

Andrew Huang Bio

Dr. Andrew Huang, Professor of Medicine at Duke since 1982, has had an abiding interest in the intersection of the humanities with the practice of medicine, which is the most "human" (and we hope "humane") of all the sciences. His life makes vivid the importance of this link in many ways: first of all in his own clinical practice but also in many professional initiatives he has taken: in the patient-centered, multidisciplinary way he designed, organized and staffed the cancer treatment hospital he founded in Taiwan in 1989 (the Koo Foundation Sun Yat-Sen Cancer Center); in the way he has linked the KFSYSCC to Duke University and to several universities in Taiwan and elsewhere in Asia; in the 5-year NIH grant entitled "The Asia Collaborative for Medical Education" [ACME] awarded to the KFSYSCC and Stanford University to provide ethics training for medical faculty in Vietnam, Thailand and Taiwan; in the series of books he published in Chinese on medical education; in his spearheading of educational reform in Taiwan toward a more patient-centered approach; in his ongoing service to quality of care (he served as Chairman of the National Committee on Quality of Health Care in Taiwan); in his initiation of the Andrew T. Huang Medical Education Promotion Fund to provide medical students with global horizons in medicine; in many television interviews and magazine features he did in Taiwan over the past 26 years.

At Duke, Dr. Huang co-founded and sponsored The Duke Colloquium (TDC) from 2009-2014 with former Provost of Duke University, Dr. Peter Lange. TDC provided funding for a committee of student "Fellows" to choose and organize the 2-3-day visits of "Visiting Scholars" of their choice, to stimulate and guide them in discussions of varied topics about the humanities and the practice of medicine. The present Andrew T. Huang Fellows Program originates from and is an expansion of TDC, once again the brain child of Dr. Lange and Dr. Huang, now to be led at Duke by Professors Nita Farahaney and Stephen Nowicki. Created for rising sophomores, the program hopes to emphasize the importance of one-on-one mentorship, with a view to opening up resources and opportunities for interested undergraduates.

Dr. Huang has enjoyed a varied and transcontinental medical career. After obtaining his M.D. degree from the National Taiwan University School of Medicine, he moved to the United States and pursued his postgraduate training at the University of Pennsylvania Affiliated Hospitals and at Duke University. His appreciation of good mentorship originates in his varied and fortunate mentorship history. In the course of his residency and early faculty years at Duke (starting in 1967), he had the opportunity to work closely with eminent basic researchers such as Baruch Blumberg, David Hungerford, and R. B. Setlow on subjects ranging from the initial research of Hepatitis B virus, the Philadelphia chromosome, and the mechanism of repair of DNA damage. Dr. Huang's clinical mentors include R. Wayne Rundles, James B. Wyngaarden, and Eugene A. Stead, Jr. He continues to be deeply influenced by those memorable mentors who have served him as examples in both science and life.

At Duke, Dr. Huang has pursued a lively 48-year practice in clinical medicine, laboratory research and medical education in the Divisions of Hematology and Medical Oncology, championing from the start a multidisciplinary, patient-centered approach for Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center headed by Drs. John Laszlo and William Shingleton. He was later appointed clinical director of the Cancer Center.

Dr. Huang's experiences demonstrate that while medicine demands rigorous discipline in science, it should always be personal. Regardless of the insights bestowed by innovative genomic technologies and bioinformatics, caring for patients can never be separated from their personal needs and who they are. Personalized medicine is both compassionate medicine and precisely relevant medicine, hence the impetus for exploring the intersection of professional medical practice with humanities and leadership, as embodied by The Duke Colloquium and the emerging Fellows Program.

Dr. Huang has had a long and abiding love of music and literature, and is an avid amateur violinist.