

**Chinese Medicine Research & Development  
Strategy and Research Achievements Sponsored  
by the Committee on Chinese Medicine and  
Pharmacy, Department of Health, Executive  
Yuan(1996~2005)**



### Introduction

The Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy has entered the tenth year of existence since its establishment on November 1, 1995. From the beginning, it has made the promotion of scientific research for Chinese medicine one of its priority tasks. It contracts out 60-80 research projects a year. Besides publishing the results of the researches in its annual report and through its website (<http://www.ccmp.gov.tw>), the committee holds research result presentation meetings every year, in which it invites experts of the center of bio-technology to lecture on the model of academia-industry cooperation to promote research knowledge interchange between the industry, government, and academia. Through such meetings, this committee shares the results of its research projects with people of various interested circles in order to promote the development of Chinese medicine and pharmacy.

The Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy was established in 1949 as an advisory outfit of the Ministry of the Interior. The advisory outfit was remade into an executive branch of the Department of Health in 1995. In the nearly half a century as an advisory outfit, the committee could not do much for Taiwan's Chinese medical development. Since the elevation of status, the reinvented committee has played its role effectively in making policy proposals and in promoting Chinese

medicine and pharmacy in the last decade or so. In the period, it has had three chairpersons, Su Kuan-chung (Nov. 1995–Jan. 1998), Chang Chen-kuo (Mar. 1998–Jan. 2002), and the incumbent Lin I-hsin (since Jan. 2001). The first two chairpersons laid the foundation, whereas the incumbent one has made vigorous efforts for the development of Chinese medicine and pharmacy and the creation of a safe environment for their application. The remarkable achievements of the committee in the past decade are, in general, recognized by various circles. These achievements included the establishment and perfection of the Chinese Pharmacy Clinical Evaluation Center, publication of Taiwanese Pharmacopoeia (originally, Chinese Pharmacopoeia), implementation of GMP for all Chinese pharmaceutical plants, issue of license for a herbal medicine following the FDA procedure, announcement of the Guidance for Safe Operation of Chinese Medical Institutes and Clinics, establishment of the systems of inspecting Chinese medical hospitals and of clinical teaching, and acceleration of communication with Chinese medical circles.

Before a policy is launched, this committee invariably engages in prudent evaluation (by contracting the academia or the industry) and canvasses different opinions. Here, I hope you will not hesitate to offer your views in our formulation of policies.

The Harvard Business Review has forecast that herbal medicine will become one of the four most important industries in the next 20 years. Our government has also paid great attention to this prospect. The Executive Yuan and the Ministry of Economic Affairs have advanced several promotional plans, and this committee has made systematic studies. At present, our scientific researches are focused on two aspects: the Integrated Plan for Modernizing and Internationalizing Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy and the National Project for Genomic Studies of Chinese Medicine (the Challenge 2008 Plan). To chart the course for our scientific studies, we have recruited the best and brightest people in the industry, the government and the academia to serve as our scientific and technological advisors. We hold several advisory meetings every year to hammer out the priorities of studies in keeping with the need of our operations. We hope that through these studies we can raise the quality of Chinese medicines and provide scientific data required for ensuring people's health and globalizing Chinese medicines.

This Symposium on Technology for Chinese Medicine and

Pharmacy has achieved great results. In the meeting, 11 herbal medicine experts from the industry, government, and academia have made lectures. The topics include Chairman Lin Yi-hsin's "An Analysis of the Results of Researches Outsourced by Committee on Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy," DOH executive yuan departmental deputy director Fan Yong-ta's "Current State of Research Projects of the Biological Department of the National Science Council," division director Li Lientze's "Development of Herbal Medicines for Liver Diseases and Asthma," Li Ying-hsing's "Application of Omics to the Study of Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy," Director Wu Tien-shang's "Development and Application of Natural Medicines," researcher Wu Jui-yu's "Development of Herbal Medicines for Healing Diabetic Wounds," departmental director Huang Mei-ta's "Direction for Planning Long-term Care," departmental director Chen Lu-hung's "State of Management for Health Foods," section chief Chang Jen-ping's "Patent Application and Approval for Herbal Medicines," hospital director Lin Lung-yao's "Application of Evidence-based Medicine to Clinical Evaluation of Herbal Medicine."

In the 2004 meeting of research results presentation, there were Director Lin Yi-hsin's "Accomplishment of the Five-year Planning for the Clinical Evaluation Center," Prof. Lin Chao-keng's "A Study of Archives on the Evaluation of the Healing Effects of Herbal Medicines," Director of General Affairs Chen Shih-hsiong's "Breeding and Cultivation of Local Medical Herbs," Prof. Su, Yi-chang's "A Study of the Physique, Gene, and Protein Expression of Allergic Rhinitis Patients," and director Lan Hsien-yuan's "Depression as Seen in Western and Chinese Medicines: an Exploration into the Genetic and Clinical Expression and Correlation." Through the holding of such meetings, the committee has shared its research results with others and so the discussions have provided an impetus to the development of Chinese medicine.

Chinese medicine and pharmacy are the legacy of our ancestors. At a time when humans are faced with the death threats from cancer and other diseases and there is no cure with synthetic drugs, a return to the natural way of seeking good health has become the rage of the day. We anticipate herbal medicine will become a stellar industry in the future and, bearing this in mind, we hope we can encourage each other to strive for the good health of all.