

37th Annual Meeting of the Taiwan Society of Internal Medicine

November 29–December 1, 2024

Taipei, Taiwan

Global Ambassador reflections by: William E. Fox, MD, MACP

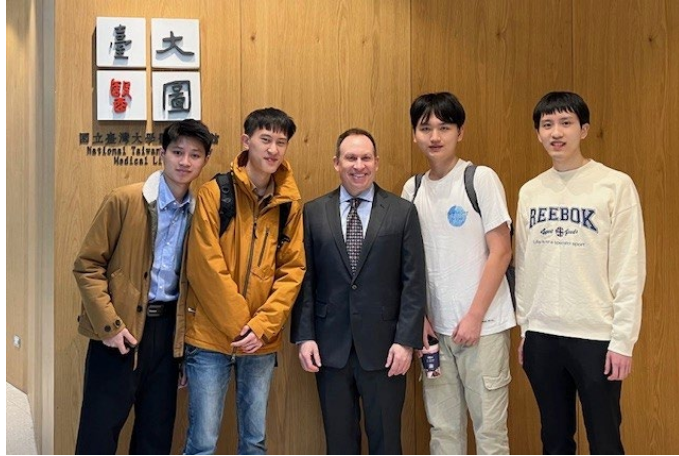
It was an honor and a pleasure to represent the American College of Physicians (ACP) at the Taiwan Society of Internal Medicine (TSIM) Annual Meeting from November 30 to December 1, 2024.

The TSIM boasts a membership of some 10,000 physicians—essentially all of the country’s internal medicine physicians. The robust 2-day meeting convened approximately 7,000 members in downtown Taipei.

The day before the TSIM meeting, I had the opportunity to deliver grand rounds at the National Taiwan University (NTU) College of Medicine, founded in 1897. I presented a lecture on recent clinical guidelines updates from ACP, focusing on diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis, treatment of depression, and screening for colorectal cancer. Part of my talk focused on the differences between the U.S. and Taiwanese health care systems and on ACP’s guidelines development process. After the lecture, I was presented with the college’s mascot, the NTU bear, by Dr. Chih-Yuan Wang, Deputy Director, Department of Internal Medicine, and his colleague.



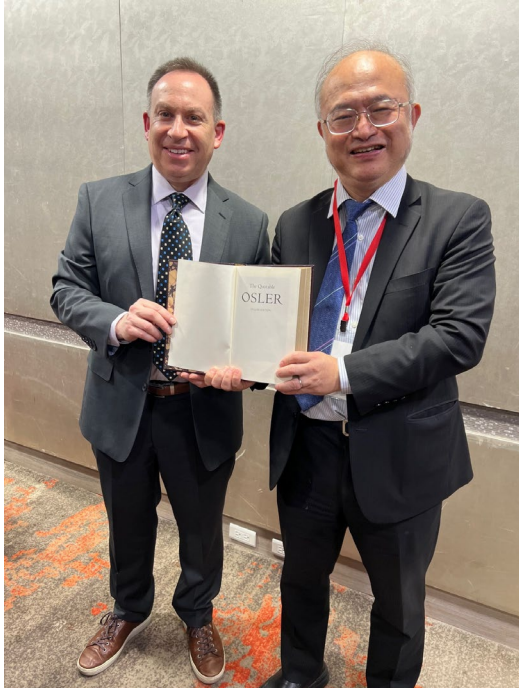
I also spent time with some of the medical students before being treated to a tour of the NTU Museum of the Humanities, where I learned about the founding of NTU and some of its illustrious leaders.



At the TSIM meeting itself, I was joined by Dr. Virginia Hood, President Emeritus of ACP and current President of the International Society of Internal Medicine. Dr. Hood, a nephrologist specializing in kidney stones, gave an update on diagnosis and treatment of nephrolithiasis before I delivered my talk entitled *Caring Beyond Curing: Empathy in Modern Medicine*. Afterward, Dr. Wang-Huei Sheng, the Secretary General of TSIM, presented me with a crystal award plaque.



At the Gala Dinner, I had the opportunity to present a small memento on behalf of ACP to the President of TSIM, Dr. Ming-Shiang Wu: a deluxe edition of *The Quotable Osler*. In turn, Dr. Wu presented me with a beautiful set of Qilin bookends. The Qilin is a legendary dragon-like creature from ancient Chinese mythology often regarded as an auspicious symbol.



I also had an opportunity to meet and chat with Dr. Shan-Chwen Chang, immediate Past President of TSIM and Advisor to the Taiwanese government during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The hospitality of the TSIM was without par. The Society treated me to several days of touring in Taipei and its surrounds, including beautiful temples, tea houses, museums, gardens, and the famed night markets.

