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Creation of Care Science: Towards a Person-Centered Society

Hiroko Komatsu¹, Yumi Nishimura²

¹Faculty of Nursing and Medical Care, Keio University, Japan

²Faculty of Health Science, Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan

The number of deaths in Japan is increasing while the population is shrinking at an unprecedented speed. It is estimated that about one out of 2.5 persons will be aged 65 or older by 2060. Furthermore, global environmental changes and uncertain socioeconomic situations generate diverse, complex health issues. Now is the time to prioritize “care” in terms of ensuring a better quality of life for people living in society; however, health issues are often so complex that they cannot be covered by one scientific discipline and conventional knowledge related to care thus faces a challenge. In order to respond to diverse and complex health issues, a new framework of care and science is required.

In recent years, the nursing working group of Science Council of Japan has discussed theories and concepts related to care and the possibility of creating a new science for future study beyond the conventional academic boundaries, using the concept of “Care Science.” In this lecture, the background of “Care Science” will be presented, and a proposal will be made for related academic activities, organizations, and social engagement.

“Care Science” has been confirmed as interdisciplinary care research arising from relationships in biological, living, social, and global contexts in the nursing working group. Care Science eventually may change attitudes toward and perspectives about care among members of society, suggesting that it may lead towards the realization of a person-centered society. Hopefully, this lecture will be the beginning of a breakthrough in active discussion on the creation of Care Science.