

Greetings

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This was the third joint symposium between the Japan Medical Association (JMA) and the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA). Thanks to lectures and discussions from experts catered toward the various themes each year, it has truly developed into a meaningful conference.

The topic this year was “Searching for the Ideal Medical Scheme at the Time of Urgent Disasters in Japan and U.S.” Our aim was to take a closer look into the situation in the United States, to share knowledge, efforts, and challenges of both Japan and the US to explore future initiatives regarding medical systems at the national level as well as collaboration among related organizations during possible “emergencies” including large-scale natural disasters which could happen in any part of Japan and accidents during major events in the world such as the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games scheduled for 2020.

Joining from the United States were Mr. Ken Burris and Dr. Nicolette A. Louissant who have deep insights into disaster preparedness and crisis management. Our Japanese team included Mr. Toshinori Ogata, Deputy Director-General and Mr. Shigeru Ogisawa, Director of the Disaster Management Bureau of the Cabinet Office, as well as Dr. Haruhiko Hakuno, the Emergency and Perinatal Medical Care Team Leader of the Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare, and Dr. Masami Ishii, Executive Board Member of the JMA, providing lectures and discussions.

I hope that this symposium provided meaning to Japan’s disaster countermeasures from a broad viewpoint beyond just the medical field.

Last year, the JMA became a Designated Public Corporation in the Basic Act on Disaster Control Measures. This year, I was appointed member of both the Central Disaster Management Council and the Disaster Prevention Promotion National Congress, taking on a major role in our nation’s disaster countermeasure administration. The outcome of this symposium will continue to be of significant reference for the JMA.