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The basic design of the Japanese social security system was developed during the post-war years of recovery and economic growth, and the pre-eminent ‘health-insurance system that covers all citizens’ was established in the years when infectious diseases remained leading causes of death. Economic growth and the progress in healthcare technologies have made it possible for us to live longer than ever before. The aging of society is the result of success in obtaining the long life span that we have been striving for.

With the progress in societal aging, demographics of diseases in the population are changing from exogenous diseases such as tuberculosis to endogenous diseases such as cancer and diabetes. In response, the pharmaceutical industry is now changing drastically, from the conventional “one drug fits all approach” of mass production to a “personalized medicine approach” focusing on precision healthcare. It is also necessary to accelerate investment not only “treatment” but also in “disease prevention.”

There are high expectations for new technologies in many countries, both as a way to solve various kinds of medical problems and to stimulate economic growth. However, innovation is not only focused on technological development but also on changing paradigms in industry and society. If we can deal with these changes appropriately, the public fiscal burden of medical and nursing-care costs will be reduced, and new industry will be born out of new societal needs.

The Future of Healthcare and Medical System



● Considering the increase of Endogenous Disease (Life-style Related Disease/Aging Disease) , the establishment of a new prevention-oriented healthcare system is needed.

		Common Diseases	Treatment Plan	Healthcare System Needed
Exogenous	Diseases with Single Target Agents	Communicable Disease	Permanent Cure	Develop <u>drugs with high response rate</u> and deliver them to patients quickly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop drugs with high safety and response rate Provide drugs at rational prices through improvement of manufacturing tech Establish quick and accurate diagnosis methods (e.g. biomarker)
		Hereditary Disease		
Endogenous	Aging-related Diseases	Cancer (with high target specificity)	Early Diagnosis	Find <u>potential patients in early stages</u> & <u>manage/control the progression of symptoms</u> Establish <u>effective diagnosis/treatment through accumulation of evidence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop technology for early diagnosis Provide lifestyle guidance as medical practice in addition to prescription of drugs Establish more objective methods of controlling disease progression
		Cancer Dementia	Disease Progression Control	
	Life-style Related Diseases	Hypertension Diabetes	Early Diagnosis Prevention Behavioral Change	Find <u>potential patients in early stages</u> & <u>build prevention-oriented healthcare system</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be thorough in periodic health checkups and health guidance Develop health management tools using IoT / AI Strengthen roles of pharmacists and registered dietitians Promote self-medication