

CCMR Holds 2nd Annual Symposium to Further Evidence-Based Medicine in China



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CCMR members of advisory board and organization committee together with industry panel members at the 2nd annual symposium of China Cardiometabolic Diseases

Before the whole nation returned to work from the non-precedented extravaganza, an eight-day celebration of the nation's 60th birthday, the CCMR (China Cardiometabolic Registries) board and the organization committee were already set for its 2nd annual symposium in Chinese Cardiometabolic Diseases. This symposium is one of the most important forums in the area of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases in China, representing the collaboration between Chinese and foreign most renowned experts, support of Ministry of Health to research in chronic diseases, and partnership between medical community and the health industry.

This year's symposium was successfully held in conjunction with the 20th Great Wall International Cardiology Conference (GW-ICC) and the 15th International Congress on Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy (ICCP), on October 9, 2009, in Beijing International Conference Center. Two of the honorable CCMR board members, Prof Michael Weber of the US and Prof Keith Fox of UK, were among the distinguished guests and speakers of this event. Joining them were Prof Dayi Hu (胡大一) President of Chinese College of Cardiovascular Physicians (CCCP), Prof Linong Ji (纪立农), President of Chinese Endocrinologist Association (CEA), Prof Chang Yu Pan (潘长玉), senior council member of CEA, Prof Chang Sheng Ma (马长生), President-elect of CCCP, and Madam Ling Zhi Kong (孔灵芝) of the Chronic Disease Control Bureau, Ministry of Health.

Prof Hu first gave welcome remarks, which was followed by the keynote speech of Prof Weber, who shared the latest findings in the research of cardio-renal diseases including hypertension and metabolic syndromes. Prof Pan and Ma each delivered an overview of the challenges and opportunities in the current management and research of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases. Madam Kong brought to the audience the Chinese government's position on how health reform would impact the infrastructure of chronic disease control and regulating the accessibility and the price of health technologies including medical devices and medications. Prof Fox educated the audience on how large, observational, and non-interventional studies and registries, such as GRACE trial, have generated the valuable evidence of clinical outcomes in a real world setting, which has further guided and improved the management of life threatening diseases including acute coronary syndromes.

Dr. Danyi Zhang, Chief Medical Officer of VitalStrategic Research Institute, and Chairman of the CCMR Organization Committee provided an overview of the CCMR program and progress since its inception one year ago. She pointed out that the overall objective of the CCMR program is to generate evidence of clinical outcomes, practice gaps, unmet needs, and comparative effectiveness, using non-biased design and international standard of study execution. The results of the CCMR research will not only directly inform and impact the medical practice in China but also contribute a large amount of relevant evidence to the international medical community.

Saved for the last, Prof Ji announced that two CCMR registries, including one large nation-wide cross sectional study and one longitudinal study, will likely be launched in the fall. The two studies are designed from different angles to better understand the current treatment outcomes in control of hyperglycemia, hypertension and hyperlipidemia and in prevention of cardiovascular events in diabetics.

What was unique about this symposium is that a distinguished panel of R&D leaders of global pharmaceutical companies was invited to lead a discussion on the hot topics such as how the strengthened practice of evidence based medicine in China would impact the development and commercialization strategy in pharmaceutical industry. The panel members included Dr. Rae Yuan, Head of Global Product Development in Asia Pacific of Roche Pharmaceutical, Dr. Zili Li, medical director of Merck Sharp & Dohme China, Dr. Hong Li, Vice President, Market Access, Bristol-Myers Squibb China and Group Director, Outcomes Research, Global Development and Medical Affairs, Asia Pacific, BMS. The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Danyi Zhang. The discussion was stimulating, open, and

productive. It generated a lot of enthusiasm among the audience, which included academic based scientists, physicians, industry representatives, media, and CCMR board members.

This symposium was partially sponsored by BMS China and INC Research Inc. Current sponsors and collaborators of the CCMR program include Johnson & Johnson, Roche Pharmaceutical, Fu Dan University and VitalStrategic Research Institute.

China Cardiometabolic Registries (CCMR) is one of the largest registry/cohort study programs ever being planned in China. It is designed to better understand the epidemiology and unmet medical needs in major cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, better establish evidence of clinical outcomes, better define gaps in medical guidelines, better enhance the values of innovative medical therapy and diagnostics, and ultimately better improve the quality of patient care. CCMR is organized by Chinese College of Cardiology Physicians (CCCP), Chinese Endocrinologists Associations (CEA), and VitalStrategic Research Institute (VSRI). It is governed by an advisory board that is comprised of internationally renowned opinion leaders from Europe, US, and China. The program was launched in October 2008. When fully executed, it will likely include a series of individually designed cohort studies in all major cardiovascular diseases such as acute coronary syndromes, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, atrial fibrillation, heart failure, diabetes with data from over 100,000 patients across China.

At the European Society of Cardiology annual meeting in August 2009, the CCMR advisory board co-chairman, Prof Dayi Hu presented a poster on a community based study that is part of the CCMR program. This study was supported by the Capital Community Cholesterol Education and Intervention Program. It surveyed approximately 10,000 individuals living in rural and urban areas in Beijing. The study found that in the general population, 33.7% had hypertension, 35.8% had dyslipidemia, 10.1% were overweight (>80kg), 6.8% were diagnosed with type II diabetes, 9.5% had history of coronary artery diseases, and 4.2% had history of ischemic stroke or TIA. The prevalence of CAD and stroke were higher in those with metabolic syndrome, almost doubled if also diabetic. Men were in much higher risk of CAD and stroke than women (17.9% men vs.4.6% women for CAD, $p < 0.001$, 7.0% men vs. 3.6% women for stroke, $p < 0.001$). The study showed that Chinese adult population is no less vulnerable to CAD and ischemic stroke than westerners. The unique pattern of risk factors warrants testing of western developed therapy in Chinese patients and may require modification of regimens in order to achieve the optimal therapeutic outcomes.

For more information about this symposium and about the CCMR program, visit www.CCMRegistry.org.