

Societies for Kampo Medicine

Kampo Medicine was a de jure medicine until the Meiji-Restoration in 1886. During this period, scholars did not take the initiative to develop an academic society. Long after the Meiji Restoration the government decided to authorize German medicine as a formal medicine. Doctors who were practicing Kampo medicine reacted to the government and as a consequence developed a number of political associations which attempted academic actions resulting in Kampo medicine becoming a social outcast. In the true sense of the word, the first society of Kampo medicine came into existence in the 1930's.

At that time, there were few doctors, pharmacologists and acupuncturists who gathered to form societies for the study of Kampo Medicine, but rather took action individually. Eventually, they took counsel together and established the Japanese Society of Kampo Medicine" and published the official journal *Kampo and Chinese Herbs*. This was the first society of Kampo medicine in Japan.

After the Second World War, this society could not continue because Japanese society as a whole experienced significant change. However, when postwar adjustments were finished, people who established the previous society, re-established the Japanese Society of Oriental Medicine in 1950. This society continues today and plays an important role in Kampo medicine in Japan.

Associations which play an active part in Kampo Medicine today are:

1. Japanese Society of Oriental Medicine

This society represents Japanese Kampo medicine and is the most authoritative in Japan. It was established to broaden communication among practitioners and to foster cooperation among researchers. Its primary goal was to advance Kampo medicine in 1950 by medical doctors, pharmacologists, and acupuncturists who were practicing this medicine. Its sphere of activity comprehends Kampo Medicine, acupuncture and most areas of Kampo Medicine.

Present actions are:

Major activities

- (1) To hold a congress and academic meetings and publish the official journal and other publications,
- (2) To authorize a specialist of Kampo medicine,
- (3) To investigate and research Oriental medicine,
- (4) To interchange and cooperate with facilities at home and abroad, and
- (5) Other activities to achieve the above-mentioned purpose.

Present state of activities

- (1) Publishing of its official journal, *Kampo Medicine*

Published 6 times a year, plus a special issue for the annual academic congress. The journal reached number 225 (Vol.54 No.2) as of March 2003.

Authors must be a member of the society in principle and access not only the Japanese, but also the English literature.

- (2) Holding an academic congress

Holding one general congress each year, sectional meetings at the 8 branches, prefectural meetings and lecture meetings for authorized doctors, totaling 70 meetings per year.

- (3) Authorizing a specialist in Kampo Medicine

Since 1989, this system is used to generate a council of authorized doctors. Such authorization by the society requires:

- Have a national license of medicine, be a member of the society over 5 years, take designated credits.
- Turn in case reports and to pass a written and an oral certification examination which is held once a year.
- Renewal term: every 5 years
- Number of authorized doctors: 3,487 person

- (4) Numbers of members as of March 2003.

Full members: 8,247

Supporting members: 367

Total: 8,614

(Breakdown of full members: medical doctors 6,998, dentists 41, pharmacologists 873, acupuncturists 323, other scholars 12)

- (5) Committees

The society conducts its activities mainly through permanent and special committees. Current committees are:

- i. Committee for editing and publishing official journal - *Kampo Medicine*
- ii. Committee for editing and publishing the English version of *Kampo Medicine*
- iii. Committee for science and education
To conduct various educational seminars and to edit textbooks
- iv. Committee for public relations
To interact and cooperate with facilities at home and abroad
- v. Committee for health insurance
Management of health insurance issues about Chinese herbs and traditional prescriptions
- vi. Committee for health insurance
To take measures to advance national policies for health insurance
- vii. Committee for planning and management
To advance the image of the society and to make inquiries for the board of directors.
- viii. Committee for the system of authorized doctors
To examine and authorize doctors of Kampo medicine.
- ix. Committee for investigation of medical plants for Kampo prescriptions
To investigate and research medical plants for Kampo prescriptions and folk medicine.
- x. Committee for indications of Acupoints
To research acupoints from a historical point of view, the development of acupuncture and educational programs
- xi. Committee for technical terms
To publish the glossary of "Kampo Medicine" and its translation to English.
- xii. Special committee for EBM
To investigate the EBM in Kampo Medicine
- xiii. Committee for public information
To service and maintain the home-page of the society

2. Medical and Pharmaceutical Society for WAKAN-YAKU

The Wakan Yaku symposium (1967-1983) focused mainly on research into Wakan Yaku (the crude drugs serving as material for the preparation of Kampo medicines) was the parent organization for the establishment of this society in 1984. The society holds one annual national conference. While the Japan Society for Oriental Medicine primarily publishes clinical research results, publications pertaining to crude drugs, preparations and basic research are the primary focus in this society.

The society also publishes its own official organ, the "Journal of the Wakan-Yaku Society". This society has the following purposes.

- (1) Meeting and exchanging information among pharmaceutical researchers, physicians and pharmacists regarding various forms of research into Wakan Yaku.
- (2) Gathering of colleagues studying the various systems of Kampo medicine and traditional medicine and exchange of relevant information.
- (3) Attempts to fuse science based on reductionism and the concepts of "complex systems, diverse systems" dealt with in traditional medicine.
- (4) Establishment of new therapeutics and providing the obtained knowledge for the general population.

Since 2002 the "central curriculum of medical education" in medical facilities has been initiated. It includes the item "ability to explain Wakan Yaku", so that this society too is actively pursuing the integration of this concept.

3. The association of east-Asian medicine

In 1938 the leaders in Kampo medicine at the time convened and decided to promote an exchange between East Asian medicine in general and TCM. It established the Association of East-Asian Medicine for the prosperity of this form of medicine, supporting the activities of the Japanese Kampo Medical Society as a by-product of their program. After World War II, during a period of confusion, the association remained dormant for a period, but resumed its activities in 1954 that continue to the present day. Whereas the highest priority of The Japan Society for Oriental Medicine is academic research, the Association of East-Asian Medicine deals with the transmission of traditions, using traditional methods for its research. The Association maintains a mutually supporting relationship with The Japan Society for Oriental Medicine. The official organ of the

association, "Clinical Kampo", is published as vertical print and thereby preserves the ancient form of traditional medicine comparatively well.

In the past, its official publication represented the main activity of this association, but in 1991 at the academic general meeting, "Kampo Medicine Research" was established and henceforth published many excellent, strongly traditionally inclined research results.

Currently, the association has about 1,600 members, comprising mainly physicians, pharmacists and acupuncturists, and is engaged in the following main activities.

- (1) Publication of the association's official organ "Kampo Medicine Research".
- (2) Study groups, lectures, other activities considered necessary for the promotion of traditional medicine.
- (3) Commendations of Kampo researchers
- (4) Exchange with related domestic and foreign organizations.

4. Japan Society of Medical History

This academic society was founded in 1927 for "research into and spread of medical history research".

It holds one general conference annually. In addition, there are several regional meetings with comparatively few attendants, but a high level of activity. The society publishes the official organ "Journal of Japanese Medical History". Members of this academic society include a variety of researchers regardless of whether they specialize in western or oriental medical history, many of whom actually specialize in the history of Kampo medicine or acupuncture and moxibustion. Many researchers of Chinese medical history, live in Japan, but in comparison to Chinese researchers these researchers publish a great deal of elaborate work characterized by unique points of view. This is particularly true for the field of acupuncture and moxibustion.

This academic society has the following purposes.

- (1) Organization of academic conferences, lectures and academic exhibitions.
- (2) Publication of the official organ "Journal of Japanese Medical History", "Newsletter of the Japan Society for Medical History" and related books.
- (3) Maintaining an exchange with related domestic and foreign organizations as a representative of the academic world of Japanese medical history.
- (4) Conducting activities in order to achieve the above-mentioned goals.