

## Franco-Chinese Hospital Cooperations

**The hospital cooperation between France and China is presently the most significant French collaboration with a foreign country in the field of healthcare.**

It issues from a history of bilateral relations in the sphere of healthcare and medicine, rooted in the earliest interactions between the two countries with the arrival of the first Jesuits in China. The recent establishment of 4 French medical degrees in some of the most prestigious medical schools in the country is a proof of this historic continuity, which has enabled our cooperation to expand quickly within the entire Chinese territory.

The Sino-French collaboration in the field of hospital development stands out today for its diversity of partnership procedures as well as breadth of topics addressed. Initially at the start by several French and Chinese hospitals, the bilateral cooperation presently encompasses areas such as the training of doctors and hospital executive managers, partnerships in the field of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), and cross-border exchanges on best practices in the sphere of public healthcare.

The Sino-French healthcare cooperation was officially established with the signing of a statement of intent in 2008 by the health ministers of both countries. The new administrative arrangement introduced in 2013 created a true synergy between the French and Chinese healthcare systems, sharing, for instance, assessments on the ongoing hospital reforms in both countries, and has brought the bilateral relationship to a new level.

The rapid advancement of bilateral cooperation in healthcare has undoubtedly been prompted by the keen interest taken by China in the French healthcare system, recognized internationally as world-class. The institutional set-up of the French healthcare system across the country - comprising, among others, the Regional Health Agencies, University Hospital Centers, and Territorial Hospital Communities - has been a subject of active study by the Chinese government and its regional administrative bodies. The domestic framework of hospital governance, ranging from financial management to the implementation of the 5th generation hospital blueprint, has also furnished a potential model for Chinese healthcare officials.

The French Ministry of Health has been, since 2010, closely associated with the healthcare reforms introduced in China. Notably, almost all French University Hospitals have been paired with their Chinese counterparts in 17 pilot Chinese cities, as part of a new

healthcare legislation introduced by the Chinese government. Further instances of the cross-border cooperation between French and Chinese hospitals are presented below.

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### Examples of cooperation

#### . **The hospital cooperation between the Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris (AP-HP) and China**

For 15 years, the AP-HP has developed an important cooperation with several Chinese medical schools and hospitals that has, since 2010, stood out by its intensity in two fields. Firstly, the hospital group established bilateral training processes for students, as part of the partnerships with the Peking Union Medical Center and the French degree of Jiaotong University in Shanghai, as well as for medical and administrative staff, with for instance the training of hospital directors from the Xinhua group (Shanghai). This attempt to boost training processes is notably exemplified in the field of emergency medicines, with the Sino-French cooperation center in emergency and catastrophe medicines. The latter was created in 2008 with the help of the Beijing Municipal Health Bureau, and has so far trained 3 000 doctors. Secondly, the AP-HP has developed several academic partnerships in order to lead clinical researches together with Chinese hospitals on various medical sectors (neuro-oncology, biological immunology and since 2012 traditional Chinese medicine).

. **The Strasbourg Teaching Hospitals (HUS)** have coordinated, with the help of Prof. Vincendon, the implementation of the 4 French degrees in the medical schools of Kunming, Chongqing, Wuhan and Shanghai. In parallel, they have developed a close cooperation with Jiaotong University in Shanghai. The emphasis was on the language teaching of Chinese students within the French medical degrees. Both counterparts are currently considering jointly building a Sino-French medical school. Furthermore, the HUS have maintained a comparatively small-scale partnership with the Chongqing medical school.

. **The CHRU of Montpellier** has nurtured some very diverse and specialized partnerships with several Chinese hospitals. The first one, that has turned out to be exceptionally fruitful and operational, concerns the city of Chengdu (Sichuan province), with whom the focus was put on two distinctive fields: age-dependent diseases and endocrine and metabolic disorders. This cooperation became tangible in 2014 with the inauguration of

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two institutes called 'Montpellier-Chengdu', specifically dedicated to those topics. Moreover, the CHRU of Montpellier has developed since 1995 a stable cooperation with the city of Suzhou (Jiangsu province) in the fields of cell therapy, hemato-oncology, sleep disorders, liver transplantations, neurosciences, in-vitro fertilization, infectious diseases and hospital hygiene. In the past, the hospital has regularly welcomed several Chinese delegations and trained doctors. The active role of this hospital in the bilateral hospital cooperation is as well exemplified with the training, each year, of more than 30 Chinese unit managers, as part of the 2010 ministry arrangement.

. **The cooperation between the CHU of Nantes, the CH of Saint-Malo and the Yantai Sino-French Hospital** (Shandong Province), which focuses on hospital management and medical practices, has enabled the organization of several international conferences as well as the training of Chinese doctors. The CHU of Nantes has moreover participated in an expertise and advisory mission, as part of the hospital reforms implemented by the Chinese government since 2009. The latter was also associated to the training procedures of Chinese unit managers as part of the partnership with the National Public Health School (EHESP) since 2013.

. **The Georges Mazurelle Hospital Center in La Roche/Yon (Vendée)** has been very active in the Sino-French cooperation in the field of mental health since 2010, as proved by the joint organization of several visits in France and in China. This cooperation became tangible in 2012 when a partnership was signed with the Guangzhou mental Hospital (Guangdong Province), and in 2013 with the visit of Professor Tang HonGyu which led to the making of a documentary explaining the French mental health system from a Chinese viewpoint.

. **The CHU of Poitiers** has been active in China since 1998 thanks to a collaboration between Poitiers University and Nanchang University (Jiangxi Province). This cooperation was then expanded to the city of Shanghai in 2007 and to the city of Zunyi (Guizhou Province) in 2011. These three cooperations mainly focus on setting up training procedures for medical and administrative staff as well as on regularly organizing conferences to exchange on good medical practices. The effective role of the CHU of Poitiers was once again verified with the recent signature of a 4<sup>th</sup> agreement with the Chengdu orthopedic hospital, and with the organization of a forthcoming international conference in 2016 gathering all of its Chinese collaborators.

. **The CHU of Toulouse** has developed, along with the Toulouse University, a four-party partnership with the First Hospital and the Medical School in Chongqing. This operational

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cooperation focuses on hosting regularly Chinese students in Toulouse, as well as on debating on specialized topics, comprising geriatrics and hospital management. To that end, a cooperation center between Strasbourg, Toulouse and Chongqing was created. Furthermore, the CHU of Toulouse, has recently reactivated a partnership with the city of Chengdu (Sichuan Province) which will be conducted by Huaxi Hospital.

. **The CHU of Amiens-Picardie** has developed for the past ten years several fruitful partnerships with China (Xi'an, Gansu, military hospital of Xi'an and Beijing). At present, the latter is especially active with Qinghai and Xining People's Hospitals. A partnership agreement was signed by both of them in 2014, and led to the organization of several training sessions. Furthermore, several Chinese delegations have been welcomed in Amiens in order to discover the new hospital architecture, which has enabled a complete restructuring of healthcare and patient management in Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics.

. **The CHU of Rouen** has until 2012 maintained a cooperation with several hospitals in Xi'an which led to a few training sessions and the organizations of two conferences. Since then, the latter has focused on a comparatively more dynamic cooperation with the Ningbo Women and Children's Hospital, as part of the pre-existing twinning between the two cities. The partnership has been extended to another hospital in Ningbo, and became tangible with the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Ningbo Municipal Health Bureau in 2015.

. **The CHU of Saint-Etienne**, in an effort to diversify its international partnerships, has tried since 2014, with the help of the city council, to reactivate a cooperation with the city of Xuzhou (Jiangsu Province). A cooperation agreement with Xuzhou Central Hospital is currently being drafted.

. **The Regional University Hospital Center in Besançon** has recently developed a partnership with Urumqi First University Hospital (Xinjiang Province) which led to the welcoming of several delegations of doctors in France and in China, in order to exchange on management practices and hospital reforms. Moreover, a research project in the field of gastroenterology was jointly conducted by both hospitals in 2015.

. **L'Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Marseilles** developed an innovative form of partnership with the city of Shanghai since the beginning of 2015. A cooperation with the Shanghai Hospital Development Center, whose mission is to supervise the city's hospitals, was signed in order to combine efforts in the design and implementation of performance measurement devices of hospital activity.

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- . **The CHU of Bordeaux**, which has a long history of international cooperation, is currently getting ready to sign, jointly with Bordeaux University, a partnership agreement with Wuhan Asia Heart Hospital (Hubei Province). This objective is to train Chinese doctors in cardiology, by setting up a Bordeaux-Wuhan cardiologic training center.
- . **The Hospices Civils de Lyon** have developed a partnership with Jiaotong medical school, Ruijin Hospital and Renji Hospital in Shanghai. This cooperation is particularly focusing on training doctors and nurses on three specific topics – hospital management, medical emergencies and nosocomial infections.
- . **The CHU of Grenoble** is specifically cooperating with the city of Suzhou and its Sino-French Hospital, with which they have jointly organized trainings and visits, as well as with the city of Zhengjiang (Jiangsu Province). It is as well part of the Sino-French ministry arrangement, and, to that end, receives, each year, about 40 Chinese soon-to-be unit managers for training.
- . **The Perray-Vaucluse Public Hospital Group** has developed a cooperation with the Huilongguan Beijing Hospital which led to the welcoming of two Chinese delegations in France, in 2011 and 2013, to exchange on the system organization of prevention and healthcare in the mental health sector.
- . **The CHU of Lille** has built a cooperation with Anshan Central Hospital (Liaoning Province), with which a contract to build a 2.500-bed Hospital was concluded with a French architecture firm.
- . **UNICANCER**, through its regional cancer Centers, has nurtured several partnerships with Chinese public hospitals and private counterparts, most of them focusing on training foreign doctors. Moreover, a Sino-French Cancer Center for prevention, treatment and research was created between the Cancer Institute in Lorraine and the Hubei Cancer Hospital.