

## **Panel 4: History and Practice of Korean Medicine**

### **Panel description: outstanding**

**Panel organiser:** Prof. Wungsuk Cha (College of Oriental Medicine at Kyunghee University, Korea)

### **Panel Participants and abstracts**

#### **4. 01 Cultivating Korean Medicine: Institutions of Korean Medicine**

By Taewoo Kim

Despite its active practice and theoretical innovation, Korean medicine has been underrepresented in the study of traditional Asian medicine. Drawing on ethnographic investigations of Korean medicine in South Korea, this study presents how contemporary Korean medicine is constructed and delivered. The distinctive characteristic of Korean medicine in South Korea can be seen in its two-layered institutional sectors. The first sector includes Korean medical schools, university hospitals, research institutions, and large-scale private hospitals; the second consists of private Korean medicine clinics run by Korean medicine doctors and academic societies whose members are private clinic practitioners. With the same institutional structure as its biomedical counterpart, the first sector provides social authority to Korean medicine. The second sector plays a major role in care delivery, taking care of more than 90% of patients who turn to Korean medicine. The lack of integration between Korean medicine and biomedicine is noticeable, in particular, in the second sector. The social authority achieved by the first sector and medical laws in South Korea banning biomedical practice by Korean medicine doctors contextualize the second sector's endeavor to retain indigenous epistemology in diagnoses and therapies. The medical practices of the private clinics are significantly influenced by the medical theories of the academic societies. Referring to medical archives of East Asian medicine and building on rich experiences in clinical practice, the academic societies develop and reevaluate medical theories for efficacious therapeutic strategies. With its vital activities, Korean medicine in contemporary South Korea illustrates a noteworthy way of cultivating tradition.

#### **4.02 Interfaces of Korean Traditional Medicine in Contemporary Practice : The Case of Korean Manupuncture**

By Anne-Sophie Dachtet

In view of the integration of modern science and technology throughout the world, Oriental Medicine in Korea has been exposed to the rule of Western Medicine. Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture were considered as integral part of OM in the past but today as well. Since 1971, an other complementary therapy, Korean Manupuncture, has expanded in South Korea. This paper intends to discuss a recent alternative healthcare system distinguished by traditional medical knowledge and modern practices.

My clinical work has been influenced by research reports on advanced medical theories recently published, and special training courses supervised by Doctor Jung Yung-hwan at the School of Korean Traditional Medicine in France, and the Institute of KM in Seoul founded by Doctor Yoo Tae-woo.

In theory KM is based on traditional concepts but the skilful practice of KM depends particularly on the practitioner's use of the sense of touch, that plays a more important role in diagnosis and treatment than with traditional schools of Acupuncture. KM uses specific techniques (like electronic instruments), that raise questions about the mechanism of action of KM in the context of medical modernization.

This presentation reflects on how Traditional Medicine is still deeply rooted in Korean culture, but also Korean society has developed its own modern medical system. I will illustrate precisely that Korean

Medicine in the 20th century has very distinctive features. The application of modern scientific methods in KM may have a great impact on practice of Traditional Medicine in South Korea in the 21st century.

#### **4.03 A new access to disease : Sasang Medecine, Constitution and Disease**

Song, Youngil

Traditional medical doctor of Korea International Cooperation Agency

This panel provide a convenient and sensitive method for healing disease. Sasang medicine is a branch of medical science which was initiated by *Lee Je Ma*(1836-1900), a medical scholar in the later *Chosun*-now Korea-dynasty. The main idea of Sasang medicine is that every one has his own constitution which is unique and unchangeable. There are four types of constitution : Greater Yang(Tae-Yang), Greater Yin(Tae-Yin), Lesser Yang(So-Yang), and Lesser Yin(So-Yin).

Depending on one's constitution the treatment for the same disease may differ each other. The symptoms for the same disease are manifested in a different way. Sasang medicine is a unique and originative medical theory which proves the originality and independence of Korean medicine.

Just as there are no identical people, so everyone shows a different physiology because the strengths of internal organs called five Zang and six Fu organs, are different. Sasang medicine calls it constitution. According to the constitution, people have different characters, tastes and even diseases that they are susceptible to. Therefore, Sasang medicine attaches more importance to constitution in terms of preventive medicine than to treatments and cures.

For example, some people overcome cold by sweating while others don't. And some gain weight when they are under stress while others lose weight. Some feel weary in time of seasonal changes while others gain energy. This presentation aims to share the basic theory of Sasang medicine.

#### **4.04 The Advent of Western Cephalocentrism in 19th Century Korea**

According to many historians, the organic nature of East Asian Medicine stands in specific contrast with the more mechanical character of Western medicine. This dichotomy, although useful in some sense, has frustrated serious historical research into East Asian medicine. In this presentation, I hope to adjust this dichotomy by analyzing an example of a conjugated understanding of the body, which was accomplished during an encounter between East Asian medical knowledge and the Western concept of body.

Choi Han-Ki (1803-1877), a revisionist thinker who distinguished himself from the majority of Confucianist intellectuals in his age, proposed a unique way of understanding the concept of body. In fact, it was largely a compromise between the traditional East Asian concept viewed with imported Western medical knowledge. Choi actively sought Western medical and general scientific knowledge by reading books containing knowledge of Western sciences. In his endeavor to arrive at a compromise between the two different perspectives of the body, Choi remained sensitive about the cephalocentric idea of body, which was related to the Christian God. While incorporating the Western mechanical concept of body into his perspective, Choi was careful not import any element that had even a nuance of Christianity. This example demonstrates the complex situation faced during the 19<sup>th</sup> century by East Asian medical specialists, just before their complete reception of Western medical ideas. The result of this particular encounter was not simply a syncretism, but it was a well-considered idea of themselves.

#### **4.05 The Value of 『Seungjeongwon Igi 承政院日記』, Medical Record of the Royal Secretariat, in the History of Korean Medicine**

Cha WungSeok, College of Oriental Medicine, KyungHee University in Korea

『**Seungjeongwon Ilgi** 承政院日記』 was recorded by Royal Secretariat in Chosen Dynasty in Korea, It is a collection of daily records about the many incidents, and public administration decisions as well as details of rituals that took place in the time span from March 1623 to August 1910 in the Korean (then Chosun) court.

This massive historical document consists of 3243 books, 393578 pages, a total of 241,250,000 Chinese letters. It has been named a national treasure of Korea in 1999 and was admitted into the Memory of the World Programme by UNESCO in 2001. One of the most important records made in those times was examining the royal family's health status. In the process of doing so, detailed records of the medical diagnosis, treatments and prognosis were made. This study is an analysis and organization of the medical records. It is a brief presentation on the historical significance this document holds that has been discovered in the process of research, as well as an overview of future follow-up studies.