

# Foreword

Medicine and humanity are two inseparable yet mutually enriching subjects of knowledge. To cultivate a humane spirit in the mind of health professionals is a must in preventing the materialization of medicine. The change of the domestic medical environment in recent years has changed the treatment pattern of physicians. Apparently, to cure a patient's symptoms as quickly as possible becomes more important than the process of healing. Besides treating patients' uncomfortable symptoms, the wholistic method of healing an illness should be equally important in medicine. A person's spiritual dimension however is profoundly diverse. In order to offer complete healing, physicians must not only be a treating technician. Medicine is an art involving an interactive relationship that emphasizes examination with care, diagnosis with accuracy and communication with empathy. To implement this goal, medical education must try to instill an empathetic feeling into students so that they can develop a humanistic view of life.

Dr. Michael Tai of Chung Shan Medical and Dental College is one of the few bioethicists in Taiwan. He has initiated the publication of the Formosan Journal of Medical Humanities for the purpose of providing a forum for discussion and sharing of ideas in medical humanities. Since this is a noble and worthwhile cause, Chung Shan Medical College whose goal is to train wholistic physicians is happy to support this endeavor. I would encourage any concerned scholars to contribute to this journal and support this important task of promoting dialogue in medical humanities.

Chung-seng Lin, M. D.  
President Chung Shan Medical College.

