

Opening Speech at the 5th Great Wall International Forum on Geriatric Cardiology

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen,

In the golden autumn of Beijing, on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology, and the Institute of Geriatric Cardiology at Chinese PLA General Hospital, I am very delighted to extend my warmest welcome to the representatives, colleagues and distinguished guests, both domestic and abroad, to the 5th International Forum on Geriatric Cardiology.

Four years ago in September 2002 we held our first Great Wall International Forum on Geriatric Cardiology during the 13th Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology in Beijing. Since then, we have successfully held 4 Geriatric Forums in Beijing and discussed in depth many hot topics such as new clinical technologies, experiences and theories positively impacting the geriatric cardiology community. The Forum on Geriatric Cardiology has been a highlight in the Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology. This year, our forum will feature issues particularly related to cardiovascular diseases in the elderly, which will be all presented by distinguished professionals in cardiology, geriatrics and emergency medicine. I believe the presentations and discussions will provide us a real forum for academic exchange and continuing medical training.

With the rapid increase of the aging population worldwide, geriatric cardiology has received growing attention from the cardiology community. Some of you may have attended the World Congress of Cardiology (WCC) 2006 held in Barcelona Spain on September 2-5, 2006. It was a joint meeting of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the World Heart Federation (WHF). The highlight theme of WCC 2006 is *cardiovascular disease and aging*, indicating that geriatric cardiology has attracted more and more attention from the global cardiology community. As the pioneering and major research center in the geriatric cardiology community in China, the Institute of Geriatric Cardiology of Chinese PLA General Hospital is the first and the unique institute particularly dedicated to geriatric cardiology. Since it was founded in 1996, the Institute has developed rapidly and become a comprehensive medical center devoted to clinical practice, health care, basic research and medical training as well as academic publication. It comprises a clinical service department, a basic research department and editorial offices. The clinical service department has two in-patient buildings

including three ward units (more than 100 beds) and two catheterization labs with Innova 2000 digital angiography system and ENSITE 3000 cardiac mapping system. Thousands of critically ill elderly patients with heart diseases have been successfully treated at the Institute. Of note, the Institute has developed novel strategy and methods in the treatment of elderly heart disease patients complicated with multiorgan diseases, and the success rate is in line with the results at the best centers in the world. For example, we have treated hundreds of elderly heart disease patients complicated with carcinoma of other organs which were previously miss-diagnosed during acute heart attack. Besides, we have performed thousands of complicated percutaneous coronary interventions in the high-risk patients, especially the very old patients, and many combined interventional procedures in patients with two or more kinds of vascular diseases. The basic research department is composed of six labs such as molecular biology lab and cell electrophysiology lab, etc., which have undertaken more than 20 national, military and international research projects. The editorial offices are responsible for the publication of *Chinese Journal of Multiple Organ Diseases in the Elderly* and the *Journal of Geriatric Cardiology*. The *Chinese Journal of Multiple Organ Diseases in the Elderly* has been accepted in the Chinese Scientific and Technical Papers and Citations Database, and after that its quality and circulation have increased significantly. In view of the growing need of Geriatrics and expectations of readers, it will publish bi-monthly since January 2007. The *Journal of Geriatric Cardiology* is the second peer-reviewed English-language periodical focused on geriatric cardiology in the world. It has published many high quality papers and aroused interests of many cardiologists from the USA and Europe. Now it is indexed in Chemical Abstract and EMBASE. We are working hard to make it indexed in Science Citation Index (SCI) early. We will also publish the 3rd revision of the monograph *Geriatric Cardiology* in Chinese.

I hope that physicians from China and abroad can collaborate and pay more attention to the research in geriatric cardiology so that this new discipline can make a big step forward and benefit the growing elderly population. Our Institute would like to start and participate closely in the exchange and cooperation on geriatric cardiology worldwide. For example, the two journals published by our Institute can be a forum for academic exchange in geriatric cardiology. Also, we can start a research group dedicated to important

issues of geriatric cardiology, such as multifactor heart failure in the elderly, which I will discuss further in details.

In this Forum, 18 medical experts from China and abroad will give interesting speeches. Of note, we have four foreign friends from the US and one colleague from Hong Kong, who will give oral presentations entitled: (1) Weight loss with an emphasis on cardiac cachexia (Dr. John Morley, *US*); (2) Metabolic syndrome in older persons (Dr. John Morley, *US*); (3) Chronic heart failure in older persons (Dr. Michael Rich, *US*); (4) Antithrombosis therapy in the elderly (Dr. Michael Rich, *US*); (5) Treatment of atrial fibrillation in the elderly (Dr. Brain Olshansky, *US*); (6) United States' system of geriatrics (Dr. Joseph Flaherty, *US*); (7) Hong Kong's system of geriatrics (Dr. Leung Wing Chu, *HK/CN*).

I hope the 5th Forum will be a big success and leave us a beautiful memory. I wish you in good health and good spirit all through the year!

The last but not the least, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your kind support.

November 3, 2006

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