

# Devising the formula for health

**F**ormed in 1949 as the Tianjin Public Pharmacy Learning and Practicing Institute, the School of Pharmacy of Tianjin Medical University was renamed in 1996 and was supported by a funding boost from Project 211, in 2007. It is Tianjin's only university to offer a doctoral degree in pharmacy.

The mission shared by its 99 faculty members is to promote public health and advance

pharmaceutical training. The school focuses on drug discovery, design, synthesis, and delivery for major diseases with support from national and municipal research funding agencies, regulatory bodies and businesses. In the past five years, its principal investigators have been supported by 58.5 million yuan to undertake 103 basic and translational research projects, resulting in 19 national patents in China, as

well as one US patent, and one Japanese patent.

The school has participated in clinical evaluation of more than 200 new drugs, with four approved by the National Medical Products Administration (NMDA). An injection of Kang'ai, made from ginseng and other traditional herbal medicinal ingredients, was approved by NMDA in 2002 to target the cancers and other diseases. The school has

also conducted studies into ginsenosides and other organic molecules with potential for disease treatment. Academia-industry collaboration from TMU School of Pharmacy has worked to improve the effects of existing drugs such as ibuprofen, as well as developed new drug delivery systems such as nucleic acid-based drug conjugates and thermosensitive and photosensitive nanoparticles. ■

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# Safeguarding public health

**T**ianjin Medical University (TMU) School of Public Health was founded in 1979.

The first dean was Guanyi Geng, a distinguished epidemiologist in China. Over the past decades, the school has developed rapidly into a specialized, multi-level teaching and research centre. The public health and preventive medicine discipline was elevated to a key construction discipline of the "211 Project" and a first-class discipline in Tianjin.

The school has a long and proud history of teaching.

The school has cultivated approximately 2,380 undergraduate students and 740 graduate students pursuing public health. Preventive medicine is a national first-class undergraduate major, while epidemiology, nutrition and food hygiene are national first-class courses. TMU School of Public Health staff have been awarded the "National Teaching Achievement Award" three times.

The school regards serving the national strategy of "Healthy China" as an important mission.

It has established the first "5+3" integrated preventive medicine major in China. The school has established a Public Health Emergency Research Center to strengthen the research on the response and disposal of public health emergencies. In order to strengthen the public health and disease prevention and control system, TMU and Nankai University cooperated to build Tianjin Joint Research Institute of Public Health and Health Care.

The school has four scientific-research platforms and hosts many programmes of the National Natural Science

Foundation of China. Important breakthroughs have been made in the following research areas: health risks of persistent organic pollutants and air pollution, the development of recommended daily iodine intake for Chinese population, folate in relation to cognitive neurodevelopment, autism spectrum disorders and diabetes research.

With a long history of multilateral collaboration in education and research all around the world, the school promotes international cooperation with 12 colleges including Yale University and University of Toronto. ■

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