

## Transforming Pharmacy Practice

**Allan Mathews**

Quest International University Perak, Malaysia

In ancient times, the pharmacist practiced side-by-side with the doctor in treating a patient giving the impression of equal responsibility bearing. The two professions were legally separated in the 13<sup>th</sup> century in Europe. The pharmacist retreated to the pharmacy and compounded medication according to the prescription received and dispensed to the patient carrying out instructions of the doctor. Compounding was the independent area of practice. With mass production of pharmaceutical dosage forms, the need for compounding became less and the pharmacist focused on dispensing of prescriptions expanding into prescription screening. Three main areas of practice evolved – community pharmacy, hospital/clinical pharmacy and industrial pharmacy. Community pharmacy evolved to a place where medicines are dispensed and became discount centers, shops selling items not related to healthcare and moving away from evidence-based pharmacy. Countries vary in the extent of empowerment on the range of controlled medicines the pharmacist can deal without a prescription. Hospital/Clinical pharmacy evolved with the pharmacist being heavily involved in direct pharmaceutical care of patients while retaining custodianship of the medicine supply chain. Value creation and recognition continue to be a problem. The prescriber bears virtually the full responsibility. Prescribing by pharmacists has taken hold as well as expanded roles in administration of medicines and in medicine management. The challenge is how to develop independent areas of practice leading to responsibility bearing, value creation and recognition. Another challenge is to develop world-wide commonality of practice. The focus of training of pharmacists should be to create full-fledged practitioners rather than advisors.

### Biography:

Dr. Allan Mathews holds a B.Pharm (Hons) degree and post-graduate qualifications in Clinical Pharmacy, Operations Management, Sales Management and Marketing. He is a registered pharmacist in Malaysia as well as a life-member of the Malaysian Pharmaceutical Society. He also serves as a member of the Pharmacy Board of Malaysia. He has got 14 years of experience in Hospital/Clinical Pharmacy, 22 years in Industrial Pharmacy and 10 years in academia. He practices as a community pharmacist at the faculty-run community pharmacy in addition to his current role as the Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, Quest International University Perak, Malaysia.