Week 6
Medical Development in the Sui, Tang & Song Dynasties

Chinese Medicine Department
Sui-Tang & Song dynasties

Sui-Tang Dynasty (隋-唐): 581AD-907 AD

Song dynasty (宋朝): 960-1279AD
Session Contents

- Sun Si Miao 孙思邈
- Wang Wei Yi 王唯一
Web-links

(students self-guided watching in your own time)

- Innovations of the Sui, Tang & Song Dynasties of China
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BoYJqGbwF_k

- The Song Dynasty of China
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgCG0WA6r8Y
  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QO7NHZJ-eE4
The Period of Division and the Tang Period


http://search.credoreference.com.ezproxy.endeavour.edu.au/content/entry/harvardcmh/the_period_of_division_and_the_tang_period
The Tang dynasty (618 – 907)

A time of historical climax in Chinese culture and economy

Medical exchange with other countries:
  - Arabia
  - India
  - Japan & other Asian countries

Arabians opened pharmacies in China and thus medical prescriptions were imported into China.
Training and exams for CM practitioners

Apprenticeships style of training of doctors were common

Examinations to recruit qualified physicians were introduced
Sun Si Miao
孫思邈 (540 or 581 – 682 Sui / Tang)

- He was from Shan Xi province – Yao country

- By the age of 15, he understood Daoism, and Buddhist classics

- He learnt medical classics, and researched folk medicine, and understood both

- In the Qian Jin Yi Gang, he described the right time to harvest and processing methods of 233 types of herbs. He also indicated that different locations, soil quality, water quality etc can affect quality of herbs.
Sun Si Miao 孫思邈 (540 – 682 Tang)

- He categorised medical materials into: jade; stone; plant (grass and trees); insects; fish; fruit; vegetables; grains; and unprocessed grains.

- He suggested diet treatment first before medicine for illness.
Sun Si Miao 孫思邈 (540 or 581 – 682 Tang)

- He believed that women have special physiology, and that during menstruation, pregnancy, and birthing are more susceptible to illness.

- He also wrote extensively on sexual practices for health and cultivation.
Sun Si Miao 孫思邈 (540 or 581 – 682)

Famous for two medical works the Essential Recipes worth a Thousand Gold:

- Qian Jin Yao Fang (Prescriptions Worth a Thousand Gold for Emergencies)
    - 30 volumes and 5300 prescriptions
    - It deals with acupuncutre, moxibustion, dietary therapy as well as disease and health prevention.

- Qian Jin Yi Gang (supplement to the above prescriptions)
    - It was an outstanding reference for treatment of deficiency diseases

First medical encyclopaedia in China
He was one of the representative Scholars of the Meridian and acu-points accuracy school.

This school focuses on the accuracy of the meridians and particularly the acu-point locations.
Sun Si Miao 孫思邈 (540 – 682)

Summary of his work on acupuncture:

1. Prevention is better than cure
2. A good doctor needs to know acupuncture, moxa and herbs, not just one of them
3. He emphasizes the importance of meridians and acupuncture points locations to make treatment effective, and therefore place importance on the accuracy of meridians and acupuncture points
4. Moxibustion: the size, the length of time, and the number of moxa used during treatment are very important, e.g. the diameter of the moxa stick should be 3 cun (1 Chinese inch = 10 cun)

5. He made detail printed model of meridians and acupuncture points.
The Song dynasty 宋(960-1279AD)

Northern Song: 960-1127 AD
Southern Song: 1127-1279 AD
The Song and Jin Periods

source: An illustrated history

The Song dynasty 宋朝

- The political-economic development and complicated changes in Song dynasty facilitated medical reorganization and enabled new healthcare systems and facilities to be set up, including government dispensaries, hospitals and charitable institutions.

- Publishing Boom of Chinese Medicine Texts
The Evolution of Chinese Medicine: Song Dynasty

- One of the three major turning points of Chinese medicine history is the transformation of medicine via the integration of earlier medical theories and practices in the Song dynasty.

- Scholars often characterize the Song era as a time of change in every aspect of political, social, intellectual or economic life. More specifically it focuses on three narratives of change (see next slide):

Three Narratives of Change in Song dynasty

- The emperor's interest in medicine elevated the status of medicine in the eyes of the elite, leading to an increased involvement of intellectuals and the literary elite in medicine.
- Government officials systematically revised, printed, and promulgated earlier heterogeneous medical manuscripts belonging to various traditions.
- The government established unique imperially sponsored medical institutions to handle public health and other aspects of medicine.

TCM in The Song dynasty 宋朝

- Acupuncture was very popular.

Recorded history of ancient Chinese acupuncture from the book, Songshi (History of the Song Dynasty, 宋史) recounts that Emperor Renzong, who fell ill in 1034, was cured successfully through acupuncture. This helped popularize ancient acupuncture and the art and practice of acupuncture became the forte of specialized physicians.
Medicine in the Song Dynasty
宋朝

- **Medical education**: medical administrative and medical education were separated.
- **Examination for medical students** were also launched.
- Medical students became more familiar with **anatomy** by the end of 12th century.
Invention of wood-block printing in China (before 220 AD)

It originated in China as a method of printing on textiles and later on paper.

The earliest surviving examples from China date to before 220 A.D.
Invention of Typography printing in China (Song dynasty)

**Bi Sheng (毕昇) (990–1051)** developed the first known movable-type system for printing in China around 1040 AD during the Northern Song dynasty, using ceramic materials.
Due to invention of printing technology

- Large quantities of CM texts were printed and published
- Specialisation in CM continued to develop, and many experts emerged
- Different schools of thoughts with different theoretical argument existed
Wang Wei Yi (王 唯 一)
987-1067AD Northern Song dynasty

- Also known as Wang wei-de 王惟德
- An officer of the medical board in Northern Song dynasty; a distinguished acupuncturist and TCM education expertise.
- He was appointed to summarize the acupuncture classics for teaching acupuncture.
- He designed and casted two life-size male bronze statues and compiled a book called *Tongren Shuxue Zhen Jiu Tujing* to complement the.
The Male Bronze Statue

- **Wang Wei Yi** designed and casted two life-size male bronze statues for acupuncture exams.
- It emphasizes the accuracy of acupuncture points.
- On these statues were engraved 657 acupuncture points. The statues were coated in thick wax and then filled with water. The student taking the exam would locate the acu-point and needle into the wax covered statue. When the needle was withdrawn a small drop of water would be evident if the student had needled the correct point.
Wang Wei Yi 王唯一

**Pub:**

Tong Ren Shu Xue Zhen Jiu Tu Jiing
(Illustrated Manual of Acu-points on the Bronze Statue)

A book illustrates all the meridians and the appropriate acu-points.
The book *Tongren Shuxue Zhen Jiu Tujing* 铜人腧穴针灸图经

- It’s also called Illustrated Manual of the Bronze Man Showing Acupuncture and Moxibustion Points.

- The text of this work was also engraved on two stone steles more than two meters high and seven meters in width, and were erected at Kaifeng, then capital of the Northern Song dynasty, for public benefit.
Comments:

- Wang Wei yi’s great work provided the impetus for a great leap forward in ancient Chinese acupuncture.
Summary & Discussion

- Summarize this session learning

- What could be the influence of Wang weiyi’s work / theory on present day Chinese Medicine practice?

- Any other questions?
Main References


