

S23-1 **The Current State of Communication Studies: A discussion of the results of a nationwide survey of universities**

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Now that nearly four years have passed since the implementation of the six-year system for pharmacy schools in Japan, we must ask how communication studies have developed and under what strategies programs have been implemented. We should also ask what issues must be addressed. To properly provide pharmaceutical care, a pharmacist must acquire the skills and character to communicate with patients and team members in addition to knowledge about drug therapy. The Pharmaceutical Communication Council, the predecessor to the Pharmaceutical Communication Society of Japan, conducted a 2002 survey of pharmaceutical universities and departments of pharmacy throughout Japan before the advent of the six-year system. The survey showed that only 34% of the entities surveyed had communications-related courses as requisites and that 71% of the communications- and psychology-related courses offered to students were taught by part-time instructors.

The Pharmaceutical Communication Society of Japan again administered this survey in 2009, surveying 78 pharmaceutical universities and departments of pharmacy nationwide. The results are presented and discussed here. With communications courses mandatory and the need to address communications in the national licensing examination, the profession is faced with several new questions including how much and in what format communications should be taught, how efforts should be evaluated, and how the right teachers to effectively educate students should be recruited. It is hoped that a presentation of the data will lead to a lively debate.