

Potential New Bullet in the War Against Covid-19

Dr. John Yang¹

ABSTRACT

From the beginning of civilization, humans have used herbal medicine for healing purposes. In the Chinese context, there are over 2500 years of experience in using herbal medicine to fight against different pandemics. Rather than prescribing remedies with narrow healing scopes, Chinese herbal medicine treatments offer a holistic view, where herbal ingredients are offered in consideration with multiple interaction factors.

Even after two years, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to affect millions in the world, and there are limits to treatment available for medical professionals. In an effort to fight a wave of cases in February 2021, Chinese hospitals (starting in Fangcang) offered both western and traditional Chinese medicine as treatment. By late March 2021, the rate of death and new cases dropped dramatically. Although this suggests that herbal medicine may be highly effective in preventing and treating Covid-19, there is limited scientific evidence to establish the causal relationship and efficacy of herbal treatments. The concerns over safety, consistency, and a consideration of interactions with other medical therapies may temper the decision to use the herbal medicine worldwide. However, based on the experience accumulated from China in fighting with the pandemic, integrating herbal medicine into health care system deserves serious consideration.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. John Yang is a registered Doctor of TCM in British Columbia, Canada. From 2003 to 2014 he was the Dean and Clinic Director at the PCU College of Holistic Medicine, British Columbia. As an expert in the field, Dr. Yang has given many national and international presentations and lectures on TCM. Dr. Yang is the current President of the Federation of Traditional Chinese Medicine Colleges of Canada and a committee member on the Standards Council of Canada, Canadian Advisory Committees for International Organization for Standardization for TCM.

Dr. John Yang currently works at the Kwantlen Polytechnic University of British Columbia which is the first public university in Canada offering TCM-Acupuncture program. He is the program developer and the Chair of TCM department.

Dr. Yang graduated from Hainan University Medical School, Haikou, China. He received his TCM training at the Hainan Provincial Hospital of TCM, Haikou, China and a PhD from Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine.

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