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Conference Summary

Integrative medicine is an evolving field and the future of healthcare: a summary of the 2017 Integrative Medicine Shanghai Forum


The first Integrative Medicine Shanghai Forum (IMSF), with the theme “Integrative medicine is an evolving field and the future of healthcare,” sponsored by the Shanghai Association of Chinese Integrative Medicine (SACIM), was successfully held at the Lake Meilan International Convention Center, Shanghai, on December 3, 2017. Prof. Ke-ji Chen, honorary president of the Chinese Association of Integrative Medicine and member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Prof. Wei-kang Zhao, honorary president of SACIM and a tenured professor at Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Prof. Hong-ming Li, vice chairman of the Shanghai Association for Science and Technology, and Prof. Huai-qiong Zhang, deputy director of the Shanghai Municipal Commission of Health and Family Planning and director of the Shanghai Municipal Office for Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine, all attended the opening ceremony and gave speeches.

Over 1400 delegates attended the meeting. The forum was chaired by You-gen Zhang, secretary-general of SACIM and opened by Chang-quan Ling, president of SACIM. Wen-jian Wang, honorary president of SACIM gave the welcome address.

In his speech, Prof. Ke-ji Chen pointed out that China has been a pioneer in integrative medicine, with the mission “New Medicine, New Life” being applied widely, playing a leading role in promoting integrative medicine worldwide. Shanghai is one of the most important cities where Chinese and Western medicine was practiced in integrated fashion. The SACIM was founded in 1981, and the past 36 years have witnessed the gradual growth of the association. At the very beginning, SACIM had only 300-plus members; today, it has around 10,000 individual members and 35 institutional members, with 63 professional committees including the Committee on Deficiency Syndrome and Geriatric Medicine and the Committee of Activating Blood and Resolving Stasis. Under the leadership of the Chinese Association of Integrative Medicine, SACIM is obliged to actively carry out academic exchanges at home and abroad, involve more medical staff in advancing the research and application of integrative medicine, and ultimately achieve the mission of “New Medicine, New Life.”

In the main sessions of the forum, Prof. En Li, honorary professor of Macau University of Science and Technology, Prof. Ping Liu,

vice president of Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and Prof. Wei-dong Zhang, director of the Modern Research Center for Traditional Chinese Medicine, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, the Second Military Medical University gave keynote lectures titled “Integrated Chinese and Western medicine leads the new era of medicine,” “Combination of disease and syndrome in the development of integrated traditional Chinese and Western medicine” and “Modern research on traditional Chinese medicine prescriptions: strategies and practices.”

Other wonderful events included panels on medical engineering, activating blood and resolving stasis, pediatrics, skin venereal disease, tumors, critical care medicine, and obstetrics and gynecology. Top scholars in these fields were invited to share their insights with the audience.

In his closing speech, President Chang-quan Ling announced that, according to the resolution of the eighth board of directors of SACIM, IMSF would be held on the first weekend of every December after 2017. IMSF will cover a variety of topics including theories, clinical practices, education, and management in the field of integrative medicine, and the audience will be comprised of professionals from Shanghai but may also be traditional Chinese medicine practitioners from China and throughout the world. It is the SACIM’s ambition to make IMSF into a highly influential platform for academic exchange and knowledge sharing, so as to promote the progress of integrative medicine in China and abroad.

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” With this IMSF as a new starting point, SACIM will continue to build larger academic platforms and cultivate a collaborative atmosphere for high-quality academic exchanges. It is believed that, after years of arduous efforts, IMSF will finally become highlighted as a well-recognized academic conference.

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