

Activities of Chinese Pharmacological Society in Fighting against COVID-19

When the COVID-19 outbreak began at the start of 2020, the Chinese Pharmacological Society (CNPHARS) actively called for their members to take positive action and contribute their wisdom and strength to combat COVID-19.

1. **Initiatives all CNPHARS members in defeating COVID-19.** To further consolidate the synergy of scientists and strengthen the epidemic prevention and control linked to scientific research, CNPHARS made an initiative on January 31st to all members and Chinese pharmacological investigators for actively taking part in related scientific researches and guidance on rational drug use. According to the feedback, the CNPHARS members greatly contributed to the relevant tasks. For example, they scrutinized the medical ethics of the clinical trials; the pharmacists in hospitals organized in special groups to formulate the drug list and guide the clinical drug use in designated hospitals and mobile cabin hospitals; TCM pharmacologists set up the “web pharmacy” to provide TCM medical services and diagnosis online.

2. Making suggestions and proposals as the scientific intelligence unit. Since the epidemic outbreak, CNPHARS experts submitted suggestions for COVID-19 prevention and control through different ways. For example, as an expert on drug and publicity in the Anti-COVID-19 Sci-tech Breakthrough Group, Prof. Guanhua Du, the former president of CNPHARS, plays an important role in the drug research and scientific publicity and advice.

3. Comprehensive scientific research. CNPHARS members took part in a series of crucial researches including anti-COVID-19 drug discovery by drug repositioning technology, drug screening, and clinical trials. Some results have been obtained and published on international journals. In conjunction with Hanyang Mobile Cabin Hospital and Capital Medical University Xuanwu Hospital, CNPHARS Division of Drug-induced Diseases is conducting a retrospective research on the effect of ACEI/ARB drugs on COVID-19 patients with hypertension to study if ACEI/ARB drugs should be discontinued in the treating hypertension patients with SARS-Cov-2 infection.

4. Popular science publicity on various platforms. A variety of popular science on

epidemic prevention and control were publicized on the mainstream media, social media and scientific journals. Respiratory pharmacologists were recruited to participate in the compilation of a series of popular science titled *Tests on the Epidemic: 100 Suggestions from 50 Scientists*, and achieved good scientific popularization benefits. About 40 scientific articles on COVID-19 research have been published on *Herald of Medicine*, a CNPHARS pharmacological journal whose editorial office locates in Wuhan. The contents included guidelines on COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment, anti-SARS-CoV-2 clinical trials, progresses on the epidemic prevention, control and research, and experiences of resuscitation, etc. Special series of the deeds and actions performed combatting COVID-19, such as *PharmStory on the Frontline* and *Jointly Fighting*, were published on the WeChat Media of CNPHARS to encourage the medical staff in the front line.

5. Making and promoting the guidelines and common views. Some of the CNPHARS divisions actively took part in making and promoting the guidelines and common views on anti-COVID-19 according to their speciality. *The Common View on Public In-home Rational Drug Use in Epidemic: Management and guidance*, and *the Common View on the Guidance of Hospital Pharmaceutical Work and Strategies of Prevention and Control of SARS-CoV-2* played important roles in guiding the clinical rational drug use during the epidemic.

6. Academic activities collaborating with IUPHAR. IUPHAR showed great concerns on the COVID-19 prevention and control in China. On the Executive committee teleconference on February 11th, IUPHAR councilors highly appreciated the efforts for the epidemic prevention and control progresses that have been made in China and expressed the full confidence for China to win the battle against the coronavirus. Prof. Michael Spedding, on behalf of IUPHAR, extended his greetings and encouragements to all CNPHARS members through CNPHARS, and expressed the willingness of IUPHAR to provide as much support as possible to facilitate Chinese pharmacologists to achieve progress on anti-COVID-19 drug research and development, and the prevention and control work. CNPHARS officers sincerely appreciated IUPHAR for their concerns and supports, and expressed the expectation to enhance the collaboration with IUPHAR to promote the scientific communication on COVID-19 research.

A great deal of clinical trials of anti-COVID-19 drugs were launched since the epidemic

outbreak. In order to improve the clinical research level of anti-COVID-19 drugs and gain more experience, CNPHARS leaders proposed to co-organize the IUPHAR-CNPHARS Webinar: Clinical Research on Anti-COVID-19 Drugs. This suggestion was highly supported by Profs. Ingolf Cascorbi and Michael Spedding. They held several working teleconferences with IUPHAR Clinical Division (Profs. Caroline Samer, David Webb, Nilima Kshirsagar, Maria Isabel Lucena, etc.) to discuss the proposal, and kept close touch with CNPHARS. The proposal and program of the webinar has been agreed to be held on April 7th through Zoom. Nearly 100 CNPHARS researchers would discuss the key issue with IUPHAR experts. We believe the important meeting would greatly contribute to improving the clinical research level, and promoting anti-COVID-19 drug R&D, both in China and in the world.

CNPHARS is willing to Join hands and work together with IUPHAR and the other pharmacological societies in various countries to contribute to the fight against COVID-19 and finally defeating the epidemic!

Reference

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