
Preface to *Dan Shen (Salvia miltiorrhiza)* in Medicine

In the 2008 press conference on the publication of the Chinese edition of the *Dan Shen (Salvia miltiorrhiza) in Medicine*, several volume editors suggested that the book should be translated into English and distributed internationally. They all believed that the medical communities are enthusiastic about TCM research, and that among the studies on single herbs, the study of Danshen has taken the lead. Therefore, it was a worthy undertaking to introduce the study conducted by the Chinese people over the past 1,000 years, and especially in the past 30 years, to the world. Meanwhile, I was asked unanimously to be its editor-in-chief. After several years of hard work by nearly 100 professors and research scientists, the translation is finally complete.

The English edition of *Dan Shen (Salvia miltiorrhiza) in Medicine* is based on its Chinese edition. Modifications include changing the five-volume format to one volume and deleting some duplicated portions in the Chinese edition. Since the chapters in each volume of the Chinese edition were written by many individuals, details such as biological properties and ancient literature reviews were repeated many times, and the duplications were deleted in the English edition. Also, the various names of Danshen were unified. The appendix in the fifth volume, the prescriptions or formulas in ancient China, and the chapter on information management in the fourth volume were also deleted. The introduction to the production region, common names, and phytochemical components had appeared in the first three volumes, while this time only their first appearance was preserved. Some typos and oversights were corrected after consulting with volume editors. New progress in Danshen research was included in this book, such as the development of Salvianolate Lyophilized Injection, which finally came on the market in 2011 after 8 years of strict examination, and it was a landmark event in the development of TCM injections. It is unfortunate that we could not include the data on Qishenyiqi Dripping Pills, as the papers have not been published yet. The drug, developed by academician Boli Zhang, passed large-scale, evidence-based medicine clinical research trials in 2010, the first for a TCM drug, and won the 2011 National Science and Technology Progress Award.

In principle, the English edition of *Dan Shen (Salvia miltiorrhiza) in Medicine* is the translation of the Chinese edition, thus preserving the latter's framework. Because the Chinese edition was written by more than 100

scholars and published in five volumes, the styles and layouts were not identical. For example, some references were listed at the end of the chapter, while some were listed at the end of the section. The English edition did not change the style.

Dan Shen (Salvia miltiorrhiza) in Medicine has amassed Danshen research results since the times of ancient China—it is not only a magnificent historical scroll, but also a huge work which shines the light of modern science and technology.

I sincerely thank academicians Yongyan Wang and Boli Zhang. They have given me so much substantive guidance and encouragement despite their busy schedules. Without their help, it would have been impossible to finish the work. I also want to thank every author and volume editor who has participated in the writing and editing of both editions of this book; they have solved various problems which arose during the writing and translating processes. Last but not least, I want to thank the comrades working in the office of *Dan Shen (Salvia miltiorrhiza) in Medicine*, who have worked patiently and diligently over the past 15 years, collecting and organizing data and information.

The publication of the English edition of *Dan Shen (Salvia miltiorrhiza) in Medicine* is a testimony of our sincere desire for the communication and discussion of TCM among international communities. We earnestly welcome suggestions and criticism from our colleagues around the world.

Xijun Yan

Preface to Volume 1. Biology and Chemistry

“Botany of Danshen” systematically introduces the research on and the resource survey for Danshen (*Salvia miltiorrhiza*). It also describes Danshen’s pharmaceutical and biological characteristics, its identification, *distribution* and ecological environment, and its planting, in vitro cultivation, and genetic *breeding*. The content of Part I is based on a large amount of literature research. More importantly, many authors of this section are those who conducted this original research. For example, most of the content from Chaps. 3 to 6 is based on firsthand data; it represents not only the latest research results on Danshen, but also the theoretical foundation for further research.

It is worth pointing out that the writing of this part has received support from Tianjin Tasly Group and from a project sponsored by the National High-tech *development* Program (“863 program”). Special thanks!

Since Danshen is currently a hot topic in Chinese medicinal research, it is sure that more and more research data will be released, and that this part will have room for improvement. We welcome any criticism or comments.

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