

TCM wins global recognition

Students around the world are learning the secrets of traditional Chinese medicine as this form of treatment gains increasing popularity.

By GUO YING and WEI MENGJIA

When Chinese President Xi Jinping presented a bronze statue highlighting the acupuncture points on the human body to the World Health Organization in Geneva last month, it drew global attention.

But Malaysian Pauline Moy was already familiar with the figure.

A student at the International School of Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, she used a replica to help her memorize the pressure points and practice the techniques.

Formerly an actor, Moy came to the university in 2011 to explore the mystery of "how a needle can relieve pain and cure disease". She took the undergraduate course in acupuncture, moxibustion and *tuina*, or therapeutic massage used in TCM.

Now she is pursuing a master's degree in traditional Chinese medicine.

Acupuncture is just one component of TCM, she says. To better understand the essence of acupuncture, she has read ancient texts written in classical Chinese, the biggest challenge of her studies.

"Learning those TCM classics is akin to piecing together a jigsaw puzzle. I have to learn the classics 'piece by piece' first. When I master enough TCM knowledge, I can integrate it into clinical practice, which is based on both medical theory and observation," she says.

She is one of a growing number of foreign students of traditional medicine in China. Zhang Daliang, director of the



Left: Bryan Anker, a University of California student, practices acupuncture guided by doctor Du Chunqing in Linfen, Shanxi. **Above:** A replica of an ancient bronze figure used to teach acupuncture. XINHUA

183

countries and regions in the world where traditional Chinese medicine has spread.

Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education, says TCM is the most popular field of natural sciences for foreign students in China.

"TCM has been spread to 183 countries and regions.

International education has played an important role in promoting TCM worldwide," says Zhang.

Chinese-American Chelsea Qi Xie is also a student at the International School of BUCM. She is an overseas Chinese and her mother is a pharmacist. She is studying TCM not only to learn about her cultural roots, but also because it is becoming more accepted in the US.

"Acupuncture is an alternative therapy with relatively few side effects. Acupuncture services are available in many

big hospitals in the US, and registered acupuncture practitioners must pass formal exams. To my knowledge, there are around 20,000 registered acupuncturists in the state of California alone," Xie says.

The Beijing university has also established relations with 108 universities and research institutions in 30 countries and regions around the world, boosting the general recognition of TCM abroad.

The TCM master's program offered by BUCM and the University of Barcelona medical

school since September 2016 is the first such program officially accredited by the European Union. Meanwhile, in collaboration with Canada's Kwantlen Polytechnic University, BUCM runs the first joint undergraduate degree program in North America.

In cooperation with foreign universities and institutions, it has also set up TCM centers in Russia, Australia, the US and elsewhere, creating integrated platforms for medical services, education and research.

BUCM president Xu Anlong says that although TCM is popular in many Western countries, more strategies are needed to put it into the international medicine system.

TCM centers have effectively cultivated practitioners around the world, Xu says. "But more importantly, the effectiveness of TCM has won recognition among local people. The center in Russia is very popular and I know some patients drive more than 10 hours to be treated there."

BUCM arranges up to 1,044 hours of clinical practice for undergraduate students, with a variety of experiences woven throughout the learning period.

Moy interned at The Third Affiliated Hospital of BUCM and the China-Japan Friendship Hospital during her undergraduate studies.

When Moy graduates, she plans to open an acupuncture clinic in Malaysia.

"I want more Malaysians to know the wonders of TCM and receive sound TCM medical services," she says.

CHINA FEATURES

Jack Ma launches Aussie scholarship

By XINHUA in Canberra

Australia's University of Newcastle recently announced the setting up of a scholarship program supported by China's Jack Ma Foundation. The foundation will give \$20 million to fund a first-of-its-kind scholarship program, marking the largest philanthropic commitment in UON's history and the Jack Ma Foundation's first philanthropic contribution in Australia.

Alibaba founder Ma was joined by New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian, UON Chancellor Paul Jeans and others at the announcement in Newcastle.

As a teenager, Ma met Ken Morley and his family, who were on a tour with the Australia-China Friendship Society in Ma's hometown, Hangzhou. Ma and Morley remained close friends until Morley's death in 2004.

"I am very thankful for Australia and the time I spent there in my youth," Ma says. "The culture, the landscape and most importantly its people had a profound positive impact on my view of the world at that time."

He says the foundation was delighted to honor the experience and the special relationship he had formed with the Morley family. "Alibaba was built by young people and we are committed to lifting up and empowering students so they can reach their dreams and ambitions."

In its initial year, The Ma & Morley Scholarship Program will support 30 new UON scholarships, 20 scholarships to support students throughout the duration of their degree, including access to a unique and com-

“We are committed to ... empowering students so they can reach their dreams and ambitions.”

Jack Ma, Alibaba founder

prehensive engagement and enrichment program, and 10 one-off scholarships to support educational exchange, internship or immersion activities.

When the program reaches full capacity, it will support 90 students per year.

The university's vice-chancellor, professor Caroline McMillen, said the scholarship program would have a transformational impact on the lives of students and shape the next generation of leaders.

Morley's son David, who still lives in Newcastle and attended the announcement event, said the family was really happy to see that Ma remember his Newcastle connection and to be honoring their dad's egalitarian values through the scholarships.

"This scholarship program will exemplify the shared values between Mr Ma and Mr Morley, and aims to develop the next generation of globally aware and socially conscious Australian leaders," McMillen says.

The first round of the program will be advertised in mid-2017 for students who would commence their first year of an undergraduate degree at UON in 2018.

International Education Column

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