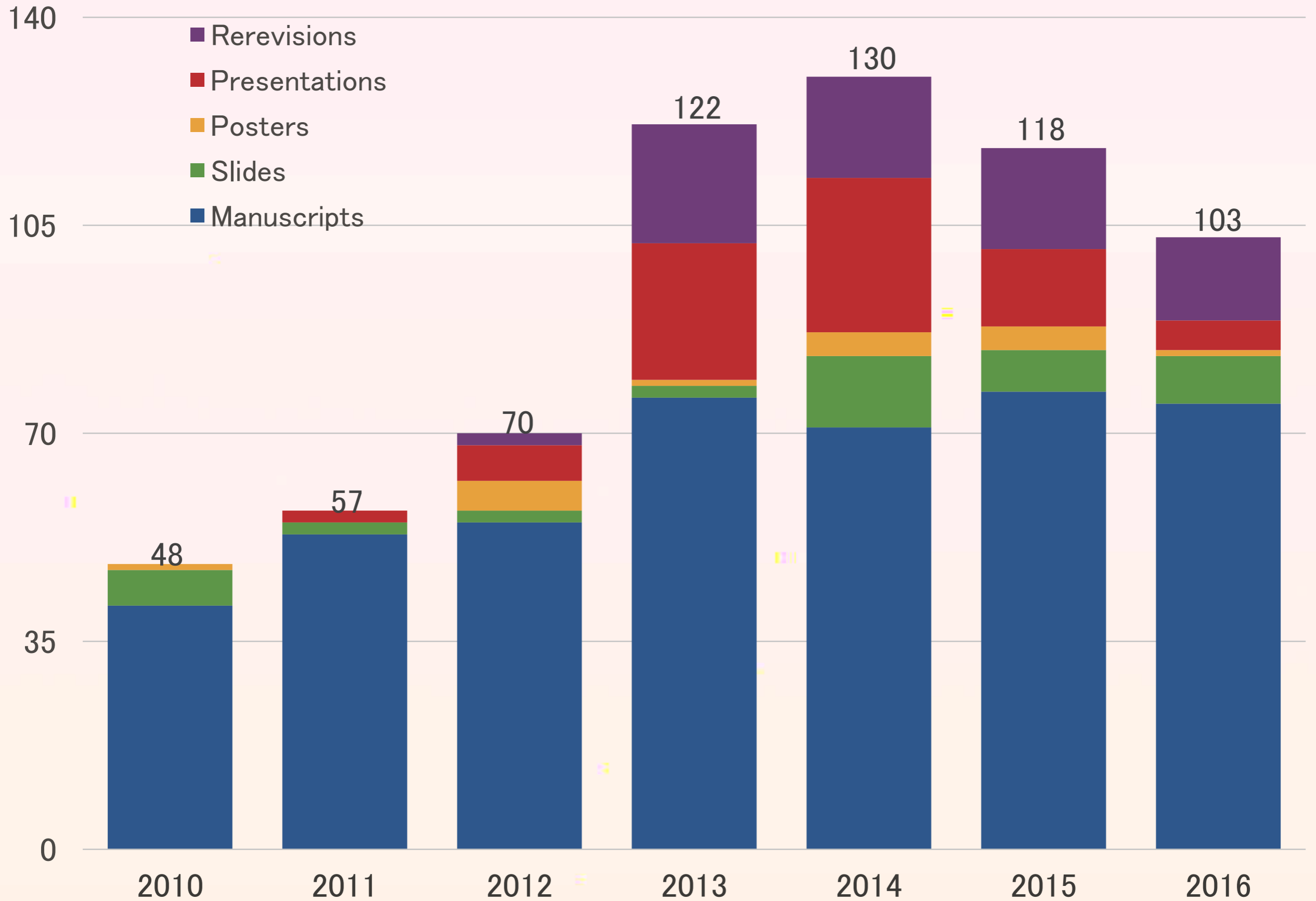
# MECC: more milestones

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- ❖ 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



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# MECC: benefits gained

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- ❖ 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



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# Setting up a medical communications center

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- ❖ 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

