

《特別講演》

MEDICAL SCIENCES IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Hiroo IMURA

(Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan)

A variety of medical and health care problems may emerge in the 21st century. Among them, I would like to focus on two subjects that may be especially important in the Asia and Oceania region.

(1) Emerging or re-emerging infections. The progress of antibiotics and public health seems to have overcome infectious diseases that have threatened human health for centuries. Recent trends of infections in the world suggest, however, that this threat will continue and may even intensify in the next century. Many factors, such as overpopulations, international travels, changing human behavior and microbial and host factors may be involved in emergence or re-emergence of infections.

(2) Diseases due to acculturation. Many Asian countries have been industrialized and acculturated in the past decades. This acculturation is causing a new health problem: increases of diabetes, obesity, hypertension and coronary heart disease. These diseases may develop on the basis of complex interactions of genetic and environmental factors. A new concept that gives an insight into the pathogenesis of these diseases will be discussed.