

5th International Conference and Exhibition on

Pharmacology and Ethnopharmacology

March 23-25, 2017 Orlando, USA



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Preservation of medical inheritances: Application of ancient wisdom

Traditional Japanese medicine (Kampo medicine) has originated from Traditional Chinese Medicine and developed independently adjusting their theory and medicinal resources to Japanese climate and culture. Our studies focus on the medical inheritances, which reflect on ancient wisdom and aims, preserving those inheritances for future generations and analyzing the experience or wisdom underlying those legacies and applying it to present medical practice. We introduce two of our projects.

Morino-Kyuyakuen Garden: Morino-Kyuyakuen Garden (Nara prefecture) is a private botanical garden, which was founded for the domestic herbal cultivation in the Edo period's Kyoho era (1716-1736). Tosuke and Michisada Saikaku (1690-1767) are the founders of the garden (Matsuyama Honzo Herbal (1750-68)). It contains 1003 colored illustrated entries including animals as well as plants; they are based on the close observation and the knowledge of medicinal materials, so they also provide us the clues to imagine the medical practice in these days. The documents left by him and his offspring show us their enthusiasm and trial for cultivation of domestic herbal medicine production.

Koan Ogata's Medicine Chest: Koan Ogata (1810-63), the Director of Tekijuku, was a Physician who contributed much to the medical profession with Western knowledge in late Edo period. Osaka University has inherited his various cultural heritages. Two medicine chests were his belongings. The first medicine chest, which was used during his late middle ages, contained various crude drugs. Liquid medicine in the form of bottles was left in the second one, which he has used in his last years. We archived the present condition of those medicine chests as digital pictures and analyzed the contents non-destructively. Koan had also studied Kampo medicine, so knowing his strategy for treatment would suggest the way to present Western-Eastern combined medicine.

Biography

Kayoko Shimada-Takaura has completed her PhD from Osaka University and then worked as a Postdoctoral Researcher at School of Medicine in University of South Alabama (AL, USA) for one year. She is now specially appointed Assistant Professor in the Laboratory of Applied Pharmacognosy, Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Osaka University. She has published five papers as a first author in journals.

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