

## S26-2 **The personal opinion about the current status of the medicinal chemistry in academia**

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Although I am not a pharmacist, I have worked as a researcher in a pharmaceutical company for more than 20 years, before moving to an academic position at Okayama University 6 years ago. I am currently engaged in education of future pharmacists, as well as in pharmaceutical research. I believe my background in both education and industry places me in a good position to comment on whether the current education programs for future medicinal chemists are producing qualified researchers that meet the needs of the pharmaceutical industry. Unfortunately, it seems to me that current medicinal chemistry teaching programs diverge enormously in their focus from the highly technology-oriented and patent-oriented practices of the 21<sup>st</sup> century pharmaceutical industry in Japan. This opinion seems to be widely shared among experienced, older researchers. In this symposium, I would like to give my personal opinion about the reasons underlying the failure of the education system to deliver the skills currently needed in industry. I will also suggest some possible ways to improve the situation.