

## EF-2-4 **International Exchange Programs-They Benefit Both Partners**

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It is the responsibility of university faculty to train graduates who are prepared to use sophisticated therapeutics to improve the health and well-being of patients today, and in the future. Pharmacy school curriculum must be designed to provide strong basic science which is integrated with clinical science and adequate experiential exposure and training. Recent changes in pharmacy curriculum in Japan have been implemented to address these ideas. Changes to pharmacy curriculum were accomplished in the United States a number of years ago and they are constantly undergoing evaluation and revision to ensure that graduates are prepared to meet the future needs of society with the primary aim of ensuring safe and effective delivery of medications. International exchange programs are an additional way to help prepare and train students from both countries. By exchanging ideas and by exposing each other to different educational systems, different healthcare systems, and different practice models, both partners can learn how to further advance the practice of pharmacy in their home country. The most effective type of program is one that integrates learning sessions and experiential sessions. “Role model” faculty provide background. Placement of students into a patient care area allows the student to see personally the interaction and role of the pharmacist in an interdisciplinary environment and working directly with patients. It should be the goal of all universities to establish international exchange programs with these ideals in mind.