



receive internship credit, they affirm that their internship is a unique and valuable experience. In addition to the number and variety of patients they are able to observe, they especially appreciate the in-depth exposure to herbal prescription and preparation. They are also enthusiastic about the chance to learn about TCM research conducted at CGMH.

Several students told me that they gained more confidence from their studies at CGMH. Before, they felt that what they learned in our program was not the same as in China or Taiwan. During their trip, they came to understand how much they had learned as students at SCU. When they compared themselves to the interns at CGU, they found that their knowledge and skills were at a similar level. Our students were especially appreciative of the early hands-on acupuncture internship experiences they had at SCU when they found out the majority of the CGU interns were merely observing treatments. In these cases, SCU students had more clinical needling skills and experience than the CGU interns.

The following comments come from one student who completed the internship: "I must say this has to be one of the most eye-opening experiences ever. The exams and treatments are a true interdisciplinary approach. The consultations have the medical history that contains medications, past care and all the information that the TCM doctor needs to make appropriate care recommendations. We have a great group of students, I have sat with a few residents and they are impressed with our knowledge of TCM. This hospital is beautiful, and the facilities are as nice as any four-star hotel. The most obvious observation is that TCM and acupuncture work. They see hundreds of patients a day. The stroke ward is fascinating."

In summary, I strongly encourage AOM/TCM students to pursue an internship experience in China, Taiwan or Korea. This is a great chance to verify what you have learned in your U.S. program. You will get to observe the advanced standing of TCM in the Western Medicine Hospital and the integration between Western medicine and TCM that may be a model for the future of AOM/TCM in the U.S. I encourage all U.S. schools to sign affiliation agreements with major TCM schools/hospitals in China, Taiwan and Korea. Affiliations between institutions create extensive opportunities to improve the quality of teaching and research at our schools. Our college's next goal is to send our faculty or doctoral students to major TCM universities and hospitals for short-term (one to three month) specialty training. I look forward to reporting the success of this program in the months to come.

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