

Professor WANG Debing

Citation

Twenty years ago, Beijing Medical University performed its first allogeneic bone marrow transplant on a female university student suffering from acute leukemia. At a critical moment, a blood component transfusion was urgently needed. A physician made an unusual move: he donated his own platelets and white blood cells to the patient. For three hours, 2000 ml of the physician's blood was circulated through a blood-cell separator into the patient's body and then back to his own.

This resulted in the first successful allogeneic bone marrow transplant on the Chinese Mainland. More importantly, the young patient was given a chance to live and today enjoys a healthy, full life. The physician who made this selfless decision is now the internationally renowned hematologist, medical educator and leading physician, Professor WANG Debing.

Professor Wang's sense of mission and dedication to the medical profession can be traced back to seeds planted in his childhood. He was born to a medical family in Henan Province in 1937. Beginning with his great-great-grandfather, the Wang family produced generations of medical practitioners and was known as "the family of Buddha" among the local population. Throughout his entire career, Professor Wang never forgot what his father always said: "If you enter politics, be a decent minister; if you don't, be a good doctor."

The year 1955 saw the young Professor Wang, armed with brilliant results, enter Beijing Medical College (later Beijing Medical University). After his

graduation in 1960, he stayed on to begin his medical career: from Resident Physician to Chief Physician to Deputy Director of the Blood Diseases Research Institute; from Professor to Academic Vice-President to President of the University to Chairman of the Peking University Council. "Try my best, serve the most" has been the guiding light for Professor Wang, during his decades of tireless medical service.

As a hematologist, Professor Wang's research interests lie in gene diagnosis, gene therapy and the cytobiological attributes of leukemia, and he has published more than 50 advanced papers. His concern in promoting medical research has led him to serve not only on boards of directors and standing committees of various medical associations, but also on editorial boards of medical journals. He edited *Diagnosis and Treatment of Emergency High-Risk Cases*, which received the Ministry of Health's Third Prize for Technological Achievement. Professor Wang's current areas of research include a new biological treatment of platelet decrease during malignant tumor treatment, the receptor gene expression in platelets, and the regulation of the hematopoiesis of megalocaryocytes.

Despite his heavy clinical and research work load, Professor Wang plays an active role as a distinguished medical educator. In 1991, he was appointed President of Beijing Medical University, and was Chairman of the Degree Committee and Academic Committee. His contribution to curriculum design, medical teaching, research and academic re-structuring was outstanding. His papers "Enhancing the Standardized Training of Resident Physicians, Upgrading the Quality of Clinical

Teaching”, and “Hospitals and Medical Schools Jointly Offer Education Programs: An Effective Model”, were respectively awarded First and Second Prizes for Excellent Higher Education Programs in Beijing. In 1997, Professor Wang was named Outstanding President and Pioneer in Education of Beijing. He became the first Chairman of the new Peking University Council, when Beijing Medical University merged with Peking University in April 2000 .

Professor Wang has always kept abreast of the latest developments in hematology, medical education and health administration in China and overseas. He was a Visiting Scholar at Einstein Medical College and Fellow of the New York Cancer Research Center. He was also a Fellow of the US-based International Kellogg Foundation between 1986 and 1989, where he researched hospital information systems and published on the subject.

However demanding his administrative responsibilities are, Professor Wang always maintains his front-line position in clinical work, teaching and research. He continues to visit hospital wards, participate in key research projects and supervise PhD candidates. In the true spirit of his family, Professor Wang always places patients’ interests above his own. In the best tradition of the medical profession, he never allows himself to lag behind the times. This sense of mission, this lifelong quest for excellence, sets the standard for our future generations.

Mr Pro-Chancellor, I have the honor to present to you, on behalf of the University, Professor Wang Debing, Chairman of the University Council of Peking University, for the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*.