

Personage Column: WU Mengchao

Wu Mengchao, specialist in medicine, born in Mingqing, Fujian province, received B. M. from the Medical College of Tongji University in 1949. He currently serves Professor and director of Institute of Hepatobiliary Surgery of People's Liberation Army, director of Eastern Hepatobiliary Surgery Hospital of Second Military Medical University. He holds about 20 key positions in government and professional organizations, such as vice president of the Chinese Medical Association, vice president of Sino-German Medical Association, vice director of PLA. Medical Scientific and Technological Committee, editor in chief of *Journal of Hepatobiliary Surgery* and so on.

Professor Wu Mengchao is the pioneer surgeon in the Chinese liver surgery. In the end of 1950s, Wu initiated a creative view of 5 lobes and 4 segments of Chinese liver. In the 1960s, he originated a new operation by means of intermittent interruption of the porta hepatis at room temperature; and successfully completed the first middle lobectomy of the liver. In the 1970s, he was the first in China to use ligation and embolization of hepatic artery to cure intermediate and advanced liver cancer. In the 1980s, he initiated another new technique of normothermic total hepatic vascular occlusion for hepatectomy, proposed two important ideas as repeat hepatectomy for postoperative recurrent liver cancer and secondary resection for larger tumors. Meanwhile, he worked out the studies of monoclonal directional orientation and transplant as well as immunotherapy. Since 1990', he made great progress in the fields of immunotherapy of hepatocellular carcinoma, biosignal transduction, vaccine of hepatocellular carcinoma and liver transplantation. He has originated the laproscopic hepatic resection and hepatic ar-



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tery ligation. In about 50 years, under the leadership of Prof. Wu, by the end of 2001, Eastern Hepatobiliary Surgery Hospital has operated over 11 956 cases of hepatectomies including 9330 cases of hepatocarcinoma. The general five-year postoperative survival rate was 38.1%. Of the 1028 patients with small liver cancer the five-year postoperative survival rate was 79.8% (85.3% are minor tumors less than 3 cm in diameter), the longest being 38 years.

He has written extensively, with over 200 papers in periodicals and many books such as "Abdominal Surgery", "Liver Surgery" and so on. He was elected Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1991 and the Central Military Commission of the PRC awarded him the honour title "Model Medical Expert" in 1996.