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Natural medicines such as Chinese Kampo medicines, European herbs, etc. have been used universally and they are seen as efficient remedies for improvement of the quality of life of the elderly and patients with chronic diseases. However, natural medicines have not only been employed as pharmaceuticals but also investigated as materials for developing new chemical drugs.

As natural medicines have been developed in daily human life, and many of their characteristics are related to ethnicity, locality, ecology. These characteristics make natural medicines different from modern pharmaceuticals produced in laboratories.

In this session, researchers with both pharmaceutical and nonpharmaceutical backgrounds will speak on their field experience and give their own viewpoints on natural medicines. Further discussion on the significance and importance of field work on natural medicines is expected.