

### *Visiting Professorship Report: Kobe Gakuin University – June 2025*

Dr. Adam N Pate, PharmD, BCPS  
Professor and Chair of Pharmacy Practice  
University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy  
Kobe Gakuin University Affiliation- Visiting Professor

Spending a month as a visiting professor at Kobe Gakuin University was an unforgettable opportunity to exchange ideas, cultures, and perspectives on the evolving role of pharmacists in addressing healthcare needs. Through eight interactive lectures, I had the privilege of introducing Japanese pharmacy students and faculty members to the U.S. healthcare system and the many ways pharmacists impact patient care.

#### **Overview of Activities**

May 15, 2025 - June 16, 2025, I served as a visiting professor in the department of pharmaceutical sciences at Kobe Gakuin University Port Island campus. My primary responsibility was to deliver an 8-part comprehensive lecture series on the U.S. healthcare system and pharmacy practice to pharmacy students across all year levels. The experience included both classroom teaching and collaborative engagement with faculty and students.

#### **Quantifiable Engagements and Contributions**

- Delivered 8 formal lectures and 8 accompanying quizzes, with strong student performance.
- Collaborated closely with Dr. Nakamoto and Dr. Kamei in lecture development and delivery.
- Held 15 formal meetings and met with 14 different faculty members to discuss teaching, research, and global collaboration.
- Toured pharmacy practice labs and research facilities to better understand ongoing research endeavors at KGU.
- Engaged with students on their research and career goals through informal discussions and small group meetings.
- Participated in cultural and relationship-building activities, including a student barbecue and excursions to Akashi and Kyoto with Dr. Shirakawa and Dr. Fukushima.

## Lecture Series Overview

### Lecture 1: The U.S. Healthcare System

Introduced the structure, financing, and key players in the U.S. healthcare system, including Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance. Compared to Japan's universal coverage and highlighted issues like access, cost, and fragmentation.

### Lecture 2: Pharmacy in the U.S. Healthcare System

Focused on how pharmacists fit into U.S. healthcare, including provider status challenges, roles in primary care, and their integration into public and private care models.

### Lecture 3: What do Pharmacists do: the Pharmacist's Patient Care Process.

Discussed the PPCP framework as a way to explain and advocate for what pharmacists do in providing direct patient care which is broadly applicable to all areas of pharmacy practice.

### Lecture 4: Community Pharmacy Practice

Explored the evolution of and services offered in U.S. community pharmacies beyond dispensing, such as immunizations, point-of-care testing, and medication therapy management.

### Lecture 5: Ambulatory Care & Billing for Services

Discussed ambulatory care pharmacy practice and the mechanics of billing for services in the U.S., including CPT codes, collaborative practice agreements, and documentation.

### Lecture 6: Medication Safety

Covered systems and processes designed to reduce medication errors and enhance patient safety, including ISMP guidelines, root cause analysis techniques, and developing a just culture.

### Lecture 7: Pharmacovigilance: FDA and REMS

Reviewed the systems used to actively and passively monitor post-approval drug safety in the U.S., including REMS programs and the FDA's FAERS and Sentinel systems.

### Lecture 8: Future of the Profession

Encouraged students to consider how the pharmacy profession is evolving in the U.S. and Japan, including digital health, value-based care, and expanded roles in public health. Students reflected on what they learned, completed a cumulative quiz, and participated in discussions about global trends in pharmacy and their own career aspirations.

### Student Engagement and Learning Outcomes

Students were engaged, asking insightful questions and comparing U.S. practices with their own experiences in Japan. Questions such as 'Do pharmacists want to have more

responsibilities in the U.S.?' and 'If pharmacists charge a dispensing fee, how do they lose money on a prescription?' demonstrated a strong interest in understanding systemic and professional differences.

Survey feedback showed:

- 24 students were 'much more interested' in the pharmacy profession after the series
- Top lectures included Pharmacovigilance, Medication Safety, and the U.S. Healthcare System
- Students also expressed new career aspirations, including clinical pharmacy, global health, and medication safety

### Reflections and Impact

This visiting professorship provided an invaluable opportunity for professional and cultural exchange. As I leave KGU I am left realizing it is so similar to Ole Miss. You'll always be a part of the university no matter where you go. I hope that my efforts helped to further deepen institutional partnerships but most importantly maybe inspired students with some new ideas of how they may apply themselves when they become pharmacists. I am forever grateful for the kindness and hospitality of the KGU faculty, staff, and students and for the opportunity to represent the University of Mississippi School of Pharmacy.