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The role of clinical Chinese pharmacists in TCM practice**Zhijian Lin, Xiaomeng Zhang and Bing Zhang**
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Chinese medicine is one of the great medical systems in the world, which performs treatment based upon principle of Zheng classification and treatment and Zheng (TCM syndrome) classification could be identified as clinical special phenotypes by symptoms and signs of patients. In ancient times, practitioners of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) performed two roles as clinical physicians and clinical pharmacists. And TCM practitioners provided an effective approach for personalized diagnosis and treatment in clinic. In other words, clinical Chinese pharmacists have been practicing personalized drug therapy for thousands of years. Modern education of Chinese medicine began in the 1950s. According to the modern education system, physicians and pharmacists of Chinese medicine are two different groups of health-care professionals. The fundamental role of Chinese pharmacists is to distribute drugs prescribed to patients, to produce drugs in the manufacturing companies and to research and develop new drugs in laboratories. As is known to all, a medication may demonstrate effectiveness in clinic, yet it may be less effective to some particular patients, or even results in Adverse Drug Reaction/Adverse Drug Event (ADR/ADE) and failure to reach desired treatment goals. Clinical Chinese pharmacists have now moved from laboratory to the patients' bedsides to provide pharmaceutical care. They are positioned to play an active role in pharmaceutical care to improve personalized medications, such as consulting with physicians on individual patient's needs, discussing the therapy based on the principle of Zheng classification and treatment, performing Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM), ADR/ADE supervision, medication prescription assessment, providing recommendations of alternative treatments as necessary and educating patients and families about drug rational use.

Biography

Zhijian Lin has his expertise in clinical Chinese pharmacy and passion in ADR research on Chinese Materia Medica.

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