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Steven J. Tang

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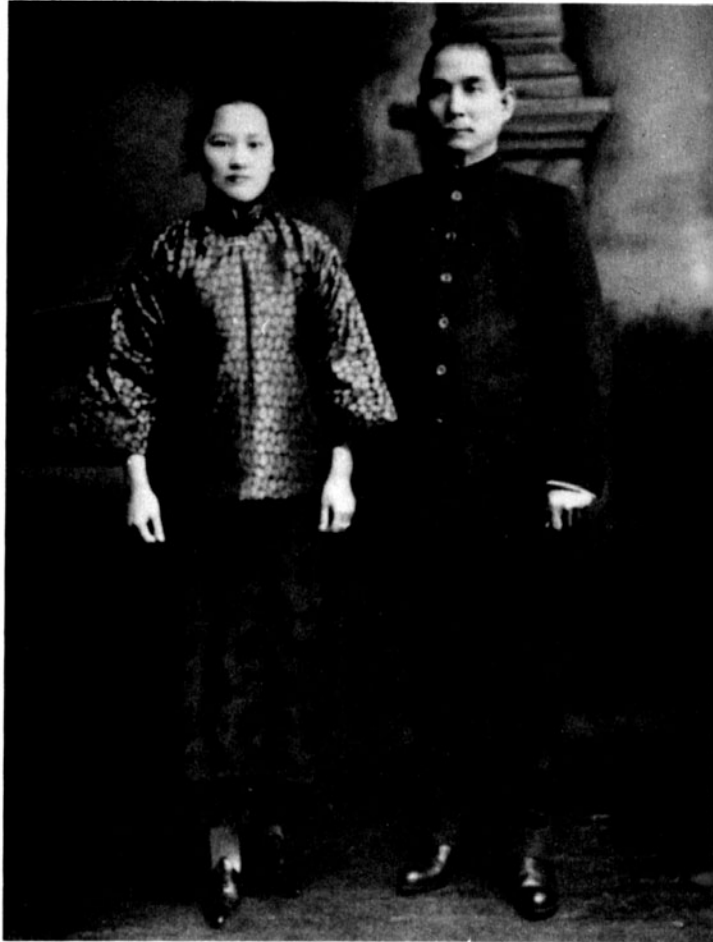
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Soong Ching-ling
(1893-1981)

Sung Yat-sen
(1866-1925)

Dedicated to Dr. Sun Yat-sen

PREFACE

Neurological disorders cause untold suffering and financial burden to hundreds of thousands of people, not only to the patients, but also the relatives and society. As of today, though numerous scientists and clinicians have devoted their efforts to understand and combat these diseases, there is still no cure or satisfactory solution to the problems. Furthermore, the brain is the most essential organ of a human being. Realizing the importance of the brain, the president of the United States, George Bush, declared the 90s as the Decade of the Brain in January, 1992.

Being in neuroscience research for almost three decades, I initiated, planned and organized the first international neuropharmacology symposium. After long negotiation and fund raising, with the assistance and moral support of Dr. Abel Lajtha, director of the Center of Neurochemistry in New York, USA, we finally successfully put the program together. The Sun Yat-sen Foundation in China supported all the local expenses of the symposium and Sun Yat-sen University of Medicine in Guangzhou, China served as host organization. The symposium was held in Guangzhou, China, November 9–11, 1992, the eve of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's birthday.

Dr. Sun Yat-sen was born in Cui Heng Cun, on the outskirts of Guangzhou, China on November 12, 1866. He finished his high school education in the British and American Christian school in Honolulu, where he was exposed to Western influence. He had been long frustrated and discontented with the backwardness and corruption of the Ching Dynasty. During his years in medical training in Hong Kong he was very active in promoting reform of China.

After he graduated from medical school, he practiced in Macao and Guangzhou alongside the traditional Chinese doctors. He also started a Western and traditional Chinese medicine pharmacy. Two years later, he quit the medical field and became actively involved in the revolution to overthrow the imperial system and became the first president in the democratic China. He has since been known as the "Father of Chinese Revolution" and is well respected and honored by both Taiwan and mainland China.

While he was practicing medicine, he tried to merge the differences of the Western and traditional Chinese medicine for helping the suffering of the sick. He led the revolution and succeeded in overthrowing the imperial system with the goal of making a sudden leap to get China from backwardness to modernity. His careers, both in medicine and politics, were selfless. He attempted to absorb foreign knowledge to help China with the aim of allowing China to secure independence and equality in the world.

I, as one of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's descendants, would like to follow his idealistic dream, hoping through the International Neuropharmacology Symposium to bring better understanding between the Western and Chinese medical treatments. It is only right to dedicate this symposium to Dr. Sun Yat-sen in recognition of his vision in medicine. The symposium is also a

centennial celebration of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's graduation from medical school and beginning his medical career. The objectives of this symposium are:

1. To promote an interchange of new findings in neuroscience between East and West.
2. To arrange review lectures (and chapters) on selective neurodisorders that affect a large population of the general public, presented by established senior scientists to stimulate discussion and provide younger scientists the chance to interact and hopefully provide the opportunity of collaboration between groups with related interests.
3. To integrate different perspectives for unifying understanding of neurodisorders (Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease, psychological imbalance, depressions, strokes and epilepsy) and lessen the gap of clinical and basic sciences.
4. To promote the understanding of eastern (traditional Chinese herbs) and western approaches in seeking relief of these devastating nervous system disorders.

Lily C. Tang

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