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Hengshui of Henan Launched Meeting on Health Food Advertisement

The market regulators of Hengshui, Henan province, recently held a meeting to release notice on cracking down on illegal advertisement and marketing campaigns of health food.

Niu Zebin, chief of Hengshui food and market supervision bureau, said in the meeting that a consensus must be reached to prioritize the crackdown among this year's work tasks. Responsibilities should be made clear among all departments to facilitate the implementation of all the work.

Different agencies are asked to coordinate their efforts in launching special campaigns to inspect the local market. Measures including processing complaint reports, spot checks and daily inspections should be taken. (Source: Hebei govt)

Special Food Registration Department Set Up

The state regulators recently set up a department that is in charge of special food registration management.

The department mainly has seven responsibilities, including researching on registration systems for health food, infant formula products and food of special medical use. It is also in charge of the administrative review and registration management work.

The new department also needs to coordinate with relevant agencies to launch international exchanges of special-use food, and supervise relevant productions and sales.

The department is supported by three branches, which will be



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responsible for technology support, assessment of relevant works and other registration-related works. (Source: Shuzheng Kangxun)

Jiangxi Launched Spot Checks on Health Food

Food and Drug Regulators of Jiangxi province recently spot checked three kinds of food, which involved 77 batches of samples.

Among them, 38 batches were health food, 36 of which were found standard.

The local authority also reminds local consumers that health food cannot replace drugs. Some health products can help control blood pressure but they cannot replace relevant medicines.

The local regulators will also release a list of trustworthy health food companies for the reference of consumers, based on results of the spot checks. (Source: China Biotech Net)

Straight From The Heart

Gregg Stone, a cardiologist from the United States, has been working along with his Chinese peers to help people with heart diseases in China.

Stone, 60, is a professor of medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and serves as the director of cardiovascular research and education at the Center for Interventional Vascular Therapy at New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

As a specialist in interventional cardiology that deals with catheters, he has worked on many clinical trials.

His association with China began nearly 20 years ago, when he met Gao Runlin, an expert on interventional cardiology from the government-run Fuwai Hospital in Beijing.

At the time, this field was new in the country-with few procedures conducted here. Stone and Gao worked together to bring new medical techniques to China and train physicians.



"We talked about the need for regional training centers, large educational programs and government-invested laboratories to spread the techniques," says Stone.

After Gao launched an annual event called China Interventional Therapeutics in 2002, Stone worked with him to expand its influence, including establishing a partnership with Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics, a global conference sponsored by New York-based Cardiovascular Research Foundation, of which Stone is the vice-chairman.

The Chinese event, which includes lectures and live broadcasts of surgeries related to heart diseases, has become a gathering that is attended by 8,000 medical professionals every year.

"It appeals to both young doctors and the very experienced ones," Stone says.

Over the years, such collaborations have expanded to hospitals in Beijing, Nanjing, Shenzhen and other cities. Stone is also involved in promoting China's medical progress in the world.

After Chinese doctor Chen Shaoliang and his team from Nanjing No 1 Hospital developed a technique called the "DK Crush", which is said to significantly enhance the quality of treatment for a disease in the coronary artery, Stone actively helped them to promote the method internationally.

The technique was displayed at two important international medical conferences, including the 2011 Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics, which helped it gain wider recognition.

Stone is also helping Chen do international collaborative research to prove that a separate method developed by Chen to treat pulmonary hypertension is effective, before it can be adopted worldwide.

According to Chen, Stone has helped the Nanjing hospital in Jiangsu province, develop its cardiovascular medicine department further.

Besides coming to China for research, meetings and to train doctors almost every year—sometimes at his own cost—Stone has also accepted several cardiologists from the hospital for training at his hospital in the US.

In 2015, the Nanjing No 1 Hospital and New York-Presbyterian Hospital jointly established a research institute on heart diseases in Nanjing. The ground work included a series of collaborative plans.

Stone says he is surprised by the advances made in medicine by China over a short period of time.

"What's been accomplished in the past 15 years is that the research coming out of China is now being applied to the whole world," he says.

"Initially it was us trying to help China, but now China is working to help us and the rest of the world," he adds.

Stone received the Friendship Award in 2016.

The award is the highest honor given by the Chinese government to foreigners who have made significant contribution to the country's social and economic development.

"I am very proud if I have played a small role in contributing to the health of people in China. I hope that opportunity will continue, because there is more work to be done."

He has also been invited as a high-level expert to give his own suggestions to the Chinese government for the country's medical development.

While China has established many hospitals and laboratories with good facilities, he says more doctors need to be trained to make the sector better able to deliver medical care.

"In a country with such a large population, medical care can be very hard to be delivered consistently. But I think we are on our way to doing it," he says, adding that in the next decade, hospitals in the big cities will need to spread the lessons they have learned to smaller places for the entire country to benefit. (Source: China Daily)



"He is very patient while answering questions from Chinese doctors," says Chen. "As a foreign expert, he has served selflessly...we value his work very much."



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China's Medical Robots Take On Foreign Rivals

Surgeon Tian Wei came across one of the most challenging orthopedic surgeries in his 30-year career in 2015. A 43-year-old patient had complained of progressive numbness in the limbs on his right side for 14 months, caused by a deformity in his upper cervical vertebrae.



The patient was in dire need of surgery to implant a screw to help support his neck bone, but the operation was risky. Any minor mistake could lead to paralysis or a life-threatening hemorrhage. Many hospitals were unwilling to treat him.

But Tian, who also is president of Beijing Jishuitan Hospital, decided to do the surgery - with a little help from another "surgeon".

The operation was completed in an hour with help from Phecda, a surgery robot with a 3-D high-definition visual system that can "see" the internal orthopedic structure and a "hand" that can guide medical tools to the proper location within 0.8 millimeters.

Developed by Beijing Tinavi Medical Technology Co

with the help of Jishuitan Hospital, Phecda is part of the broad effort by Chinese companies to outcompete foreign rivals just as the country's use of medical robots is set to take off, thanks in part to an aging population.

Medical robots are highlighted in the country's Made in China 2025 strategy, which was designed to promote high-end manufacturing.

"That was the world's first robot-assisted surgery on upper cervical vertebrae," Tian said, describing the 2015 clinical trial. "Phecda is more precise than foreign products and its cost is lower."

Phecda, which is the third-generation surgery robot developed by Tinavi, is ready to be commercialized this year after obtaining approval from the China Food and Drug Administration in July.

Chinese medical robot-makers like Tinavi are working hard to outshine foreign companies in both price and quality as they benefit from ample demand, strong policy support and manufacturing prowess, company executives and experts said.

By 2050, more than 400 million Chinese will be over 60 years old, accounting for more than 30 percent of the population, up from about 11 percent now, official data show.

"The growing number of senior citizens will offer a sizable quantity of clinical cases, and enterprises can leverage a huge database to accelerate research and development," said Zhang Songgen, chairman of Tinavi.

In April, China unveiled its plan to sell more than 30 billion yuan (\$4.4 billion) worth of domestic service robots by 2020. Medical robots are an important part of the ambitious goal, Zhang said.

In 2016, China's medical robotics market was valued at 791 million yuan, up 34.4 percent from 2015,



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according to a report by the Beijing-based research company GCIS.

"From surgery, rehabilitation, drug delivery to home care, robots are set to transform China's healthcare industry," GCIS predicted.

In addition to Tinavi, whose robots have completed around 2,000 surgeries since 2010, there are many new players. (Source: China Daily)

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