

On the Inauguration of “*Rinsho Hyoka*(*Clinical Evaluation*)”*

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The mood to reevaluate clinical medicine more scientifically and rationally is being created in a part, still, of medical and pharmacological circles. Triggered by drugs with harmful side effects or no beneficial effect, the interest and discussion about the method of evaluation of drugs draw more interest in various circles, and lecture meetings and symposiums on the above topics are more frequently organized. However, most of the audience or participants are employees of drug companies. They have their limit in being scientific or rational, restricted by the policy of their company. In addition, not many medical doctors work in drug companies, and medical doctors in the drug company have less freedom and power. The discussion tends to be less fruitful in producing continuing progress. Mere methodology of drug evaluation is discussed, lacking deeper thought about the clinical medicine. The doctors working in clinical medicine, unless they have deep self criticism and active participation, can create nothing in the improvement of clinical medicine.

The above-mentioned trend is being recognized by more people, some attack medical doctors, others, giving up clinical doctors, go to drug companies in the hope to improve their attitude for drug evaluation, some others confine themselves to basic research on animals. On the other hand, some clinical doctors are trying to make drug evaluation fair and correct. However, clinical pharmacology is the cooperation or synthesis of various specialties, such as pharmaceutical science, toxicology, pharmacology, statistics, psychology, information processing, etc., and the cooperation of the various specialities cited above is essential. Therefore, it is essential to have a forum for specialists related to drug evaluation, and cooperative projects run jointly by different specialists in addition to clinicians are essential. They must first discuss the philosophy, and plan actual projects.

The forum for the above purpose should be publication, not lectures or seminars. Although there are already numerous journals and publications, most of them are either a digest or guide of new knowledge, description of know how, etc., or a report of non-clinical researches, including advertisement of drugs which may be exaggerated or not hundred percent correct. It is doubtful that these journals contribute to the progress of clinical evaluation, and some doubt the value of contributing to these journals even by request.

Based on the above consideration of the present situation of the problem, and after a few years careful thought and discussion among colleagues, we decided to inaugurate “*Rinsho Hyoka*” or “*Clinical Evaluation*” at our own expense and effort. The journal will handle not only evaluation of drug effect but also the reports of drug side effects or drugs which proved to be without anticipated effect with no commercial value. The journal will deal with topics in clinical science other than treatment, the criteria of diagnosis of a disease, standardized evaluation of improvement of symptoms, rational method for estimation of prognosis, ethical problems in treatment including drug in the situation of probability, or the meaning of statistical evaluation and limits in the problems related to human etc. We try to report the precious information which is valuable, but not reported because of sponsor’s negative attitude, and to make widely known the valuable information confined to small specialist group. We sincerely hope that the journal will be accepted by conscientious people, and will prove useful for them.

(trans. by Akira Nakajima)

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