Obituary

Vale Professor Xiaoxian Liu

Fenglian Xu, PhD¹, Colin Binns, MBBS, PhD², and Wah Yun Low, PhD³,⁴

Professor Liu died in Wuhan on February 13, 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 epidemic in that city. She was a pioneer of higher education for women’s and children’s health in China. Born in Guangzhou in 1933, she graduated from the Tongji Medical College (now a part of Huazhong University of Science and Technology) in Wuhan in 1957. Tongji Medical College was originally established in Shanghai as the German Medical College and was moved to several inland locations during the Sino-Japanese War, finally coming to Wuhan. After graduation, she worked for the university for 43 years, being promoted over the years from an associate lecturer to professor.

She was awarded the title of Distinguished Scientist of China by the China Council. She was a member of the Policy and Management Committee of the China Health Bureau and Vice-Director of the South-Central China Consultative Group of the Women’s and Children’s Health Project. She was a committee member and consultant for many academic associations and participated in the editing of 6 academic journals.

Professor Liu contributed significantly to Primary Health Care in China. She selected a remote county (Ma Cheng County, Hubei Province) to develop a 3-level women’s and children’s health care system and developed a reporting system for births, deaths, infectious diseases, and cancer over the internet. During the past 20 years, she visited families, trained rural health professionals and doctors, and made the health care system into an excellent model for Hubei Province, China, and internationally. She was loved by the people in Ma Cheng County and her work was recognized as a model for others to follow by the UNICEF.

Professor Liu published many academic papers and 4 textbooks for higher education in women’s and children’s health as well as the Dictionary of Women’s and Children’s Medicine.

¹University of Technology, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
²School of Public Health, Curtin University, Perth, Western Australia, Australia
³Faculty of Medicine, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
⁴Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia