How we challenge to unprecedented aging society in Japan?

Yasuo Ikeda, MD & PhD

President of International Society of Internal Medicine

We are confronting unprecedented aging society and a low birthrate in Japan. It is estimated that population of age over 65yr may exceed 40% in 2050. Aged people tend to be multimorbid with increase incidence of cancer and neurological disorders. In addition, innovative therapeutic agents have been developed. Therefore, medical costs have been dramatically increasing in Japan. In fact, average medical expenses in aged people (over 65-yr) are 646,100 Japanese yens per person per year, while people younger than 65- yr pay 163,400 yens per person.

To overcome these difficult situations, several policies have been proposed by Japanese government. Here, I am going to introduce our recent academic movement to improve medical systems, especially, renovation of medical specialty system.

In May 2015, Japanese Medical Specialty Board (JMSB) has been newly established. It has been designed that this corporation, closely working with individual academic medical societies, functions as third party and maintains its neutrality. Certification of individual medical board and accreditation of training programs have been authorized by JMSB.

At present, individual training hospitals are developing their residency programs, not only to learn the latest advance of medicine but also to recognize the importance of medical care of aged people.

Japanese Society of Internal Medicine functions as the center of this renovation of medical specialty system.