

A tribute to Hai-yan Wang (1937–2014)

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Hai-yan Wang, 1937–2014

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Professor Hai-yan Wang on 11 December 2014 at the age of 77. Behind this internationally renowned name was a woman of great will, enthusiasm, and outstanding intelligence. She became one of the very few who helped give birth, growth, and strength to modern nephrology in China.

Hai-yan Wang was born on 8 July 1937 in Qing-dao, Shan-dong Province, China. She graduated from Beijing Medical College in 1959 and started her career as a nephrologist under the mentorship of the late Professor Shu-xian Wang, founder of modern nephrology in China. From 1980 to 1983, she was a pioneering visiting scholar, under the supervision of Professor R. Glassock and Professor W. Border at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Hai-yan was a lifelong tenured professor of medicine at Peking University First Hospital and president of the Peking University Institute of Nephrology. She was a well-known leading physician-scientist, recognizing the heterogeneity of various causes of intrinsic acute renal failure and improving the concept of primary glomerulonephritis in China in the 1980s. At the same time, her work in establishing a clinical database and biobank on various kidney diseases played a fundamental role in future translational studies. Aside from these successes, she launched clinical

epidemiology in China involving chronic kidney disease and acute kidney injury. Not only did she build one of the most successful renal programs at Peking University First Hospital, but she also trained many nephrologists throughout the country. In 2013, she was awarded the International Society of Nephrology Roscoe R. Robinson Award and the first ISN Pioneer in Nephrology Award for her outstanding contributions to nephrology education and the development of modern nephrology in China.

Professor Hai-yan Wang was very active in the academic area of national and international nephrology as well as internal medicine. She served as Council member of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) (2004–2008), ISN executive councilor (2006–2008), and chair of the ISN East Asia Committee (2004–2013) and was a member of the ISN 0by25 advisory group. She was vice president of the Chinese Medical Association (1999–2009), president of the Chinese Society of Internal Medicine (2000–2008), and president of the Chinese Society of Nephrology (1992–1998).

Hai-yan Wang: a name, a woman, and a history. Her legacy will continue to guide the development of nephrology in China and worldwide.

DISCLOSURE

The author declared no competing interests.

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