Introduction to East Asian Medical Theory

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An Unfamiliar Name

Why I use the term "Traditional East Asian Medicine"

- It has less baggage than commonly used terms like "Traditional Chinese Medicine", "TCM", or "Oriental Medicine"
- It's inclusive and respectful
- It makes great acronyms, TEAM or TEA Medicine

What is TEAM?



This Medicine is SO much more!

- TEAM is a dynamic, non-linear, systems theory medicine based on our interaction with nature and the balance of motive forces and physical substances in our bodies
- TEAM evaluates the flux of manifestation rather than searching for a material cause of illness



TEAM Worldview

- Nature based
- Cyclical movements of energy
- Interconnectedness and resonance
- Adaptation



Quick Caveats

- Anatomical Organs vs TEAM Organ Systems
- Diseases vs Patterns of Disharmony
- Clinical Experience informs Theory which provides a framework for Clinicians
- In TEAM Theory everything is relative



Yin and Yang are the Root





Yin night dark cold negative passive female solid liver heart spleen lungs kidney

Yang day light warm positive active male hollow gall bladder small intestine stomach large intestine urinary bladder

Four Principles of Yin Yang

- 1) Yin and Yang oppose each other
- 2) Yin and Yang are interdependent
- 3) Yin and Yang mutually support and consume each other
- 4) Yin and Yang transform into each other (especially at extremes)



Vital Substances of the Body

- Mind/Shen
- Energy/Qi
- Body Fluids
- Blood
- Essence/Jing



Organ Systems in TEAM (ZangFu)

- Yin Organs (Zang) "store" the vital substances and govern their distribution
 - -Kidney, Liver, Spleen/Pancreas, Lungs, Heart, Pericardium
- Yang Organs Digest and Process

-Urinary Bladder, Gallbladder, Stomach, Large Intestine, Small Intestine...Triple Warmer/San Jiao



- Yin organs are paired with Yang organs
 - -Kidney and Urinary Bladder (Water)
 - -Liver and Gallbladder (Wood)
 - -Spleen/Pancreas and Stomach (Earth)
 - -Lungs and Large Intestine (Metal)
 - -Heart and Small Intestine (Fire)

...Pericardium and San Jiao (...also Fire)







The Body Meridians

Two Centerline Meridians:

Conception Vessel Governing Vessel

Twelve Principal Meridians:

Stomach Meridian Spleen Meridian

Small Intestine Meridian Heart Meridian

> Bladder Meridian Kidney Meridian

Pericardium Meridian Triple Warmer Meridian

Gall Bladder Meridian Liver Meridian

Lung Meridian Large Intestine Meridian



anterior view

posterior view

Channels or Meridians

- "Rivers" of distribution and interaction, both within the body and between the body and environment
- Each Meridian corresponds to a single ZangFu organ and is in essence an extension of it















Channel System

- Used in all external therapies in TEAM
- The channels are not a real "thing" in that there is no corresponding anatomical structure
- And yet the channels can both provide discrete diagnostic data (skin, swelling, heat, palpation) while simultaneously acting as a powerful route of therapeutic intervention
- Rivers are an excellent metaphor



Diagnosis



Pulse(s)





Tongue Changes

Diagnosis

The 8 Principles

S Yin	Yang
Deficiency ↓	Excess
Cold	🔥 Heat
Internal 🎽	External 💔

Treatment with TEAM

Treatment can involve one or many modalities within the TEAM tool belt

Treatment is always also diagnostic as it often reveals new information as to the root causes of a patient's illness or uncovers aspects of the illness that were overshadowed by more obvious symptoms



Further Reading





Thank you for your time!

Charles can be reached at ArtemisiaAcupunctureClinic@gmail.com with any questions about this class