Events and Meetings

Reports from 2023 Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology in China

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The 34th Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology (GW-ICC)/Asian Heart Society (AHS) Congress 2023 was held successfully in China on 7–10 September (Thursday to Sunday). After 33 years of development, GW-ICC has become an indispensable and veritable feast for many cardiovascular practitioners, a ‘reunion’ occasion for generations of cardiovascular researchers and doctors in China, and an ‘international through train’ for Chinese cardiologist to communicate with overseas colleagues. 1

This conference brought together medical doctors from 36 countries, featured 3457 moderators or speakers, held a total of 413...
academic sessions, which covering the entire spectrum of cardiovascular diseases. The number of accepted abstracts reached 1380. It also hosted 48 joint meetings with major cardiology societies and organizations around the world. Totally, there were 22,123 participants.

Steady and far-reaching, striving for refinement and innovation. After 4 days of academic discussion, the 34th GW-ICC/AHS.23 (referred to as the ‘Great Wall Congress’) came to a smooth end in the afternoon on September 10. The conference presented a unique cardiovascular academic feast in the form of online and offline, achieved a new breakthrough in the scale, content setting, participation, and influence. It included 33 academic meeting rooms and 6 channels of live procedure demonstrations every day.

Conference highlights
Promotion of new technologies and application
Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology/Asian Heart Society hold a total of 88 academic forums covering clinical, basic research, and several interdisciplinary fields have been established. The scope of innovation forums has been expanded to drug and device innovation, artificial intelligence (AI), wearable devices and domestic original forums. At this conference, other subspecialties covering areas of coronary artery disease, acute coronary syndrome, atrial fibrillation, basic and translational medicine, heart failure, valvular heart disease,
cardiovascular disease prevention, and rehabilitation were also discussed, which included the updates of clinical research findings in these areas. Utilized GW-ICC as the main promotion platform, a lot of the important clinical guidelines or expert consensus was promoted from Tier III hospitals to other primary hospitals.

GW-ICC/AHS international links

Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology/Asian Heart Society continues to co-operate with the world-renowned cardiovascular society and journals this year. More than 20 societies and organizations including the American College of Cardiology (ACC), the American Heart Association (AHA), the European Society of Cardiology (ESC), and the World Heart Federation took active parts in this conference. The leaders of these societies attended the opening ceremony and delivered warm speeches (Figure 1). Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology also holds a joint international journal forum with the authoritative international journals, such as the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, Circulation, European Heart Journal, Nature Reviews Cardiology and Pacing, and Clinical Electrophysiology (PACE), etc. At the AHA @ GW-ICC joint forum, Joseph C. Wu, president of AHA, shared insights of stem cell and genomics in cardiovascular research. At the European Heart Journal @ GW-ICC joint forum hosted by Profs. Filippo Crea and Feng Cao, Profs. Nico Bruining, Tommaso Gori, and Tom Guzik presented outstanding articles in the field of cardiovascular medicine over past 3 years (Figure 2).

Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology has now become the official annual congress of AHS. Professor Mrinal K. Das, president of AHS, emphasized that as a newly established academic organization, AHS committed to promoting cardiovascular health in the Asian population, promoting scientific research around the Asian population, and reducing the burden of cardiovascular disease in the Asian region. Since 2019, more than 40 Asian cardiovascular societies and organizations had actively participated in the establishment of the AHS. In 2022, led by Profs. Changsheng Ma, Yida Tang, and Mrinal Kanti Das, AHS was officially established in Macau, China, and since then has been academic activities via eight scientific councils. This year, GW-ICC/AHS has established official collaboration with ESC, ACC, and AHA, aiming to build a platform for sharing knowledge and educational training on cardiovascular health, utilizing Asian resources to promote cardiovascular health in Asia and the world. During the GW-ICC congress, the AHS Congress Board Meeting of Quarter 3 of 2023 took place (Figure 3).

Interventional therapy broadcasts and skills training

The GW-ICC held five broadcast channels to demonstrate the frontier developments of interventional therapy in China covering emergency, coronary angioplasty, arrhythmia, and structural heart disease. There were 89 live surgical broadcasts involving over 100 hospitals across the country, which relayed more than 160 surgical cases. Among these, the ‘Structural Masters Theater’ and ‘Live Intervention Surgery Video’ showed the latest research developments of transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) for severe heart valve disease. They also explained key points of pre-operative imaging assessment and presented new perspectives of TAVR. Moreover, this conference also conducted comprehensive training of cardiovascular emergencies, surgical techniques, and scenario-based exercises.

Advocacy

Since the foundation of the GW-ICC, the congress has always aimed to lead the development of cardiovascular medical trends, to support and develop the future of cardiology developments in China. To this end, GW-ICC continues to introduce and promote new ideas, such as smoking cessation, exercise, rehabilitation, healthy population, and e-health services, which have led the development of related disciplines in China.

Nowadays, the concept of evidence-based medical knowledge is widely accepted. Great Wall International Congress of Cardiology played an important role in the dissemination and promotion of evidence-based medicine concepts in China.

Future perspectives

Overall, GW-ICC 2023 successfully translated the concepts of prevention, disease management, rehabilitation, and humanistic care into practical actions through academic exchanges and interactions. They offered a fresh perspective of academic knowledge to advance global co-operation in diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease. The influence of GW-ICC for Chinese doctors has increased gradually, which relates to the GW-ICC approach of continuous development and innovation. Moreover, in co-operation with international societies such as ACC, AHA, ESC, and so on, GW-ICC will introduce a growing number of Chinese important academic achievements internationally, further expanding the influence of global academics and research organizations.

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Declarations

Disclosure of Interest

All authors declare no disclosure of interest for this contribution.

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