

Asianization of Dementia Research and Management: An Initiative from Taiwan

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The first Taiwan-Japan symposium on dementias took place on December 17, 2005 in Tainan, Taiwan. It was organized by Dr. Ming-Chyi Pai, a cognitive and behavioral neurologist in the Department of Neurology, National Cheng Kung University School of Medicine. The Journal is privileged to publish the presentations in this issue.

The speakers and their topics from Taiwan were:

1. Liu CK. The epidemiology of dementia in Taiwan.
2. Pai MC. The neuropsychological studies of dementias in Taiwan: focus on way-finding problems in Alzheimer's disease.
3. Hu CJ. The genetic studies of dementias in Taiwan.
4. Fuh JL. The studies of behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia in Taiwan.
5. Wang PN. The MCI study in Taiwan.

The speakers and their topics from Japan were:

1. Mori E. Insight into management of dementias from neuroimaging.
2. Meguro K. Subjective memory complaints are not sine qua non as diagnostic criteria for MCI.
3. Ikeda M. Interventional studies with the aim of reducing the burden of care through drug therapy

of BPSD.

4. Tanaka T. Neurobiological studies of dementia: biological markers and neuroprotective strategies for Alzheimer disease.

Dementia has become both a neurological as well as a social problem in the developed countries, including Asian countries such as Japan and Taiwan. Furthermore, as other Asian countries are aging, dementia has been emerging in those developing areas.

Unlike the developed Western countries, communication of dementia research, not to mention collaboration, among the Asian countries has been inadequate. Therefore, the first Taiwan-Japan symposium on dementias seems to provide a good example to initiate communication and cooperation among the Asian countries. As a result of such initiative, the second Taiwan-Japan symposium will be held in Japan next year. It was also decided to plan the future meetings in other Asian countries.

It is hoped that the meeting of dementia will be continued in Asia as envisioned by the organizers and participants of the symposium. This symposium is an indicator of the Asian countries' collaborative efforts to deal with the pending epidemic of dementia in Asia.

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