J Pharma Care Health Sys 2016, 3:2(Suppl)
http://dx.doi.org/10.4172/2376-0419.C1.012

4th African Pharma Congress

Expanded role of pharmacist for better patient care and to increase public awareness: Malaysian experience

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Changing pattern in pharmacy education and services around the globe has a great impact on Malaysia too. Clinical Pharmacy services started in Malaysia in late 80's where the syllabus for pharmacy education started to focus on patient's care and quality of life issues. Academic staffs were trained overseas to deal with varieties of specialty area in clinical pharmacy. Started from creating Master of Clinical Pharmacy program for staff pharmacists in the country and training for overseas pharmacists, the clinical pharmacy program begin to bloom which is accompanied closely with research aspect of patient's care. Awareness is being generated for community to understand their medical regimens and assure that the qualities of care by pharmacists are at par with other healthcare providers. Based on various publications and research on the services and pharmacy education in the country, pharmacists begin to stand high in the country. Currently all graduates in pharmacy, medical and dentistry in Malaysia will be directly absorbed for services in the government hospitals and contributes their knowledge and skills for the benefit of patient care. Beside medication adherence clinics, varieties of services including drive through pharmacy, postal pharmacy, home review medication etc has been initiated to improve patient's care especially in rural area and among aborigines. Various approaches and initiatives have been taken to improve aborigines' knowledge regarding diseases and compliance towards medications. These steps are taken to increase the awareness regarding healthcare and promoting self conscious regarding own healthcare.

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Implication of nanotechnology in oral delivery of small drug molecules, proteins and vaccine antigens

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Oral route is considered as the most natural, convenient and safest route of drug administration involving higher patient compliance, lesser complications and cost-effectiveness as compared to parental drug delivery. Nevertheless, therapeutic efficacy of a large number of perorally administered drugs is often obscured by their poor oral bio-availability (BA) attributed to their extensive first pass metabolic effect by cytochrome P-450 liver microsomal enzyme system as also their efflux by an over expressed plasma membrane transporter P-glycoprotein efflux pump (P-gp). In recent years, the exploitation of nanotechnology for oral application has experienced phenomenal strides. Among the broad spectrum of nanocarriers that has shown promise in oral drug delivery, polymeric and lipidic nanoparticles (NPs) deserve special mention. These nanoparticles, when administered via oral route, are taken up by the M cells in Payer's patches and transported from the gut lumen to intra-epithelial lymphoid cells and thereafter into the blood stream through the lymphatic system. This special transport pathway plays a distinct role in enhancing the BA of NP encapsulated drug while avoiding enzymatic degradation in enterocytes, first pass metabolism in liver and concomitant reduction in dose and drug associated toxicity. The present talk will focus on the various nanocarriers viz. polymeric nanoparticles, lipidic nanoparticles, liposomes, SEDDS, drug nanocrystals etc. developed by our group for bioavailability enhancement of wide range of bioactives.

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