



LEARNING THE SECRETS OF HEALING IN ANCIENT CHINA

by K Gurunathan

Studying traditional Chinese medicine at the source, where it began thousands of years ago, is exciting for five local students who are heading for an intensive learning stint at a Chinese university in December.

Annie Gao, Basil Jung, Kean Tang and Radmila Domanovic of Auckland and Becs Arahanga of Wellington are scheduled for some rigorous training in practical skills at the Hubei University of Chinese Medicine in Wuhan City.

Radmila, originally from Croatia, has a background in chemistry and technology. She says she does not want to miss this opportunity. Completing her Diploma in Sports Massage (Neuro Muscular Therapy) and Diploma in Reflexology at New Zealand College of Massage, Radmilla is particularly interested to learn the Chinese approach to medical examination, and manual lymphatic massage.

Mother of five, Becs of Ngati Raukawa tribal ancestry prefers to describe her anticipated experience in the words of her old people: "Whaaia te iti kahurangi. Ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei". Translated, it means: "Pursue excellence – should you stumble, let it be to a lofty mountain".

Becs, who is undertaking Bachelor of Health Science in Acupuncture, comes from a colourful working background, including seasonal work to adventure tourism, retail, and film work. But nothing has fired her passion as training to be a healer. "I am keen to study Chinese medicine at its birthplace," she says.

Malaysian Chinese, Kean Tang, has Bachelor in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas, USA. This is her first year studying Chinese medicine. She believes the clinical experience she is about to gain at Hubei will prepare her better for her second-year courses. "Of course, I'm expecting to see and learn something I will not be able to learn from books," she adds. Basil, a former banker in Korea for twenty years and Hungary for five, speaks for all the students when he lays out the four areas of learning he expects to gain from his stint in Hubei. One is to get "a feel" for the medical environment and the medical equipment they use at the University.



Top: Radmila Domanovic; bottom: Becs Arahanga

"I want to view their actual clinical practices, to confirm what I have already learned and being able to compare the theory as taught in New Zealand with the practice in China," says Basil, adding that he also wants to examine the level of reliance on Chinese herbs in the clinical treatment of diseases. "An area I can't measure in New Zealand," he adds.

Lastly, Basil would like to see how TCM and western clinics co-operate on treating the same patient.

As Becs says in translating another Maori wisdom: "My success is not mine alone but one that belongs to the collective". ■



Top left: Kean Tang; top right: Annie Gao; bottom: Basil Jung.



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FUNDRAISING FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

by K Gurunathan



About a 160 people ate their way through a selection of eight delectable dishes and in the process raised almost \$7000 to help fund an educational trip by five students heading to China in December. The fundraising dinners were held in Wellington on October 30 and in Auckland on 6 November.

The Wellington dinner was held at the Dynasty Restaurant in Porirua while Auckland's was held at the Phoenix in the North Shore.

The five students, Annie Gao, Basil Jung, Kean Tang and Radmila Domanovic of Auckland and Becs Arahanga of Wellington are scheduled for some rigorous training in practical skills at the Hubei University of Chinese Medicine in Wuhan City. They will study alongside the University students, have opportunities to learn the culture and language, and observe patients at the University's affiliated hospitals.

Guest of honour at the Wellington function and Director of Consular Department at the Chinese Embassy, Mr Jiang Dianchang, welcomed the planned visit by the students. He said it was another contribution towards improving the educational, social and cultural links between New Zealand and China.

Mr Jiang, who congratulated the students on their commitment to extending their educational experience, said the growing acknowledgement of traditional Chinese medicine was one aspect of an increasing range of areas that benefited the two countries.

Also at the function was Embassy member, Madam Rose Jia. They donated \$400.

Members of the China-NZ Business Council, Deputy Chair Mr Bernard Banks and Mr John Stanley, donated \$500 towards the trip.

In Auckland, the guest of honour was Mr Xu Xin from New Zealand Federation of Chinese Medical Science Inc. Twenty members of the Federation attended the dinner function.

Director of New Zealand School of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine, Mrs Karuna Olatunji, wished the students well and thanked the School's community of staff, family and friends who had turned up to support the students.

Pictures of the fundraising events can be viewed on www.acupuncture.ac.nz. ■

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