



International Journal of Gerontology

journal homepage: <http://www.sgecm.org.tw/ijge/>



Preface

The Important Role of Physicians in Long Term Care System

Care and well-being of seniors is an important public health issue that Taiwan and all other developed societies face. As modern wonders of medicine extend our life expectancy, people begin to realize how well we live is as important as how long we live. Care of elders is multi-faceted and requires a holistic and diverse approach covering geriatric medicine, health policy, community engagement, and health care management.

Taiwan is unique in how it could contribute to innovations in geriatrics. Our society is getting “older” with one of the lowest birth rates around the world. With the high urbanization, our efficient single-payer health service, and our tradition of respecting and caring our elders, Taiwan is an ideal proving ground to develop innovative solutions. For example, the Integrated Home Healthcare Project will test the idea that better coordination of home visit and prescription can improve quality of care for immobile seniors. The Home-based Disabled People Health Management Program will work with primary care physicians to develop long term care and evaluation plans for the disabled elderly. The second initiative was announced this past August by President Tsai Ying-Wen as a program of national strategic importance. The Taiwan Medical Association has conducted several educational programs and policy conferences for doc-

tors around the country to engage in long term care. Our Legislature also give fully support on the elderly care programs. We hope to share these ideas and collaborate with researchers and health professionals around the world.

It is our honor that Taiwan hosts the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics conference this year. The topic of the conference, “Health and Wellbeing in the Silver World: from Bench to Policy,” highlights the key idea that a better geriatric health care requires integration of basic research, practice, management and policy research. I would like to thank and congratulate editor of the special issue, Dr. Derrick Chan, and the authors of the contributing articles for their wonderful work. I wish the conference a resounding success.

Tai-Yuan Chiu

The Legislator, The Legislative Yuan Republic of China (Taiwan)

President, Taiwan Medical Association

*Professor, Dept of Family Medicine, College of Medicine & Hospital,
National Taiwan University*