



**Flipping the Global Classroom:  
Introduction and Integration of Family Medicine into  
the People's Republic of China**

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## Barrier Types

- **Tangible Barriers**
  - Number of patients
  - Number of physicians
  - Resource availability
- **Intangible Barriers**
  - Model of medical education
  - Healthcare model
  - Cultural barriers



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## Goals and Objectives

- Understand the socioeconomic, educational and cultural barriers creating the family medicine physician shortage in China
- Describe the evolution of the IPCEA educational model from assisting in the development of family medicine residencies to primary care "train the trainer" programs for former subspecialists in China
- Understand how osteopathic medicine philosophy enhanced the process of marrying Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) with modern Western Medicine
- Review resources used by IPCEA educators to overcome barriers and how to apply those to areas in need of family medicine expansion

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## Tangible Barriers

- **Population:**
  - Estimated to be 1.4 Billion
  - Physician availability
  - Geography
- **Resource Availability:**
  - Technology
  - Pharmaceutical



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## Barriers to Family Medicine in the Republic of China



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## Intangible Barriers

- **Model of Medical Education**
  - Shortened schooling
  - Aptitude test driven
- **Healthcare Model**
  - Specialty focused, reactive approach
  - Hospital based
- **Cultural Barriers**
  - Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)
  - Primary care, proactive approach
  - Family Medicine is "Personal"



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acofp EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ipcea  
International Primary Care Educational Alliance  
Bridging Cultures to Enrich Global Health

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## Osteopathic Philosophy and TCM

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## IPCEA

- International Primary Care Education Alliance

*"The purpose and goal of this alliance is to advance global recognition of primary care medicine as the foundation of good health for all patients and to foster the development of the systems required across the planet to provide timely and appropriate access to quality, cost-effective, humanitarian health care for all peoples of the world."*

- Initially Socratic style of teaching
- True Alliance: IPCEA China:
  - ACOFP Foundation
  - Heart to Heart International
  - Chinese Ministries of Health (MOH)

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## 4 Tenets of Osteopathic Medicine

- The body is a unit; the person is a unit of body, mind, and spirit.
- The body is capable of self-regulation, self-healing, and health maintenance.
- Structure and function are reciprocally interrelated.
- Rational treatment is based upon an understanding of the basic principles of body unity, self-regulation, and the interrelationship of structure and function

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## See one, do one, teach one: Train the Trainer

- Why this model?
  - Opportunity for Transformative Change
  - Novel Approach
  - Increased Efficiency
  - Collaborative Model
  - True Exchange of Ideas



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## 4 Principles of Traditional Chinese Medicine

- Your body is an integrated whole.
- You are completely connected to nature.
- You were born with a natural self-healing ability.
- Prevention is the best cure.



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## Osteopathy vs TCM

- Osteopathy
  - Patient centered
  - Holistic
  - Preventative care focused
- TCM
  - Yin and yang theory
  - Emphasis on balance and harmony
  - Prevention through interpreting signs of imbalance
  - Intertwined in Chinese culture



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## Resources used by IPCEA

- Go back to basics
- Do your homework
- It's all about perspective
- Expect the unexpected
- Create accountability
- Encourage feedback
- Create a warm handoff
- Play host!



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## Conclusions

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## Bridging the Gaps



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## In Summary

- Barriers to Family Medicine exist but can be overcome
- Both novel and "train the trainer" programs are essential
- Osteopathic medicine philosophy was a key bridge for "buy-in"
- Do your homework!

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