

Compendium of Key Achievement of SARS Prevention by Traditional Chinese Medicine in Taiwan



Introduction

To cope with SARS crisis, the Legislative Yuan passed a special budget of NT\$50 billion. Upon the urge of Dr. Lee Yuan-tseh, president of the Academia Sinica and leading science advisor to the Executive Yuan, the government set up a “Special Research Plan for SARS.” Of the amount, NT\$50 million was set aside under the budget of the National Science Council for the establishment of a Chinese Medicine Division in the plan for educating and training Chinese medical practitioners to stop the loophole traditional Chinese medicine might pose. Prof. Chen Chie-fu, director of the National Research Institute for Chinese Medicine, Prof. Chang Yung-hsiang, vice president of the Chinese Medical University, Prof. Wu Yong-chang, director of the Graduate Institute of Natural Products at Kaohsiung Medical University and I were asked to serve as the conveners of the division. In two public efforts to solicit research projects made on June 23 and September 23, 2003, we received a total of 38 proposals. There was a SARS education, training, and publicity project presided over jointly by Lin I-hsin and Hsieh Po-chow.

The accomplishments of the educational and training project: Under the project, the division held in northern, central, southern and eastern Taiwan 36 sessions of anti-SARS educational training, including a workshop for training Chinese medical practitioners as SARS-control seed teachers, 16 workshops for training SARS-control Chinese medical practitioners, 13 workshops for educating Chinese medical practitioners, 4 workshops for training Chinese medical nurses, and 3 experience

exchange workshops for Western and Chinese medical workers from the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao as well as Taiwan. The total number of participants came to 7500, increasing the SARS understanding of Chinese medicine practitioners, businessmen and nurses. With regard to the development of herbal medicine for controlling SARS, several articles were published in international medical journals and patents were applied for them. The accomplishments in this regard were posted on this committee's SARS-control website (sars.ccmp.gov.tw). The committee has also published a book and a DVD on this subject. In SARS control, this committee has attained the goal of assembling top-notch researchers, providing full support, achieving the synergetic effectiveness, and joining the fight with the least loss of time.

This committee's accomplishments in participating in the SARS-control plan were compiled into a book titled "SARS Control Through Chinese Medicine—a Training and Education Handbook." The book has the following contents: Origin of SARS, Definition of SARS, Symptoms and Communication Path of SARS, an Analysis of the Results of Chinese Medical Researches and SARS-control Achievements, the Center for Disease Control's Policy for Containing SARS, Operation of the Medical Network for Infectious Disease Control, In-hospital SARS Control, SARS Seen from the Chinese Medical Perspective of Epidemics, SARS Seen in the Perspective of Chinese Medical Dialectics, SARS Treatment Through Adjustment of the Immune System with Chinese Medicine, Traditional Chinese Medical Workers' Role in SARS Control, a Review of SARS Workshops for Training and Educating Chinese Medical Workers, SARS Prevention Seen in the Perspective of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Chinese Medical Nursing for SARS Patients, Chinese Medical Nursing and SARS Prevention, a Study of Chinese Medical Archives on SARS, the Theory of Combining Western and Chinese Medicines for SARS Control, and an Analysis of Epidemic Control Recipes Passed Down from Dynasties.

Here, I want to thank the National Science Council for providing the budget for the establishment of the Chinese Medical Division and for its smooth operations. I also thanks the directors of the various special projects, the associations of Chinese medical practitioners at all levels, the associations of herbal businesses, and the association of Chinese medical nurses. I acknowledge the painstaking efforts made by director Hsieh Po-chow of this committee's division of research and development and assistant Yu Yi-chun for ceaselessly publicizing Chinese medical

control on SARS. The publicity across the island has established the concept of using traditional Chinese medicine for controlling SARS and reduced the waste of resources caused by misuse of Chinese medicine. In this respect, their contribution cannot be said as insignificant.

In closing, I hope this book will be used as a good reference by practitioners of Chinese medicine and related scholars. Their comments are always welcome.