



Ying Mao, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Neurosurgery
Huashan Hospital
Associate Chief, Department of Neurosurgery
Shanghai Medical College of Fudan University

Huashan Hospital Affiliated to Fudan University: Spanning a Century of History

Ying Mao, Zhi F. Shi, Liang F. Zhou, Yao Zhao

Established in 1907, Huashan Hospital affiliated to Fudan University represents in microcosm the growth of modern Chinese medical science and shows its course of development. Over the past 103 years, the hospital has grown from a staff of a dozen to 3103 staff members, covering an area of 37,396 m² with 1216 hospital beds. Huashan Hospital has grown into one of the best-known hospitals in China with multiple world-renowned disciplines, including neurosurgery, hand surgery, dermatology, and infectious disease.

A CENTURY OF HISTORY

Huashan Hospital, established in 1907, has a history of 103 years. During this period, the hospital has grown out of nothing, survived numerous trials and hardships, and expanded to achieve an esteemed reputation in China and abroad (**Figure 1**).

Arduous Pioneering

In 1904, the Russo-Japanese War broke out. The war spread to the three northeastern provinces of China. To rescue the compatriots who were knee-deep in war, philanthropists from Shanghai in east China, headed by Dunhe Shen, raised funds to establish the Kingdoms of Red Cross, Shanghai Branch, the predecessor of the Red Cross Society of China. In those war-ridden years, the forerunners of the Red Cross Society realized that to cure and rescue the injured masses, they needed to have their own medical facilities and team.

Under the approval and support of the government of Qing Dynasty and the International Red Cross, Shen started to raise funds and make plans for establishing a hospital and medical school. This was the beginning of Huashan Hospital.

In the early days, the hospital had a floor area of only 7 acres, accommodating a building for the hospital and a building for the medical school (**Figure 2**). The hospital, with 50 beds, had an internal medicine department and a surgery department. The first director of the hospital, Keshi, a British physician, was in charge of hospital administration. In 1925, the medical school recruited 20 5-year medical students, who were the first group of modern medical talents in China.

In that early period, growth of the hospital was restricted because of insufficient finances and materials. During this time, Dunhe Shen seized the opportunity to run the hospital and school in cooperation with partners. In 1913, Shen signed a partnership agreement with Harvard Medical School for 5 years. Highton from the United States held the post of President. When the contract with Harvard Medical School expired, Shen signed a 3-year partnership agreement with Seventh Day Adventist, appointing Landis as the President of the medical school. The partnership improved medical treatment and education in the hospital and medical school, enhanced the comprehensive strength of the hospital, and laid a solid foundation for future development.

Independent Administration and Achievements

In 1921, the partnership with Seventh Day Adventist ended. The Red Cross Society organized numerous prominent physicians from

Key words

- Centurial history
- Fudan University
- Huashan Hospital
- Neurosurgery department
- Shanghai, China

Abbreviations and Acronyms

- AVM:** Arteriovenous malformation
CT: Computed tomography
DSA: Digital subtraction angiography
JCI: Joint Commission International
MRI: Magnetic resonance imaging



From the Shanghai Clinical Center of Neurosurgery, Shanghai Neurosurgical Emergency Center, and Department of Neurosurgery, Huashan Hospital, Shanghai Medical College, Fudan University, Shanghai, China

To whom correspondence should be addressed: Liang F. Zhou, M.D.
[E-mail: lfzhou@online.sh.cn; lfzhou@shmu.edu.cn]

Citation: *World Neurosurg.* (2011) 75, 3/4:369-376.

DOI: 10.1016/j.wneu.2011.02.002

Journal homepage: www.WORLDNEUROSURGERY.org

Available online: www.sciencedirect.com

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Figure 1. Aerial photograph showing the downtown campus of Huashan Hospital.

Shanghai for a consultative team and took back control of the hospital for independent operation. Huilin Niu was recommended to serve as the director of the hospital. By that time, the hospital had 100 beds and an internal medicine department, surgery department, obstetrics and gynecology department, and pediatrics department (**Figure 3**). In the first year of independent administration, the hospital celebrated many excellent achievements. In addition to providing conventional clinical services, the hospital undertook the tasks of epidemic prevention and disaster relief. On September 1, 1923, a massive earthquake hit Kanto, Japan. The Red Cross Society of China organized its first-ever medical aid team to go abroad for disaster medical service. Niu led the team with members from Huashan Hospital. The team from Huashan Hospital was the only overseas medical aid team to go to Japan at that time.

In addition to extending medical treatment, in 1922, Zheyang Wu, head nurse and a nursing expert of the hospital, established a nursing school affiliated with the hospital. This was the first nursing school in the country run by Chinese. The nursing school recruited 3-year nursing students. Physicians and professors from Europe and the United States taught at the school. In 1925, Wu and members of the Chinese Nursing Association attended the International Nurse Meeting in France. It was the first time Chinese nurses participated in the International Nursing Conference.

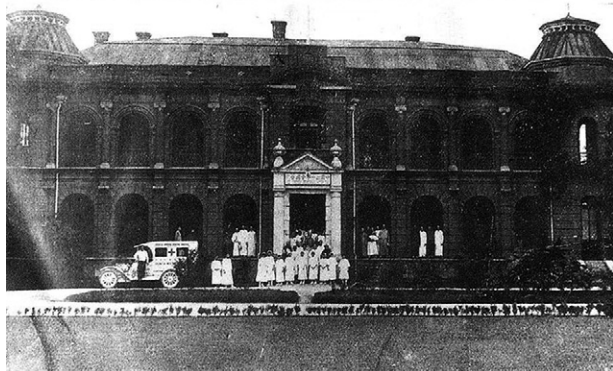


Figure 2. Photograph of the staff at Huashan Hospital in early years.

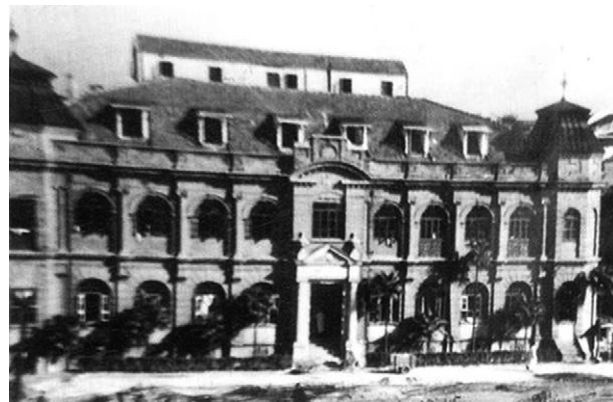


Figure 3. Main hospital building in the 1920s.

On August 1, 1928, National Central University and the Red Cross Society of China agreed to list Huashan Hospital as a practice base of the recently established medical college of National Central University (predecessor of Shanghai Medical College). Fuqing Yan, president of the medical college and a founder of modern Chinese medical education, concurrently served as the director of the hospital. The hospital showed a good momentum of growth, with daily clinic service expanded from 100 to 300 patients. The hospital beds numbered 300.

The hospital established a system for training resident physicians in a term of 3 years. During training, the resident physicians took turns to be on duty for emergency calls. The physicians treated all sorts of patients to gain experience in multiple areas. The hospital strictly carried out the appointment system and knock-out system for resident physicians and other physicians each year. In this way, the hospital found and employed the best physicians and eliminated unqualified individuals to improve medical treatment to the fullest extent.

Growth amid War

On January 28, 1932, the Japanese invaded Shanghai. Physicians and nurses at the hospital and teachers and students at the medical school took an active part in medical aid at the frontline and rear hospitals. The only ambulance of the hospital was blown up by Japanese planes on its way to Zhenru (**Figure 4**). When the Anti-Japanese Invasion War flared up, the hospital was renamed the No. 1 Hospital of Red Cross Society of China and turned into a wartime hospital, with a tenet of “treating patients, rescuing wounded soldiers, promoting health, and accelerating medical education.”

In the wake of the battle of Songhu on August 13, 1938, Shanghai was occupied by Japanese invaders. The hospital was in the frontline of the war. As the country was faced with a crisis, all the staff members of the hospital and medical school, sharing a bitter hatred for the enemy, remained at their posts despite the war. These individuals were devoted to caring for the wounded soldiers and civilians. The hospital set up a first-aid team under Red Cross of China, headed by Changgeng Ji, Youshan Shao, and Jiashi Huang, to have ambulatory surgical operations in the frontlines in Nanjing and Wuxi.

During the 8-year Anti-Japanese Invasion War period, the hospital staff members persevered in offering medical service and education

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