

Education

Healthy respect for Chinese meds

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CHINESE MEDICINE HAS been a vital component of healthcare for centuries, offering holistic treatments and preventative measures that have helped countless individuals worldwide.

As more and more people are prioritizing health issues, there is a growing belief that Chinese medicine should be given greater recognition and promotion on an international scale.

Launched by the School of Chinese Medicine at Hong Kong Baptist University, the Cheung On Tak International Award for Outstanding Contribution to Chinese Medicine aims to do just that.

Since the award was set up in 2012, it has been held biennially and has recognized 10 recipients over the past decade.

Lyu Aiping, dean of the School of Chinese Medicine at Hong Kong Baptist University, has been on the panel for more than 10 years.

As the first of its kind in Hong Kong, the award hopes to “improve the research reputation of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, as well as promote the communication between scholars in Hong Kong and other parts of the world,” said Lyu.

It is open to application for any individual scholar and scientist that have made outstanding contributions in the field of Chinese medicine.

Applicants must be nominated by either academic institutions, three professors in relevant fields, a panel of adjudicators or previous awardees.

Now in its seventh year, the award is now accepting nominations until June 30.

As for who will be selected as the final winner, Lyu said there are three major criteria.

The first and most important one is their academic achievements. He said: “One of the things that set this award apart from other awards in Chinese Medicine

is that it focuses more on academic research.”

Additionally, the recipient’s accomplishments should demonstrate contributions to the globalization and modernization of Chinese medicine.

Lastly, preference will be given to scholars whose work has made a significant impact on an international level.

“We value modernization and internationalization of Chinese medicine because we value both inheritance and innovation,” Lyu said.

“Also, we want to make full use of modern technologies to push the boundaries of innovation and pave the way for sustainable growth.”

The winner will be selected at the end of 2023 after panel discussions and will receive a monetary prize of HK\$500,000.

Lyu remembered in 2018, the fourth award was conferred on Gerhard Franz, a German scholar focused on chemistry and pharmacy.

As a member of the International Advisory Board for Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards, he worked on elaborating and implementing quality monographs for the European Pharmacopoeia for over a decade.

“He made efforts in establishing the professional standards of the Chinese medicine industry and paved the way for success in the use of Chinese medicine in Europe,” Lyu said.



Past winners of the award include, clockwise from main: Gerhard Franz, Chen Shilin, Chen Lidian and Yan Shiyun.



Lyu hopes that the award can make a positive impact on the industry and promote research on international exchanges and cooperation in Chinese medicine.

For the young professionals in the industry pursuing a career path in the field of Chinese medicine, he also gave a few pieces of advice.

His first advice is to not overlook the importance of studying modern medicine. “Chinese and Western medicine are the same when it comes to dealing with health problems,” he said.

“The field of Chinese medicine covers a wide range of topics. You should focus on one specific direction, and you should be prepared to always work harder than other people to get achievements,” he added.

Through the establishment and development of the award, it will inspire upcoming generations of Chinese medicine professionals and researchers to advance the internationalization and modernization of the field.

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