

Where is the broken health care to go in Korea? " An easy fix!"

The Korean health care system made a substantial progress over recent years through the national health insurance system, brilliant advancements especially in the technical aspect of medical care and medical information technology, etc.

However, the recent outbreak of MERS in Korea showed us how fragile and unbalanced the Korean health care system could be , not only for the health aspect of the citizens but also for national economy, politics, diplomacy, etc .

This out-break, we must accept as a wake-up call to reform and re-structure the basic fabric of the Korean health care delivery system, scientifically and culturally, enlightening ourselves about the importance of the primary care and the basic preventive processes in medical care in a society.

Compared with other developed countries i.e., OECD countries, where average 9.3% of GDP(up to 16.9% in USA) is used for the health care of their citizens, Korea has allocated only 7.6% of GDP to the health care of Korean people ,of which less than 5 % the health care dollars are from public resources.

It mandates a national discussion for proper allocation of the national wealth to the health care of the citizens and we need to re-allocate the health care dollars into the important but currently ignored , fragile sectors of the health industry such as preventive medicine, primary care and implement ways to cut down the waste of the health care dollars currently being used in the non-essential area such as scientifically unproven territories of oriental and even the modern medicine.

Medical care is an extremely complex science and some things in medicine are simply beyond our capacity, occasionally fallible. Ignorance and ineptitude, so well described in 70's as the frequent causes of medical failure, were proved again to be true in the case of the recent Korean MERS outbreak.

Our job is to minimize/prevent the fallibility through diligent, innovative, and continuing efforts.

The medical science dropped its complexity and challenges upon us, all health care-related personnel in Korea. Getting the right steps will be very hard.