REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Research

Research on Health Inequality

Since it was founded in 1975, the University's School of Medicine has been committed to resolving medical issues in remote areas and maintaining long-term tracking and research into medical resource development and residents' health in remote areas of Taiwan. During the summer and winter holidays, NYCU teachers and students visit remote areas to conduct cancer prevention work. They collaborate with the "Taiwan Cancer Society" to conduct health education, cancer prevention advocacy, and cancer screening in 319 villages and townships across Taiwan. They then compile relevant advocacy and research results into dozens of first-class papers published in academic journals. After a decade of hard work, Taiwan's cervical cancer mortality rate has dropped from among the highest cancers in women to fifth place. In addition, the medical resource gap between urban and rural areas has been reduced.

NYCU has long studied issues like health inequalities suffered by the indigenous peoples, dedicating resources to promoting the development of indigenous health. For example, the University conducted follow-up studies on the demographic and alcohol abuse behaviors of the indigenous Atayal people and promoted alcohol abuse prevention campaigns to local teens, successfully reducing alcohol abuse behaviors in adulthood. Moreover, to reduce the long-term issue of higher accidental injury and mortality rates of indigenous people, the government commissioned the University to implement its Indigenous Accidental Injury Prevention Management Center Project. This included visiting and conducting in-depth interviews in various indigenous settlements, establishing and analyzing a database for various settlements, and helping to improve unsafe environments. The results of the research were used to formulate the Indigenous Peoples Health Act. NYCU organized international seminars, inviting Canadian indigenous health scholars and practitioners to visit Taiwan and compare notes with their Taiwanese counterparts. By comparing experiences, the scholars discussed the existing indigenous healthcare system and policies and proposed medical systems and services conducive to indigenous autonomy.

43



Course Units

6.7%

Percentage of All Taiwan Publications

Student Cultivation

"Practice of Medicine, We Can!" Internship Course

In line with the Ministry of Health and Welfare's government-financed medical professional training plan, the School of Medicine is committed to formulating localized training courses. The School of Medicine hosts a summer remote area medical internship course "Practice of Medicine, We Can!" to strengthen government financed students' values and vocation. For the course, 32 NYCU medical students take turns to do a two-week on-site internship to better understand the medical resources, healthcare needs, and cultural characteristics of remote areas. Students also get a better understanding of day-to-day healthcare in remote areas through a diverse variety of courses, including hospital history, observing medical consultations in different departments, mobile healthcare services, and at-home care.

4891
Students who chose the Course Units

Stewardship

Special Admissions Channel for Indigenous and Disadvantaged Students

NYCU has separate admission rubrics for low-income and low-middle-income students, indigenous students, students with disabilities, immigrant students, and other students with economic or cultural disadvantages. These new rubrics focus on the students' motivations and process of overcoming adversity, providing lower screening standards, simplified selection processes, and reduced registration fees to increase their chances of admission. NYCU has also participated in the Ministry of Health and Welfare's "Plan for the Training of Medical Personnel for Aboriginal Communities and Outlying Islands," training minorities and those from remote areas where access to education is difficult to become medical professionals. NYCU also established an Indigenous Students Resource Center to provide student life, schoolwork, and career counseling, career development assistance, ethnic study activities, and other forms of assistance for indigenous students.

Social Impact

Telemedicine Solves the Dilemma of Insufficient Medical Resources in Rural Areas

NYCU founded the "Digital Medical Center" (DMC) to form an alliance with "National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University Hospital" and Yilan County Health Agencies to resolve the issue of insufficient medical resources in Nan'ao Township through the "remote ICU." The project first introduced remote ECG monitoring. Professional healthcare workers would help people put on ECG leads, and the real-time ECG data would be sent to nearby hospitals where doctors could interpret them online, providing a basis for diagnosing clinical diseases. The School of Nursing has implemented the "Tribal Star Incubation: Intelli-

gent Health for Remote Areas" project. The "DMC" participated in the project to train healthcare professionals in remote areas on how to use new tools like remote ECG monitoring to solve healthcare issues in indigenous communities.

Medical science camp for remote areas: NYCU regularly invites elementary students from mountainous indigenous settlements to visit the campus. Many departments in the University also work together to implement the "Tribal Star Incubation: Intelligent Health for Remote Areas" project in the Atayal settlement in Nan'ao Township, hoping to help the local community train medical professionals with cultural sensitivity and digital literacy to resolve the long-term local issue of insufficient numbers of healthcare workers.

