We contribute to improving the health and medical care quality of people around the world through the creation of novel pharmaceutical products.

The Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA) is an organization that, as of May 2018, represents 71 research-oriented pharmaceutical companies. We aim to continue to contribute to improving the health and medical care of people in Japan and around the world through the creation of innovative pharmaceutical products.

The mission of JPMA and its member companies is to meet the needs of patients waiting for the arrival of innovative pharmaceuticals and medical technologies as early as possible. At present, controlling the rise of social security expenditures, especially medical costs, is a focus of the Japanese government’s efforts toward sound fiscal policy. While reforms directed toward realizing effective medical care are important, it is equally true that there still exist a number of diseases with no established treatment (known as unmet medical needs). We must therefore exert our best efforts to fulfill the JPMA’s mission by making one successful innovation after another.

Innovations in our industry have the power to change the society. Namely, an innovative pharmaceutical product or a medical technology can help patients recover from their illness or help senior citizens suffer less from the effects of aging, which in turn will enable these people to support others instead of receiving support themselves. This shift in their position in society will make a positive contribution to the growth of the Japanese economy, resulting in improved sustainability of the social security system. In addition, IPS cell technology and other scientific breakthroughs give impetus to the advancement of science itself, including the progress of life science. The new industries that will emerge out of them will be able to develop globally as a next-generation driving force for the growth of Japan.

With the progress of science and technology, expectations of medical care have become more sophisticated, as represented by the new approaches of personalized medicine and preemptive medicine. The discovery of innovative pharmaceuticals and the development of new medical technologies have become increasingly difficult, resulting in more intense competition among nations. In this challenging environment, we believe it is very important for Japan to define the promotion of life science innovations as a core element in the national growth strategy and put into place a comprehensive science and technology promotion policy covering the entire process, from the creation of innovations through the appropriate valuation of the outcomes, so as to ensure that new pharmaceuticals and medical technologies will continue to be developed. With an aim of fostering an environment and scheme that will encourage the creation of innovations and their fair valuation, JPMA will continue its dialogue with all stakeholders to achieve mutual understanding and work closely together.

During fiscal year 2018, the JPMA will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding. On behalf of the organization, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the assistance all of you have extended to us over the years, and to state our commitment to enhancing the high levels of transparency and ethical standards in our activities so that JPMA remains an organization trusted by all.

George Nakayama
President, Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association
Chairman and CEO, Daiichi Sankyo Co., Ltd.

1976: Graduated from Waseda University, graduate school of science and technology, Department of Biological Engineering
1979: Graduated from Northwestern University School of Pharmacy, Illinois, MBA, joined Suntory Life Co., Ltd.
2000: Member of the Board, Suntory Life Co., Ltd.
2002: President of Daiichi Sankyo Pharma Co., Ltd.
2005: Member of the Board, Daiichi Sankyo Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.
2007: Corporate Officer and General Manager, B&U Business Management Department
2011: President and Chief Executive Officer
2012: President and Chief Executive Officer
2017: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

JPMA - Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association
PhRMA - Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
IFPMA - International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations
EFPIA - European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
ICH - International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use

PhRMA: Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
IFPMA: International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations
EFPIA: European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
ICH: International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use
JPMA: Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association

The Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA) is a voluntary association comprising 71 research-oriented pharmaceutical companies (as of April 2018).

JPMA, celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2018, has been contributing to advancing global healthcare through the development of innovative ethical drugs, facilitating sound development of the pharmaceutical industry through proactively establishing policies and recommendations in response to globalization and enhancing public understanding of pharmaceuticals.

As a member of the IFPMA, JPMA is engaged with various global issues in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sector, including countermeasures against emerging diseases across the globe and infectious diseases in developing countries, drug access problems, intellectual property rights and the threat of counterfeit drugs.

Working collaboratively with PhRMA and EFPIA, JPMA takes active roles as one of the Funding Industry Member of ICH, which aims at international harmonization of pharmaceutical regulations.

Through mutual information sharing and close collaboration with each member organization, JPMA continues to act globally for the advancement of medical treatments for patients worldwide.
Bringing Innovation in Drug Discovery to the World

The recent changes in the environment surrounding the pharmaceutical industry are very drastic and severe. The business risks are increasing due to the strict control of social security expenditure as well as the increased difficulty in new drug development, steep increase in R&D costs and escalation of international competition in R&D. Also, through continuing innovative drug development, we have to meet people’s expectations for economic growth while we contribute to the improvement of the health and welfare of people all over the world, fulfilling our mission. Based on these backgrounds and future predictability, we at R&D based pharmaceutical companies considered what we should work on with what perspective in the future. Moreover, in January 2016, we compiled “JPMA’s Industrial Vision 2025” with an aim to obtain understanding and cooperation from the industries other than the pharmaceutical industry about the value and importance of new drug development innovation.

Vision 1
Driving next-generation medicine with advanced drug discovery
– Contribution to P4+1 medicine –

We will help usher in the next generation of medicine (P4+1 medicine), taking drug discovery into a new era through both active use of advanced technologies and enhancement to existing technologies. We will aspire to provide each individual patient with the right drugs at the right time— including as preventive with the patient’s understanding.

Vision 2
Providing innovative drugs to 8 billion people worldwide

We will provide innovative drugs that we have developed to those who seek treatment, responding to the hopes of patients all over the world.

Vision 3
Leading the Japanese economy forward as a high value-added industry

We will create innovative drugs by improving management efficiency, in particular by streamlining R&D, and contribute to public health worldwide. As a result, we will also contribute to Japan’s economic growth, becoming a high value-added industry that plays an important role in Japan’s future.

Vision 4
Supporting to create an advanced healthcare country – Creating a society where people can live long, healthy lives with peace of mind –

We will encourage patients to play an active role in their treatment, and will encourage people to enjoy more fulfilling lives, while supporting to improve the sustainability of the social security system.

Vision 5
Becoming a trustworthy industry with noble aspiration

We will maintain high aspirations to fulfill our mission and become an industry that earns the trust of its stakeholders, with initiatives and codes of practice that are respected in Japan and even overseas. We will seek to improve understanding of the importance of innovation in drug discovery, encouraging more people to aspire to a career in pharmaceuticals, to otherwise seek to participate, or simply to have confidence in the future of drug discovery.
Contributions and Challenges of the Pharmaceutical Industry

Our aim is to contribute to improving the health and welfare of people around the world through continuous R&D and steady supply of exceptional drugs. To accomplish this, in addition to tackling the resolution of a wide range of issues, we are carrying out research and development through efforts such as earnestly and tirelessly pursuing life sciences to achieve remarkable developments, and corporate actions based on a high level of ethics. Moreover, not only is the pharmaceutical industry expected to strive for the realization of a society of tax-paying capacity and expansion of investment based on patient needs, but it is also expected to contribute to economic growth in terms of stable tax-paying capacity and expansion of investment through assured earnings for the purpose of continuing/renewing R&D activities for new drugs. The pharmaceutical industry is also anticipated to contribute to the development and spread of scientific technologies through actions including taking up challenges in cutting-edge fields and promoting industry-academia-government collaboration in the process of vigorous R&D activities. These contributions by the pharmaceutical industry are greatly anticipated to lead the growth and development of not only Japan, but the world, through contributions to global health that include spreading first-rate new drugs to the entire world and the exhibition of leadership as one of the few countries developing new drugs.

Develop and deliver scientific technologies
- Collaborative system for industry-academia-government
- Challenges in cutting-edge fields
- Cultivation/utilization of advanced, diverse human resources

Achieving a society of health and longevity
- Contributions of new drugs
- Initiatives for unmet medical needs
- Endeavors to overcome unmet medical needs
- Eliminating drug lag

Contributions to economic growth
- Stable, high-level tax-paying capacity
- The pharmaceutical industry as a high value-added industry
- Investments in R&D

Outstanding drug development capabilities in Japan

Only a few countries in the world develop new drugs since the technology to do so is extremely advanced and sophisticated. Of them, Japan is proud to rank second in the world for the number of new drugs developed. Currently, there is fierce global competition in new drug development. Ongoing steadfast R&D is required to maintain Japan as a world-class drug research country. Member companies of the Japan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (JPMA) will continue to invest in R&D to carry out the mission of the life science industry.

Contributions to global health
- Global distribution of new drugs
- Collaboration with Asian countries
- Japan’s role in developing new drugs
- Three major infectious diseases and NTDs

Contributions to economic growth
- Stable, high-level tax-paying capacity
- The pharmaceutical industry as a high value-added industry
- Investments in R&D
“Unmet medical needs” refers to the strong demand for drugs and medical care targeting diseases for which effective medical treatment methods have not yet been established. The level of satisfaction with medical treatment for diseases in the lower left of the graph is increasing due to the contributions of new drugs. On the other hand, there are few breakthrough therapies for the diseases in the upper right of the graph, and new drugs are anticipated to play a major role in medical treatment.

We need to tackle the challenges of infectious diseases globally to find solutions for the three major infectious diseases of AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, as well as the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) of dengue fever and Hansen’s disease. In addition, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which occurs when an antimicrobial agent that should work is ineffective, is a growing global threat. JPMR member companies are working toward resolutions to the global health issues of NTDs and AMR through collaboration with international organizations and other groups.

In the basic research stage, researchers produce numerous chemical compounds and then clarify the mechanism of action and find possible beneficial effects against any of a large number of diseases. Later, safety and efficacy are verified through non-clinical trials on entities such as animals and cells, and clinical trials on humans. Market access are finally made possible after review and approval. This process requires 9 to 16 years. Furthermore, about 1 in 25,000 of all such chemical compounds finally became a new drug (according to research by JPMR). Most chemical compounds never became drugs. Pharmaceutical companies exert much effort over a long period of time to create pharmaceutical products.

The level of satisfaction with medical treatment is shown in the upper right of the graph. Current satisfaction levels are highest for diabetes, obesity, and psychiatric/neurological diseases and cancer.
Gaining more accurate understanding of pharmaceutical products and the pharmaceutical industry

Gaining an understanding of pharmaceutical products and industry is critical to realize the value of medicines. JPMA communicates information, develops PR activities on pharmaceutical products to a wide range of parties and to deepen knowledge of pharmaceutical products and the pharmaceutical industry.

The JPMA awareness plan

The pharmaceutical industry develops with various support from society. We believe that two-way communication is crucial for a responsible industry that contributes to the community. Gaining a deep understanding of the industry and trust by many in the general public is the key for those activities. A public awareness campaign is held each year as a JPMA communication plan to gain to achieve this goal.

TV symposium, special TV programs

With the aim of gaining understanding from the general public regarding matters including the importance of the societal role played by R&D-oriented pharmaceutical companies and pharmaceutical products for medical use, TV symposiums and special programs are provided on topics such as “Medical Progress and New Drugs: Medical Aspirations” through tie-ups with local television stations.

The JPMA Forum is held to bring together representatives of member companies to exchange opinions with leaders in a variety of fields related to the JPMA, including Diet members, the government, relevant organizations, opinion leaders, patient groups and media.

APAC is an industry-driven initiative led by R&D-based pharmaceutical associations affiliated with the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations, regulatory agencies from various countries and academia. The aim is to accelerate access to innovative medicines for people in Asia by promoting mutual understanding of common issues and provide suggestions.

The Policy Seminar shares the future vision the pharmaceutical industry through panel discussions and seminars by experts of government and academia, with the aim of further enhancing integrated initiatives by industry, academia, and government.

Patient Group Seminars are held to promote cooperation with patients to exchange opinions and efforts towards developing new medicines through R&D. In addition, the “Together with patients” page at JPMA website provides a variety of information useful for patient and patient groups.