

# Recommendations for Medical Education

Taiwan Association of Medical Education

## 1. Background

For 20 years, the development of medical doctors in Taiwan has been unable to meet the public demand for a good health service. This is disadvantageous to the medical service quality as a whole. The reasons include:

- (1) Due to insufficient general medical training, young doctors lack solid clinical abilities.
- (2) Quality education is not the focus. Doctors do not understand the methods for improving the quality and do not apply them to improve the system.
- (3) Specialist training is over-emphasized and too early. This has given rise to a technique-oriented, high-tech medical service. The fee-for-service system of the National Health Insurance has led to the situation that attending doctors do not focus on teaching and setting an example. Thus young doctors are unable to realize a professional and responsible medical service.
- (4) Instead of common diseases in the community, medical students learn to deal with unusual diseases through the hospital-based training. This can easily result in a waste of medical resources.
- (5) Humanity education is not the focus and doctors lack social concerns. Young doctors usually choose a specialist subject (such as dermatology and physical medicine and rehabilitation) which is more profitable and without the need of comprehensive care to be their specialization. Thus medical care is segmented and the public cannot have comprehensive and continuous health care.
- (6) The medical education lacks team training. Ideas of team service are not rooted in the heart of medical students. Coordination between different relevant professionals are far from ideal.

Currently teaching hospitals are business oriented. Attending doctors are encouraged to enhance performance by implementing the performance-based rating system and enhancing service quality. The educational function is therefore ignored. Due to the situation that the clinic duty of attending doctors is usually overloaded and they do not have sufficient time to supervise the residents, efficacy of the postgraduate year residency program is affected. Moreover, the attending doctors in teaching hospitals are not enthusiastic enough regarding teaching and their teaching skills need to be improved. In order to achieve the aim of postgraduate year residency program and improve quality of the medical service as a whole, it is necessary to reform the system

and take the following measures.