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Future of the Pharmaceutical Industry in the GCC Countries

Pharmaceutical Industry in the GCC Countries started some 25 years ago. The main idea was to decrease cost of the medications which was increasing rapidly. Some of the GCC Countries had a good start where they start by manufacturing under license for the major Pharmaceutical companies; the purpose was to get quality products and developing the know-how as well as the potential of technology transfer. Soon enough they discovered the Generics saving and raw materials can be purchased much cheaper than from the major Pharmaceutical companies which they manufacture for. The GCC pharmaceutical plants practically kicked off their partners and moved into the line of Generics. Competing with the major companies.

The GCC Pharmaceutical companies got some success in reducing the prices of the raw materials but this was at the expense of the quality of their products. The quality of Generics so far failed to match the Brand products. The GCC companies are still competing for the same line of products among and between the other GCC countries. The GCC Countries still import 90% of their drug needs from the major international companies. Biotechnology will never be different than the other Pharmaceutical products. There are limited efforts to establish a Pharmaceutical Biotechnology manufacturing in some of the GCC countries, the main products in mind are Insulin, Hormones and Vaccines.

I don't believe that our efforts in the GCC with Biotech products will be any different from that on the other Pharmaceuticals. The GCC need to join forces and set Research based facilities, try to integrate their manufacturing and work as one team for one Goal.

Biography

Abdulaziz has a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from King Saud University, and Doctorate degree in Clinical Pharmacy from the University of Minnesota, Certified Clinical Toxicologist and Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in intensive Care, also he is a Certified Professional in Health Care Quality (CPHQ), California, and USA. And Certified Six Sigma Master Black Belt. Also he is Certified KPI Professional and Practitioner. He is a former member of King Abdulaziz Quality Award, Committee, and CBAHI. He published seven books on Quality Management, Pharmacy, and Toxicology and more than 100 papers in national and international journals.

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