

Education and Training of Professionals Involved in Global Trials

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Patients in the world are in desperate need for more effective and safer drugs. It is our responsibility as well as our goal to meet their needs. Nevertheless, the actual number of new chemical entities that succeed is decreasing over the years, whereas cost for new drug development is skyrocketing. One of the solutions is Asian market for clinical trials, which is rapidly growing as a part of global drug development. However, with a relatively short history and lack of experience in participating in global trials, Asian countries, including Korea, face problems in satisfying the international standards.

The biggest problem is lack of infrastructure. It includes hardwares like research hospitals and centers, equipments and facilities but more importantly softwares like operational systems which can only be “operational” when there are “people” who know how to operate the systems, not to mention the hardwares. These “people” who are experts and professionals do not spring out from nowhere. They have to be educated, trained and finally given stable jobs and positions. Currently the ‘demand’ for these professionals is enormous and rapidly increasing. We must provide ways to efficiently and rapidly increase the ‘supply’ to meet the ‘demand’. Realization of the urgency is shared by many, but we also need a momentum to drive the related bodies to appropriately respond to the urgency.

In Korea, private and public sectors, academia and industry are working together with government to launch programs for development and training of human resources specializing in clinical drug development. Establishment of an organization devoted to operate standardized educational and training programs as well as to systematically aid and provide opportunities to individuals or groups of professionals will turbo-boost our combined effort.

Acquisition of essential knowledge and skills required for clinical trials is important. But at the same time, we have to learn to share and exchange information and expertise as well as professionals and experts with partnering countries to actually be ‘global’ in clinical trials. All because we share in common the same responsibilities and the same goals; that is, to promote and protect the health of the people in the world.

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1980 ~ 1986: Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea (MD)
1987 ~ 1990: Residency, Dept of Pediatrics, Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea (Specialty Certification in Pediatrics issued by Korean Board of Pediatrics)
1993 ~ 1994: Research Fellowship in Neonatology, Dept of Pediatrics, Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea
1994 ~ 1995: Dept of Medicine and Therapeutics, University of Aberdeen, UK (MSc in Clinical Pharmacology)
1995 ~ 1998: Instructor, Dept of Pediatrics, Yongdong Severance Hospital, and Dept of Clinical Pharmacology, Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine
1998 ~ 2003: Assistant Professor, Dept of Pediatrics, Yongdong Severance Hospital, and Dept of Clinical Pharmacology, Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea
2001 ~ 2003: Visiting Assistant Professor, Columbus Children's Research Institute, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA
2004 ~ present: Associate Professor in Pediatrics, Yongdong Severance Hospital, and Associate Professor in Clinical Pharmacology, Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

Associations

- 1990 ~ present: Member, Korean Pediatric Society (Committee for Legal Affairs)
1993 ~ present: Member, Korean Society of Neonatology (Committee for Academic Activity)
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1995 ~ 2005: Director, Committee of Education and Training, Korean Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (KSCPT)
1997 ~ 2000: Deputy Secretary General, Korean Pediatric Society
2003 ~ present: Secretary General, Seoul-Kyunggi-Inchon Division, Korean Society of Neonatology
2003 ~ present: Member, Committee of Pharmaceutical and Medical Affairs, Korean Medical Association
2004 ~ present: Member, Committee for Immunization Evaluation, Korean Center for Disease Control
2004 ~ present: Member, Committee for Planning of Mid- & Long-term Health and Medical R&D Development, Korean Health Industry Development Institute
2004 ~ present: Director, Clinical Trials Center, Yonsei University Medical Center
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