

[Speech 1—Abstract]

Current Issues of Medical Community and Leadership of Organized Medicine

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The world is drastically changing and so is the environment surrounding physicians. Among the challenges surrounding physicians, I would like to point out the confusion regarding who the actual healthcare provider is that has been triggered by the increasing restrictions placed on medical practice by health insurance. Physicians no longer enjoy full professional autonomy in patient care and are being subjected to ever increasing interference.

Another important problem we are facing is the emergence of allied professionals, which is the main topic of this meeting. Many other professions have encroached upon areas traditionally served by physicians and continue to expand their scope of practice. I fear that expansion of scope of practice by allied professionals would become our greatest problem if it continues without principles. I hope CMAAO leaders gathered for the meeting can fully discuss the matter and find a solution.

With such challenges, many young doctors

find themselves regretting their career choice. I believe it is the responsibility of us medical leaders to create an environment where these talented young physicians do not need to feel frustration or disappointment for joining our noble profession. Leaders of organized medicine need to protect physician's rights and to improve our practice conditions.

Leadership of organized medicine is especially required for managing difficult relationship with government, reforming medical education, organizing unified efforts to enhance our rights and influence towards society while serving patients as better qualified physicians, conducting effective public communication and improving media relations.

The Asia and Oceania region is the most rapidly changing region and I firmly believe that the leaders gathered here will play a pivotal role in the change and improvement of the medical community.

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