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The Role And Significance Of Traditional And Modern Uyghur Medicine Achievements In The Development Of International Medical Education

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Abstract: This article examines the traditional methods and achievements of Uyghur folk medicine used in the People's Republic of China and their role in the development of the international medical education system aimed at advancing the field of folk medicine. It also analyzes the significance of contemporary international processes in science and medicine and highlights their interconnectedness.

Keywords: Xinjiang, Urumqi, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Central Asia, medicine, forum, ceremony, international medical education system, integration, Belt and Road Initiative, telemedicine, friendship hospitals, academic seminar, human resources, health and social protection, tourism, ophthalmology, cooperation, medical terminology.

Introduction: In the 21st century, one of humanity's most pressing challenges is the improvement of public health systems, particularly through the efficient use of traditional medicine. Today, large-scale scientific and practical cooperation is being implemented between the People's Republic of China and the neighboring Central Asian republics to further develop health systems and enhance interregional medical collaboration.

Numerous scholarly works—such as Lobova S. V., Bocharov S. N., Butakova M. M. (2024); Savkovich E. V. (2012); Bazhenova E. S. (2011); and Wang Xuemei, Zhao Hanqin, Tian Aixia (2024)—emphasize the growing

scientific-practical partnership between medical professionals in China and those in Central Asia. Recent forums held in Urumqi within the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) confirm that traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has spread to more than 190 countries, and acupuncture has been officially recognized by 113 WHO member states.

In addition, Xinjiang specialists have established five international joint laboratories in Central Asia and one BRI joint laboratory approved by China's Ministry of Science and Technology. Several well-known traditional Chinese medicinal products have been registered for sale in Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, and large-scale pharmaceutical exports from Xinjiang to the region have been successfully launched.

Extensive cooperation frameworks have also been formalized between the leaders of China and Kyrgyzstan, including agreements on telemedicine, academic seminars, and joint medical human resource development. Similar partnerships have been strengthened with Tajikistan, particularly in ophthalmology, traditional medicine development, and herbal medicine production.

The Second China–Central Asia Traditional Medicine Forum held in Ürümqi in 2025 emphasized innovation, openness, and exchange in the integration of traditional and Western medicine, standardization of traditional medical practices, and the joint development of the “Healthy Silk Road.”

In Uzbekistan, the first standardized training course in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) for clinical residents was successfully completed at the China–Uzbekistan Traditional Chinese Medicine Center in Tashkent, marking a major step in the formal inclusion of TCM training into the country's national certification system.

METHODS

This study is based on:

1. Content analysis of Chinese, Russian, and Central Asian academic publications.
2. Review of official reports from Chinese and Central Asian ministries of health and educational institutions.
3. Comparative study of traditional Uyghur medicine educational programs implemented in Xinjiang.
4. Examination of Uyghur medical terminology and its translation challenges in the context of international medical education.
5. Synthesis of forum materials, memoranda, and international cooperation agreements between China

and Central Asian states.

RESULTS

Findings indicate that:

- Two educational institutions in Xinjiang train more than 2,100 specialists in traditional medicine.
- Across Xinjiang, 792 traditional medicine clinics operate, including 131 in collective settlements and 661 in rural areas—most applying Uyghur medical methods.
- Uyghur medicine is characterized by a strong theoretical foundation, a rich pharmacopoeia, and practical therapeutic effectiveness.
- Since 2006, specialist training has been conducted under a five-year comprehensive program titled “Uyghur Medicine–Pharmacy Complete Course.”
- The curriculum includes mastery of medicinal raw materials, close integration of pharmacology with clinical disciplines, and emphasis on local medicinal plants traditionally used in Uyghur therapy.
- Cooperation through BRI frameworks has expanded traditional medical exchanges, joint laboratories, hospital partnerships, telemedicine systems, and specialist exchange programs across Central Asia.
- Uzbekistan and China jointly established standardized training and certification in traditional Chinese medicine, officially recognized by Uzbekistan's Ministry of Health.

DISCUSSION

The achievements of Uyghur medicine play an important role in shaping long-term cooperation mechanisms in traditional medical education between Xinjiang and Central Asian states. Uyghur medical principles, terminology, and herbal pharmacology significantly contribute to the development of integrative medical education models.

Given the expanding role of traditional medicine in global health systems, accurate translation and standardization of Uyghur medical terminology into foreign languages—particularly Uzbek—is becoming increasingly important. This supports medical training quality, facilitates cross-border professional exchange, and enhances the accessibility of Uyghur medical knowledge in international academic contexts.

The rapid development of medical cooperation between China and Central Asia—through telemedicine, seminars, clinical exchanges, and herbal medicine production—demonstrates increasing demand for integrative approaches combining traditional and modern medicine. Uyghur medicine, due to its historic roots and regional relevance, serves as a vital bridge in this collaboration.

CONCLUSION

The initiatives implemented under the leadership of the People's Republic of China demonstrate a broad commitment to further developing traditional medicine, protecting public health, and strengthening international education systems. Uyghur medicine, with its extensive therapeutic experience and rich herbal resources, plays an essential role in these processes.

A key academic requirement is the creation of Uyghur–Uzbek medical terminology dictionaries, which will significantly improve the accessibility of Uyghur pharmacological knowledge for Uzbek students and researchers. Such resources will strengthen medical education quality, support intercultural exchange, and advance joint scientific research within the framework of international cooperation.

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