

Overcoming the current situation and put the pharmacist in the right place

Editorial

The pharmacist can be defined as the expert in medicines prescription and preparation who is in charge-in collaboration with clinicians of defining the therapies for the patients. However, in some countries and regions worldwide, pharmacists are getting far from this noble mission due to divers factors mainly economic and social. Indeed, the “soft” and non-well defined regulations in addition to the economic and social factors have slowly moved the pharmacist from its position as a health care professional to a situation which close to businessman. The pharmacist deals with taxes and bills rather than dealing with scientific and medical documents. The pharmacist spends more time in the insurance administration than updating himself reading medical literature. In such case the pharmacist gets far from the scientific and ethical aspect of his profession and might even lose the basics he has learned during his years at the medical school or college and the experience the pharmacist has is only about the daily practical task he has in his drug store.

The results of such situation are the pharmacist is regarded as “replaceable” by anyone who can read a prescription and explain it to the patients. Therefore, we might even see pharmacist who are present only by the diploma/ degree which is required by the laws to open a drug store without the physical presence of the pharmacist. This will further lead to the underestimation of this noble profession by the medical colleagues (doctors, dentists...) and the misunderstanding of the real tasks and responsibilities of the pharmacist.

In order to solve this issue several resolutions and steps can be undertaken. For instance, strengthening the laws toward pushing the pharmacist to be in the drug stores, encourage pharmacist to hire individuals top handle financial issue so that the pharmacist is devoted to the therapeutic and medical aspects of his responsibilities, invite the media and the social network to present the real value of the pharmacist and rebuild the communication¹ respect between the patient (and not the clients) and the pharmacist, update the pharmacist² via periodic scientific events (training, conference, meetings...) and creating an interactive platform for medical professional including pharmacist, doctors and dentists to exchange knowledge about important topics³⁻⁷ and educate the society.⁸ Such practical solutions are more required in developing countries where the situation need more efforts.

Putting the pharmacist in the right position is among the steps that will surely improve the medical care through reorganizing the networks of the health care professionals and redefine the tasks of each individual of this network within both local and regional scale.

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Abdelaziz Ghanemi^{1,2}

¹Key Laboratory of Animal Models and Human Disease Mechanisms of the Chinese Academy of Sciences & Yunnan Province, Kunming Institute of Zoology, China

²University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

Correspondence: Abdelaziz Ghanemi, Key Laboratory of Animal Models and Human Disease Mechanisms, Kunming Institute of Zoology Chinese Academy of Sciences, China, Email ghanemiabdelaziz@hotmail.com

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Conflict of interest

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