The Role and the Future Vision of the Japan Medical Association

Kenji Matsubara, MD
Vice President
Japan Medical Association
The Japan Medical Association (JMA) was founded by Dr. Shibasaburo Kitasato (first JMA President) in 1916, as a private academic organization that supports the medical practice of physicians.

The WMA (World Medical Association) acknowledges the JMA as the only professional organization in Japan that physicians join in their individual capacity.

The JMA examines the framework of future medicine, facilitates physician-friendly medical environments, and promotes better healthcare for the people.

Under the cooperation with the prefectural medical associations and municipal medical associations, the JMA aims to enhance medical ethics, develop medical science and medicine, and improve public health, thereby promoting social welfare.
Medical Associations in Japan

Municipal Medical Associations (891)
《incl. Univ. MA (63) and others (13)》
192,858 members*

Prefectural MAs (47)
181,578 members*

JMA

JMA Building in Tokyo

Dr. Kitasato in the 2003 postage stamp “Persons of Culture” series

2012 Nobel Prize winner Dr. Shinya Yamanaka is also a JMA member.

JMA News, Aug 5, 2013

310,000 physicians in Japan, about 55% are JMA Members.

JMA Membership: 168,533
84,892 work as employees, and 83,641 are in private practice.**

* As of Aug 1, 2013  ** As of Dec 1, 2016
The Japan Medical Association (JMA) aims to achieve a society where human dignity is valued on the foundation of high ethical standards and a sense of purpose.

1. The JMA will support a healthy, civilized, and bright life for every person in Japan for a lifetime.

2. The JMA, together with the people of Japan, will build a safe and secure healthcare provision system.

3. The JMA will contribute to developing and improving the quality of medicine and healthcare.

4. The JMA will protect the universal insurance system that is based on public solidarity and support.

We hereby promise to faithfully perform the above.

Adopted by the 129th Regular General Assembly of the JMA House of Delegates held in Tokyo, June 23, 2013
Collaboration Between JMA and JAMS

Collaboration
- Announcement of joint statements
- Hosting of JAMS general meetings
- Mutual participation in each other's conferences
- Honoring of awards
  *Etc.*

Japanese Association of Medical Sciences (JAMS)

128 medical societies
(Japanese Surgical Society, Japanese Society of Internal Medicine, etc.)

Japan Medical Association (JMA)

Prefectural Medical Associations
Municipal Medical Associations

About 200,000 physician members

Pulling medical science and medical practice of Japan as a pair of wheels

JMA and JAMS were merged on March 8, 1948. JAMS is currently installed within JMA.

(Purpose of JAMS)
*To contribute to the improvement of medical science and care through the research and development of science and technology in the field of medicine*

JMA and JAMS work together in the following undertakings to contribute to the improvement of medical science in Japan

1. JAMS general meetings
2. JAMS symposia
3. Collect and distribute the information on medical science and practice
Breakdown of Financial Resources of the National Healthcare Expenditure (FY 2014)

- **Covered by the government** (Public expenses)
  - $15.5852$ T yen ($38.8\%$)

- **Individually covered** (Covered by patients)
  - $4,777.2$ B yen ($11.7\%$)

- **Mutually covered** (Insurance premiums)
  - $19.874$ T yen ($48.7\%$)

- **Others** $301.4$ B yen ($0.7\%$)

**Approximately $40.8$ trillion yen ($370$ billion USD) FY 2014 Estimates**

In France, Germany, UK, Canada, and Italy, there is no copayment for patients for medical care except for medication, which is covered partially.

There is a large gap in the insurance premium rates. If the insurance premium is standardized to the Japan Health Insurance Association's rate of $10\%$, there will be about $1.0$ trillion yen increase in the revenue compared to the current insurance premium rates.

The ratio of the public healthcare expenditure to GDP in Japan is lower than the G7's average. However, the ratio of the healthcare expenditure against the tax revenue is continuously rising as the tax revenue's growth is stagnating.

The population is decreasing due to unprecedentedly declining birthrate and advancing population aging. In order to firmly protect the universal health coverage, we, the medical profession, should not prioritize finance, but propose a medical delivery system which sufficiently meets health needs of the nation.

For sustainable social security

· Extend healthy life expectancy by systematizing the business in lifelong health
· Decrease the number of dialysis patients through early intervention for the high-risk group of diabetes
· Decrease the number of patients under home oxygen therapy through proper medical intervention for COPD patients
· Support academic societies’ activities (e.g., publication of prescriptions with cost awareness according to the patient's conditions or characteristics in the Medical Care Guideline.)
Some people argue that “healthcare is consumption”, but social security and economy are mutually interacting with each other.

Economic growth supports the financial foundation of social security. At the same time, the development of social security supports the foundation of the Japanese economy by helping to increase production and employment.

The improvement in national health standard by enhanced healthcare will contribute to economic growth and social stability.

Social security needs to be enhanced so that the people can welcome the old age with peace of mind.

Many people are worried about the old age, and regaining economic growth will start by presenting assurance to them.
Elimination of Public Anxiety By Enhancing Social Security

“100 million all actively involved”
“Work Style Reform”

Adjust the insurance premium rate to 10% (same as the Japan Health Insurance Association)

Contribute the internal reserve of companies (377.9 trillion yen) back to the public as salary

Ensure the implementation of the integrated reform of social security and tax

Rise the tobacco tax as the source of revenue for social security

Create demand and increase employment

Economic growth

Promote innovation by utilizing the taxation system, AMED subsidies and public and private investment fund

Increase the mutual coverage (insurance premium)

Increase the government coverage (public expenses)

Enhance social security

Wage increase

Local Abenomics

Eliminate public anxiety
Thank you for your attention.