

# Characteristics and Glory



Kaohsiung Medical University, formerly known as Kaohsiung Medical College, was established in 1954 by Dr. Tu Tsung-Ming, Taiwan's first Doctor of Medicine, and former Kaohsiung Mayor Frank C. Chen, who donated land for the campus site. As Taiwan's first private medical college, it has a long history of excellence as the leading medical university in southern Taiwan.

At its inception, Kaohsiung Medical University not only consisted of Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy, but also established the "Medical Program for Indigenous Physicians" in 1958 to train local medical personnel for service in rural areas with inadequate access to healthcare. In 1982, the Post-Baccalaureate Medical Program was introduced to nurture physicians with more diverse professional backgrounds. Today, KMU has developed into a comprehensive medical university with a solid organization and world-class faculty. It has also expanded to consist of seven colleges: College of Medicine, College of Dentistry, College of Pharmacy, College of Nursing, College of Health Sciences, College of Life Science, and College of Humanities and Social Sciences. In addition, it manages four reputable teaching hospitals that offer comprehensive and humanitarian healthcare to the people of southern Taiwan: Chung-Ho Memorial Hospital, Kaohsiung Municipal Siaogang Hospital, Kaohsiung Municipal Ta-Tung Hospital, and Kaohsiung Municipal Cijin Hospital. Chung-Ho Memorial Hospital, located on campus, is particularly notable for being the largest teaching and research hospital in the South.

In the past, when Taiwan's public health system was still in the early stages of development, trachoma and malnutrition often caused people to suffer from corneal damage or blindness. With help and support from Dr. Jhen-Wu Chen and the International Red Cross (IRC), Taiwan's first eye bank was established at Kaohsiung Medical College in 1963, marking a milestone in the development of corneal transplant in Taiwan. Furthermore, owing to Kaohsiung's unique geological location between the tropical and subtropical zones, KMU has been a leading research institution on tropical medicine and natural pharmaceuticals. Dr. Chen-Chung Yang's research on snake antivenin peptides and

Dr. Sian-Chen Hsieh's research on parasites, for example, are highly regarded in their respective fields and are applied to clinical practice. Moreover, problems regarding occupational injuries and disease are on the rise as Kaohsiung has become a major industrial center over time. To address this issue, KMU has promoted research in the field of occupational therapy, quickly becoming a leading authority in the field.

KMU's core values of "Simplicity, Earnestness, and Emphasis on Humanistic Concern" is reflected in its service to the public. There are many aboriginal tribes located in the Kaohsiung-Pintung area that have inadequate access to medical resources. Since 1997, Kaohsiung Medical University hospitals have sent medical representatives to the indigenous tribes and collaborated with local healthcare bureaus to offer medical treatment to the inhabitants there. The service puts the idea of "Promoting Equality of Healthcare" into concrete action.

Since the establishment of KMU, the university has made caring for and serving disadvantaged groups one of the main missions of medical education. After years of cultivation, 26 alumni have won national medical contribution awards, the greatest number of winners among medical universities in Taiwan. In terms of international medical contribution, KMU-affiliated institutions have participated in international humanitarian aid activities such as providing emergency aid to the Solomon Islands and post-disaster aid in the aftermaths of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2010 Haitian earthquake, the 2010 Yushu earthquake, and the 2011 Japanese tsunami, donating medical supplies and sending medical personnel. In addition, KMU's Chung-Ho Memorial Hospital is entrusted by the Ministry of Health and Welfare to direct the "Taiwan Public Health Center in the Solomon Islands" and provide medical personnel to carry out public hygiene and medical skill exchange projects. These contributions validate KMU's long-term investment in medical education and its dedication to social responsibility.

Kaohsiung Medical University is the only medical university to have all of its departments pass the five criteria of school evaluation (only one other university passed this evaluation.) This achievement sets a new record in Taiwan's higher education and authenticates the high qualifications and self-improving ability of our administrative affairs. In teaching, the ideas of students as subjects, teachers as assets, and administration staff as support personnel have enabled our university to win "The Teaching Excellence Project" for 8 consecutive years and qualify as a paragon of teaching by the Ministry of Education.

The rigorous quality of teaching and the healthcare programs have helped our school pass the TTQS (ISO10015) evaluation set up by the Council of Labor Affairs, Executive Yuan for six consecutive years and win a bronze medal of TTQS evaluation. The high-quality humanities courses in the Center for Continuing Education and Social Resources have won Kaohsiung Citizen's Academy

Award. In research, our university focuses on tropical medicine, Chinese medicinal herbs, and snake venom.

For past sixty years, the university has undertaken the great responsibility of providing healthcare and public health services to the people of southern Taiwan. Because of its long-term study on environmental medicine in the Kaohsiung district, the university received a subsidy for developing into a first-rate international university and the top research center project - Environmental Medical Research Center for the Ministry of Education and set up the "Research Center for Environmental Medicine" on August 1st, 2008 to promote interdisciplinary studies on environmental medicine.

In student affairs, with a view on following the school tradition of humanitarianism and taking care of underprivileged groups, the Office of Student Affairs cooperates with the Office of Global Affairs in instructing students to extend their medical volunteer service from domestic to remote international areas. From 2007 to the present, with the help of the subsidy from the Teaching Excellence Project, students selected have been sent to the Solomon Islands, Republic of Malawi, India, and the Kingdom of Swaziland to engage in international volunteer services, which are often awarded by the National Youth Commission, Executive Yuan. In addition, the university won the National Award for friendly campus and the certified school of international health and safety by the WHO in 2012, and the "characteristic school excellence in moral education" award by the Ministry of Education in 2013.

Over the past six decades, as a result of the dedication of former university Presidents and support from the Board of Trustees, KMU currently boasts over 30,000 alumni worldwide who not only serve the people of Taiwan, but also make contributions to the people of America, Europe, and Japan, spreading KMU's core values and commitment to social responsibility in the process. The current President of the university, Dr. Ching-Kuan Liu, has proposed the principle of "I Love KMU" to direct the school's future development. This phrase, which stands for "Innovation, Legislation, Knowledge, Mission, and Universality," aims to continue KMU's proud tradition as a leading medical university in Taiwan.

