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## Perspective

# The perception of the dental students on the lecture of medical history

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It is essential for a medical profession to have extensive professional knowledge of caring for patients. Furthermore, the medical profession also needs to feel empathy and sympathy for patients' suffering, in order to provide comprehensive medical care for patients in terms of body, mind, and spirit in the medical process. In the process of physician cultivation education, most of the emphasis is on the delivery of medical knowledge, and there is seldom concern for humanity, which is an indispensable part. The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) recognizes that the arts and humanities can play a unique and unrealized role in the preparation and equipping of physicians for the challenges of the 21st century. They advocate that the practice of medicine is both an art and a science, grounded in humanistic values, principles, and skills, including a deep understanding of the human condition. They also recommend integrating art and humanities into medicine to enhance the well-being of trainees and physicians.<sup>1</sup> The similar concept was also advocated in Chinese medical education. In great articles "Virtual of Great Physician" and "Education of Great Physician", Sun Simiao, the medical sage of the Tang Dynasty, points out that we must pay equal attention to professional quality and humanistic quality to become a great physician.

There are various methods that integrate the arts and humanities into medical education, including narrative medicine,<sup>2,3</sup> literature,<sup>4,5</sup> history,<sup>6</sup> and mixed.<sup>7</sup> Since 2010, medical history questions have been included in the National Dentist Examination in Japan. However, in Taiwan, there are no requirements for dental undergraduate students to study dental history. Therefore, we conducted an online 1-h lecture entitled "History of Medicine and Dentistry Seen in the Medical Museum" for dental students from Chung Shan Medical University in May 2023. Students attended this lecture at their own free will. The contents of the lecture were divided into three parts: medical history, dental history, and the Museum of Medicine of the Nippon Dental University Niigata. The Museum of Medicine opened in September 1989 as the first and only medical museum in Japan. The purpose is to contribute to academic culture by educating and researching the history of medicine through historical materials and making the historical materials available to the public. The museum exhibits and stores approximately 5000 historical materials related to not only dentistry but also medicine and pharmacy, including old medical books from the 16th century to the present, ukiyoe prints, medical instruments, medicine signboards, etc. We hope to increase the impression of medical history by giving lectures and exhibiting ancient objects in the museum. These included the books "The Surgeon, Dentist, or General Tooth, first edition, 1728" and "An Introduction to the Surgeon, Dentist or Tooth, second edition, 1746" by the founder of modern dentistry, Pierre Fauchard, ivory toothpick, wooden tooth mold for sutureless crown

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**Table 1** Perception of dental students on the lecture of medical history.

Items	Feedback <sup>a</sup> (%)		
	Very agreed/satisfied	Agreed/Satisfied	Neutral
Q1 The lecture matches the spirit of medical humanity.	32	7	1
Q2 Medical humanity is important to dental students	32	6	2
Q3 I get more insight into medical humanity	31	5	4
Q4 The overall lecture	32	7	1

<sup>a</sup> Response rate: 42% (40/95).

fabrication, manufacturing process of wooden base denture, tooth black pot and Ranbiki, and ukiyoe prints showing tooth blackening in the Edo period, etc.

Of the 95 participants, 40 (42%) responded to the questionnaires. The responses to each question are shown in Table 1. Thirty-nine (98%) participants agreed that the lecture matches the spirit of medical humanity. Thirty-eight (95%) participants agreed very strongly or strongly that medical humanity is important to dental students. Thirty-six (90%) of the students felt that they had more insight into medical humanity. The overall satisfaction rate with the lecture was 98%.

"Before becoming a doctor, becoming a man." is a popular quote in medical education in Taiwan. It is never overemphasized that medical humanity is one of the most important core educations for medical and dental students. Before becoming a medical professional, we believe that we should learn about the history of our predecessors and how they built the medical and dental sciences of today. By doing this, we would take them as a role model to work hard for the advancement of medicine.

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