

Handbook of Chinese Medicine for the prevention of SARS



Introduction

When SARS was on the rage, Taiwan could not escape its attack. The first SARS case occurred on March 14, and the Department of Health immediately started the alarm. To prevent the spread of the epidemic, the competent agency of health started the epidemic control mechanism and took the measures of prevention, notification, tracking, quarantine, and treatment to ensure the physical and mental health of the people in the nation.

As SARS is a newly emerging disease, so far there is no vaccine for protection and no way to destroy coronavirus for effective treatment. To cope with the outbreak, the Executive Yuan Department of Health set up a counter-SARS panel and this committee organized a “decision-making panel for controlling SARS with traditional Chinese medicine.” On May 6, to cooperate with the national confederation of the associations of Chinese medicine practitioners, CCMP established “an expert group for controlling SARS with the use of Chinese medicine” and invited experts, scholars, and clinical doctors to engage in professional discussion on the prevention and treatment of the disease. The meeting also discussed how to conduct joint diagnosis with Western medical doctors and provide measures for an all-out fight against SARS in the nation.

To establish the norm of treating SARS with the use of Chinese medicine, this committee entrusted the national confederation of Chinese medicine practitioners to compile a handbook and invited Lin Chao-keng, convener of the expert meeting, to serve as its chief editor. This was intended to strengthen Chinese medicine practitioners’ understanding and treatment of SARS. We hoped that Chinese medicine practitioners in the nation would join in SARS control in full force to win the battle for the health of the people.