Tzu Chi University School of Medicine where medicine meets humanity

History and Mission
Tzu Chi University (TCU) was founded by Daarna Master Chen, the founder of Tzu Chi Foundation, in 1994, and the School of Medicine (SOM) was among the first departments established in the start. The Tzu Chi University has been well-recognized as an international university by the United Nations ECOSOC.

The mission of TCM is to educate students to become competent physicians treating the patients with empathy and respect based on richness of medical knowledge and wonderful skills.

The TCU School of Medicine insists on providing the highest quality of medical education, and has great resources and strong supports from the Tzu Chi Medical Healthcare system provides (TCOMS) and the Tzu Chi Foundation. The Medical Health System has six Tzu Chi Hospitals in various parts of Taiwan, including 1 medical center and 3 other major teaching hospitals. In addition, TCU has the goals “Teaching and learning Excellence Program” by Ministry of Education since 2008, and SOM has been accredited by Taiwan Medical Accreditation Council (TMAC) since 2011. We are confident to pursue the excellence and the requirements of medical education based on the achievements of teaching and learning of education and humanity in the past 20 years.

The School of Medicine will continuously be responsible for playing the leading role in basic researches, clinical researches and translational medicine in (Eastern) Taiwan.

Faculty and Teaching Resources of TCU SOM

The number of full-time faculty is 348 (2014), consisting of 23 full professors, 50 associate professors, 73 assistant professors, and 22 lecturers in SOM; in addition, the SOM has 147 part-time faculty: 11 full professors, 70 associate professors, 33 assistant professors, and 53 lecturers.

The Tzu Chi Medical Healthcare System provides (TCOMS) SOM a very strong and great resources of support of the OSU. The TMCBS has 6 Tzu Chi Hospitals in Taiwan, and all the hospitals work together to train our medical students.

TCU School of Medicine is currently equipped with 7 Classroom Rooms & 4 Discussion Rooms for medical students to use.

In addition, we have other teaching resources including Clinical educators as program directors, and devices such as E-learning platform, Clinical skill and assessment center, high-vack simulation (Stays), etc.

Student life

In TCU, the university dormitories have sufficient capacity for accommodating all students willing to board in the university. The TCU cafeteria provides three vegetarian meals daily with low costs [$12-25 NT$]. The university is located in Huaiian City with approximately 15 mins, walk from the train station. Students can also enjoy the social life in Huaiian, the most beautiful part of Taiwan. Here in TCU, students also can be able to engage a variety of activities and join student clubs. Two of our most distinguish students organization for TCU medical students are:

TCU Medical Student Association
The association hold many extracurricular activities to build up communicating skill of students, strengthen relationships between students in this school, and contribute the centripetal force of entire School.

Miharashi Community and Philippine International Service Learning
Miharashi, its Japanese meaning “blowing the sun”, Medical students hold several events at an elementary school in an aboriginal tribe to help children with disadvantaged background. Compassion and empathic communication were learned through their own experiences to see the poverty and theills of the people in overseas countries. Students can reach in an-depth learning through their reflective writings and feedback from the facilitators.

International Activities

International student exchange
TCU has sister schools and carries out academic exchange programs with many overseas universities, among which are Rikkyo University in Japan, the University of British Columbia in Canada, University of Hong Kong, University of Indonesia, Beijing University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, and Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. In order to broaden the students’ international vision, we have been actively promoting international learning cooperation and exchange, as well as inviting renowned professors to give lectures on our campus. The students of TCU School of Medicine are also entitled to apply for specialized international exchange program.

Clerkship
We have formal student exchange programs with Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in the USA and National University of Singapore, and provide MS medical students have the opportunities to learn abroad and enhance their vision and adds their international experiences.

SCOPE & SCORE Exchange Programs, and GUHO program
SCOPE & SCORE exchanges are organized by IFMSA, and students have the chances to conduct clinical practice or research at associated universities or hospitals worldwide. In addition we are also a partner university to host international medical students through the Global Learning Health Opportunity (GLOH) of the AAMC, USA.

International Volunteer Works
At TCU is a university established by the Tzu Chi Foundation, with 872 offices in 67 countries around the world, the members in TCU (staff and students) have the opportunities to take parts in charity works and international relief missions around the world. Philippine International Service Learning is an example.

Medical Curriculum of TCU

The Innovation: Silent Mentor Program

The Silent Mentors
• Say nothing, write nothing, and wish to make the students to become doctors with wondrous skills.
• Teacher Cheng Yen rolemodel these body donors as the “silent mentors” since 1996.
• We created the rolemodel way to treat cadaver as a tool, a cold and dehumanized body in teaching and learning of anatomy.

Medical Humanities: Longitudinal and Integration
Year 1: Medical humanities & interpersonal communication; Medical ethics, Pharmacology, Physics, Chemistry and Biology
Year 2: Medical Ethics & Law: interactive small groups team-based learning (TBL).
Year 3: Medical Ethics & Law: interactive small groups team-based learning (TBL).
Year 4: Medical Ethics & Law: interactive small groups team-based learning (TBL).
Year 5: Medical Ethics & Law: interactive small groups team-based learning (TBL).
Year 6: Medical Ethics & Law: interactive small groups team-based learning (TBL).

Medical Student Recruitment

Every year, the Tzu Chi School of Medicine takes approximately 55 students domestically and from overseas, aboriginal backgrounds, and remote islands of Taiwan. We recruit medical students to TCU SOM through the following 3 pathways:

1. Taking the National Joint University/Clinic Entrance Examination: the students are recruited based on the scores of examinations of Chinese, English, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.
2. Self-Applications: Currently two rounds of evaluations are implemented to select suitable students for the Medical School. The first round evaluation is based on the performances in Chinese, English, Mathematics, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, as well as overall academic performances. The second round is mainly based on the applicants’ high school performances and the performances in the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI).
3. Star Plan in Tzu Chi’s College Entrance System: The students are recommended by their high schools and interviewed by our faculty members.

To invite visiting professors from Johns Hopkins and George Washing University to inspire students in bed-side teaching, lecturing end and teaching-round.

In addition, we have other teaching resources including Clinical educators as program directors, and devices such as E-learning platform, Clinical skill and assessment center, high-vack simulation (Stays), etc.