New Year Inscription

At the national development strategic height, understanding the magazine responsibilities and capabilities

In 2021, the journal *Chinese Herbal Medicine* achieved gratifying development and were both rated as Excellent Academic Journals with International Influence in China in 2021. Here, I would like to express my high respect to all the editorial experts for their hard work and to all the authors and readers for their care and support.

The *White Paper on Traditional Chinese Medicine in China* was issued on December 6, 2021, and it is the first white paper on TCM development by the Chinese government. It reflects that TCM has spread to all countries and regions in the world and the “TCM hot spot” has been formed. At present, TCM has formed a new pattern of all-round comprehensive development featuring “six persons in one” involving medical treatment, health care, scientific research, education, industry and culture. Therefore, the recognition of TCM development as a national strategy has been strengthened.

In the past two years, the COVID-19 outbreak has made us realize the importance of building a world-beating medical system based on TCM. Chinese medicine system has played an important role in the treatment of common diseases, frequently occurring diseases, major epidemic prevention and treatment, and public emergencies by putting people first, placing equal emphasis on traditional medicine and western medicine, and dialectical integration of TCM features and advantages with modern science and technology. A system of TCM medical services covering both urban and rural areas has been basically established. A unique TCM system has been established, which has made positive progress in the scientific research, industrialization and standardization of TCM in China.

**First, Research on the quality of TCM products.** Quality is the basis for the safety and effectiveness of traditional and herbal medicine, as well as the foundation for the establishment of whole-process quality control and product standards. Domestic and foreign scholars agree that the safety and effectiveness of these products are the primary factors restricting the development and internationalization. Many scholars suggest that basic research on the safety and effectiveness should be done to control the quality from the source and reduce or eliminate its negative impact on the products. In recent years, a series of Chinese medicine policies have encouraged the standardization of Chinese medicine, and the quality of Chinese medicine products has been gradually improved, but the scientific and technical problems are far from complete.

**Second, the technical problems.** The product development are also very complex, and there are challenges of advanced theories and innovative technologies. Most scholars believe that there are problems in the whole process from the origin of medicinal planting to patent medicine, such as processing mode, processing and patent medicine technology suitable for modern requirements. The industry not only lacks innovative production technology, but also lacks innovative products with functions or components, and is not dominant in market competition. These problems not only affect the competitiveness of Chinese and herbal medicine (CHM) in the international market, but also affect the development of the domestic market. Therefore, while improving the preparation technology of CHM products, we should develop new products, such as new dosage forms and new formulations, so as to expand the market of CHM products.

**Third, the standardization of CHM products.** Traditional medicine and herbal medicines are the precious heritage formed by the working people in China in the precipitation of history, and the current standardization laws and regulations system of TCM is still imperfect. The product standardization should have the right to speak in China, and there is no problem with international standards. It is the responsibility and capabilities of our science and technology experts to improve its quality standards. Only in this
way can we promote the academic development of TCM, improve the clinical efficacy of TCM, and accelerate the introduction of TCM to the world. However, the lack of systematic standardization system of TCM covering the whole industrial chain of TCM and the lack of international vision of TCM standards are also one of the reasons restricting the process of internationalization. Therefore, it is suggested that Chinese scholars should strengthen the research and formulation of standardization and promote the development of CHM products.

Fourth, Clinical demand is the foundation of innovation. According to the principle of syndrome differentiation and treatment, CHM advocates the use of clinical evidence as the basis of clinical data to analyze the disease, diagnosis, and treatment plan. Therefore, the clinical behavior of TCM: “syndrome - theory - method - prescription - medicine” mode of diagnosis and treatment, its logic is rigorous. After more than ten years of integrated research, evidence-based evaluation techniques and methods of the theory and practice characteristics have been continuously developed, and evidence-based TCM has gradually formed, becoming an important part of evidence-based medicine discipline and clinical research and the innovation research.

Classic TCM prescription in new drug research and development of evidence-based medicine is to draw lessons from the theory and methods of evidence-based medicine, collection, evaluation, production, transformation of TCM efficacy, safety and economy of the evidence, reveal the clinical effect of the characteristics and regulars, and to guide the formulating clinical trial guidelines, to design research pathways and test process decisions in application of clinical studies.

The key problem in the evaluation of clinical efficacy of TCM is the scientific, fair and just research method, so as to establish and perfect the recognized TCM evaluation method and technical system are the crucial scientific research to obtain the scientific conclusion of clinical medical needs. Inheriting and developing the clinical value, using scientific data to clarify the advantages and values, and the scientific methods provided by evidence-based medical research are also the basis for the TCM revitalization and development.

Finally, Accelerate the pace of CHM international development. Our journal is an international academic journal, which fully absorbs the essence of traditional medicine in the world, reflects the development characteristics of different regions and different academic viewpoints, jointly promotes exchanges and discussions on traditional medicine research, evaluation, methods and standards, and inherits, develops and explores world resources in a scientific, fair and just way. Elucidating its medical advantages and value is also an important task for our journal.

To bid farewell to 2021 and usher in 2022, in order to run our journal well and promote the scientific and technological innovation and development of Chinese herbal medicine, we invite the author-reader-editors to pay attention to the above five aspects. Look forward to the development of Sci-Tech journals to a higher level!

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