

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*
A Citation



Wu Jie-ping, BS, MD, FACP(Hon), FRCS Edinburgh(Hon)

Professor Wu Jie-ping, China's leading authority on urology, is the Honorary President of Beijing Medical University and Honorary Director of that University's Institute of Urology, and the Honorary President of the Peking Union Medical College. A native of Changzhou in Jiangsu Province, Professor Wu was brought up in Tianjin. His father, Mr Wu Jingyi, was an industrialist in the early days of republican China, and had contact with the West. As a result of family influence, Professor Wu has cultivated from an early age an enlightened and practical turn of mind.

When he was 16, at the bidding of his father, Professor Wu enrolled as a student at the renowned Peking Union Medical College where he embarked on his medical studies. Following his graduation he stayed on at the College, and after serving his internship, obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the age of 25. In 1946 he set up the urological surgery unit at the Peking Medical College, thereby laying the foundation for urological studies in China. He set up the Teaching and Research Unit in Urology of the Beijing Medical University in 1964. In 1978 it became the Institute of Urology which is known all over the world today.

In 1947 Professor Wu, in his determination to better serve his patients, proceeded to the University of Chicago for postgraduate work. There Professor Wu and his fellow researchers worked under Professor Charles Huggins, who laid the cornerstone for modern endocrinotherapy in clinical oncology and who was to become a Nobel Laureate, and Professor Reed Nesbit, an authority on endoscopic prostatectomy. Professor Wu distinguished himself in his work and achieved many successes in urological surgery research.

In late 1948 Professor Wu, now equipped with the most advanced medical knowledge and urged on by a strong love for his country and his people, returned to teaching and research in China, where he followed steadfastly his original resolve to promote medical knowledge and to train future generations of medical practitioners. Over the decades his efforts at training medical students bore abundant fruit. When one surveys the leading urologists in China, one finds that a great many of them are Professor Wu's former students. Professor Wu knows his students well and tailors his teaching to their natural bent, brought out the best in the new generations of urology experts and this was recognized by the Beijing Medical University when he was awarded the *Bo Le Prize*.

Apart from teaching at the University, Professor Wu also distinguished himself in medical research and in clinical work. He performed augmentation cystoplasty using the caecum as early as the 1950s, and devised what has come to be known as the Wu Catheter, a special urethral catheter which facilitates prostate hyperplasia surgery. In 1960 Professor Wu's medical research team performed the first cadaveric kidney transplant in China with resounding success. In the early sixties Professor Wu gained world recognition for a valuable study on the growth and the physiological conditions of the prostates of 26 eunuchs who had served at court during the last days of the Qing Dynasty. Findings of that study now form a uniquely important document in the realm of urology.



Professor Wu's principal areas of research include late complications of renal tuberculosis, vas sterilisation, adrenal surgery, and post-nephrectomy compensatory renal growth. During the last half century he has published 21 books and 150 articles on a wide range of medical subjects, and the influence of his work is indeed truly remarkable. Professor Wu's achievement in urological research is highly regarded not only in China, but also in the international medical community. Academic honours bestowed on Professor Wu are legion: he is an Honorary Member of the American Urological Association and the International Society of Surgery, a Foreign Member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine, an Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong College of Surgeons, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, an Honorary Member of the Japanese Urological Association, and an Honorary Member of the College of Family Physicians of Canada. He is the recipient of a number of highly regarded international prizes, including the Grand Medal of Paris (*the Echelon Vermeil*) and the Suzuki Uro-Medicine Award of Japan, awards which are a measure of his exalted status and enormous reputation in the world community of medicine.

A physician of profound learning and international fame, Professor Wu has attended leaders of the Chinese government as well as heads of foreign countries, and he is justly named 'Physician Extraordinary to Heads of States'. Yet Professor Wu, whose fame now extends to the four corners of the earth, has a generous heart and impresses all who know him with his great wisdom and benevolence. To him there is no patient unworthy of his utmost attention, whether he be a king or president, or just a man in the street. As his name in Chinese implies, *Jie*, or rank is linked to *Ping*, or equality, giving the idea that people of all ranks should be treated equally. Professor Wu has lived up to his name. He is a perfect example, too, of the physician in *loco parentis*.

In order that he may further offer his immense wisdom, knowledge and experience to society, Professor Wu entered national politics in the late eighties, having had a most distinguished career in research and education. He has been elected a Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China. While Chinese history records numerous philosopher-soldiers who are equally adept in letters and in arms, Professor Wu is known for his mild manners and urbane bearing, and for the admirable way in which he conducts himself as he pursues a dual career in medicine and politics. This would make him a philosopher-physician, and one that stands unique in the annals of our country.

Now in his eighties, Professor Wu enjoys excellent health and is currently devoting much of his time and energy to international efforts at promoting planned parenthood and anti-smoking campaigns. He holds key positions in organizations dedicated to these causes, and is keen on educating the populace. In 1995 the Wu Jie-ping Medical Fund for Urological Research was instituted as China proclaimed Professor Wu's beliefs and celebrated his achievements. The objectives of this Fund are to encourage medical research and to assist younger generations of medical practitioners, and its establishment marked another new height in Professor Wu's career.

Madam Chancellor, Professor Wu Jie-ping is a distinguished member of the medical profession, a doctor and a scholar of immense stature. All through his life he has embraced benevolence and service as his guiding principles, and has made illustrious contributions in his chosen field. Professor Wu is a staunch friend of The Chinese University of Hong Kong: the surgery and urology units have frequently profited from his sage advice, and his views on medical research and development of medical studies at the University. In consideration of his outstanding achievements and contributions to Chinese and world medicine, Madam Chancellor, I present Professor Wu Jie-ping for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.