



## Great Hospitals of Asia: Neurosurgery and Spine Surgery at Xi'an Jiaotong University-Affiliated Honghui Hospital

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Established in 1987, the Spine Surgery Hospital at Honghui Hospital is one of the oldest spinal surgical departments in China. The first chairman, Yuan Fuyong, devoted himself to the development of the department. The current president, Hao Dingjun, assumed the position in November 2008. The current department consists of 5 wards and 235 beds, encompassing the entire spectrum of spinal surgical diseases, with 27 specialized faculty members and care teams. The remarkable growth of the hospital during the last 30 years made it possible to perform 8000 operations in 2017. A total of 300 articles were published in scientific journals, of which more than 100 were published in international journals between 1987 and 2017. At present, the developmental model of neurosurgery and spine surgery at Honghui Hospital is based on the concept of holistic integrative medicine. It was jointly developed by several departments including those of spine surgery, neurosurgery, traditional Chinese medicine rehabilitation, and basic research. This article traces the history, research and teaching accomplishments, academic exchanges, and future directions.

and supporting local health education (Figure 1). Many staff members with achievements were commended and rewarded by the new China. By 1965, the Red Cross Hospital had developed into a comprehensive general hospital, focused on orthopedics with 300 orthopedic beds. Liang Yun (1910–1991), Cai Zongzhou (1915–1991), Yu Jizu (1920–2005), and Guo Hanzhang (1916–2002), the 4 well-known orthopedic doctors in Xi'an, became the backbone of the orthopedics department. Subsequently, with the support of the local government and the Chinese Red Cross Society, the hospital developed rapidly and continued to develop new technologies. Some difficult operations reached leading national levels. Over 100 years, the hospital has been passed from one generation to another. As the earliest public hospital in Xi'an, the hospital developed from a little boat to one of the top 3 orthopedics centers in China. "Go to Red Cross Hospital for orthopedics" became a common phrase in Western China. Xi'an Jiaotong University accepted Red Cross Hospital as an affiliated hospital in 2011 and changed its name to Xi'an Jiaotong University-affiliated Honghui Hospital.

Honghui Hospital inherited the superb medical skills and sincerity of great physicians. The century-old hospital strives for excellence and the best results in China. During the new period, under the leadership of President Hao, Honghui Hospital has grown into a class III grade A general hospital, integrating medical treatment, teaching, research, and rehabilitation. It has 1300 beds, of which 1000 are orthopedic beds, and 3 hospitals within the general hospital, 5 diagnostic and treatment centers, and 51 clinical departments with multiple disciplines coexisting. It performs over 40,000 orthopedic surgeries every year and has become a key clinical department in China (Figure 2).

Honghui Hospital is now home to 284 experts with senior technical titles, over 60 doctors and master supervisors, and over 140 staff members from important national academic

### INTRODUCTION

Honghui Hospital, once called Red Cross Hospital since the Revolution of 1911, was founded by Mr. Kang Yiru (1870–1917). The hospital undertook rescue tasks during the war years, saving numerous revolutionary soldiers and victims

#### Key words

- Holistic integrative medicine
- Honghui Hospital
- Neurosurgery
- Spine
- Traditional Chinese medicine
- Translational medicine

#### Abbreviations and Acronyms

**NSFC:** Natural Science Foundation of China

**SCI:** Science Citation Index

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**Figure 1.** (A) Mr. Kang Yiru (1870–1917), founder of Honghui Hospital. (B) The battlefield rescue team carrying out ambulance exercises (1911).

organizations. Each year it cultivates more than 50 masters, doctors, and postdoctoral fellows. It successively obtained over 220 scientific research project approvals of different levels in recent years, including the Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) for 27 projects in China. It has published more than 2400 papers, of which over 260 are indexed in the Science Citation Index (SCI). It has obtained 57 rewards for scientific research, archived 32 national patents, and published 60 monographs and translations. In addition, it has distinguished itself by contributing to the Chinese Orthopedic Association, and over 30 experts have attended national academic exchanges. It successfully held the first Xi'an International Orthopedics Department Meeting and the Xi'an International Orthopedic Master and other national and

international orthopedics academic conferences. More than 30 world-class experts, including Nobel Prize winners, have been invited as guest professors, promoting the rapid development of scientific research and teaching, and laying a solid foundation for Honghui Hospital to be known abroad.

Neurosurgery and spine surgery at Honghui Hospital have largely contributed to this remarkable achievement.

## DEVELOPMENT OF NEUROSURGERY AND SPINE SURGERY

### Department of Neurosurgery

The Department of Neurosurgery was founded in 1992 by Professor Wan Chengmao and Professor Zhou Jinsong. As the



**Figure 2.** (A) Honghui Hospital, 1950s. (B) Honghui Hospital, 1980s. (C) Honghui Hospital, 2017.

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