

## S16-3 Pharmacists who Completed Six-Year Course Needed by the Society and a Perspective

○Takashi KODAMA<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Japan Pharmaceutical Association

---

6-year pharmacy education was introduced in 2006, and long-term practical training will start in May, 2010. In April, 2012, 1st graduates will enter a profession. I appreciate the academic and administrative efforts to establish the new pharmacy education system well as well as ones by all concerned.

Many ideas occurs on the goal of pharmacy education including “to improve communication skills”, ”to develop patient-oriented problem solving abilities” and “to learn advanced clinical pharmacy.” Here I would like to summarize in one objective “to train pharmacists ready to be healthcare professionals.” Recent years, there are concerns about job opportunities for pharmacists, considering sharp increase in the number of pharmacy students due to set up of schools and predicted depopulation in Japan.

The role of pharmacists required by the society , however, is more and more enlarged in pharmacy services; for example, promotion of self-medication (health counseling etc.), contribution to healthcare team in the community (multidisciplinary collaboration) and participation in lifestyle disease control/prevention. Moreover, in aging society, the role in home care services (palliative care, terminal care etc.) are anticipated to expand.

From an international viewpoint, recognition of Japanese pharmacists remains to be enhanced significantly, but it appears promising. Now we would like to have meaningful discussions about the future of schools of pharmacy and of pharmacists.