

## **The Pharmacy Education Reform in Japan and an Improvement of the Clinical Pharmacy Education at Meijo University**

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### **Pharmacy Education Reform:**

The long pending issue for moving pharmacy education to 6-year period was settled this year. Japanese pharmacy education will enter into new century from 2006.

There has been much controversy among the Societies of Pharmacy (JPA and JSHP), education experts and Government (MHLW: the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, MEXT: the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) as to whether the term extension of the pharmacy education would be necessary for pharmacy education since 1993. An advisory committee summoned by MHLW had proposed six-year-period education in 1994. On the contrary, a cooperators committee for the reform at MEXT had other opposite opinions to reform for some reasons. In 2002, the Private and Public College of Pharmacy Societies and the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan also proposed the new model core curriculum for a pharmacy education, which has oriented to the clinical pharmacy including the practice experience in health care sites.

Finally, at the beginning of May 2004, Government passed the legislation to extend the educational period of pharmacy schools from 4-year to 6-year.

### **Reforming Clinical Pharmacy Education in Meijo University:**

Meijo University has experienced 1-year graduate course of clinical pharmacy practice education during past twenty-eight years. In 2002, we reformed this course to Master course. This Master program provides specialist education intending to train clinical pharmacists, who work as health care giver. The features of the education are two kinds of backbones; Clinical Communication Skill and study of Pharmacotherapy with PBL. They have to be evaluated their communication skill abilities at OSCE in advance practicing clinical experience at hospital. The core of the program is more than 1 year of clinical experience practice at University Hospital affiliated with Meijo University. Graduate students study the drug therapy on patients with medical students there. Another feature of our reformed system is the Satellite Seminar Room for pharmacy graduate students, which set up in the Medical School. In this room, graduate pharmacy students, faculty staffs of pharmacy and medicine are usually able to associate freely.