



When Love and Technology Meet

Life exists only between breathes, and every second counts. A mishap in breathing could overturn a life to an unrecognizable degree. Working in medicine is, therefore, a race against life. To relieve the suffering of others could very well broaden one's own meaning of life.

The advancement of modern day technology accelerated the progression in medical technology too. For example, I have heard on numerous occasions during the sharing of medical teams in Hualien and Taipei Tzu Chi Hospitals that the introduction of the da Vinci Surgical System has already benefitted patients in the department of Urology, cardiovascular surgery, colorectal surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and so on. Such an intricate system has been committed to saving lives at the hands of surgeons without complaints, facilitating the mutual beneficial relationships between doctors and patients, require only a small incision, shortens patient recovery time, and simplifies surgical procedures for our surgeons.

However, as capable as these apparatuses are, can they replace humans? I think not. Medicine should be founded on benevolence. The relief of suffering can be conducted with



increased precision when love and technology meet. I have seen genuine love from our doctors, who empathize with their patients and always wish them the best while avoiding burdening them with additional expenses. How considerate. We are not for profit, but for the improvement in medical quality, for the improvement of love and technology. I am very grateful and touched to see how the apparatus can be operated with the right set of values and be made effective.

The doctors of Tzu Chi are filled with love. They devote their vacations into voluntary work. The National Doctor's Day this year falls on a Sunday, and these doctors made a full use of it. It was on the distribution day of Jing Si Abode, and a group of doctors from Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital joined the ranks of volunteers. Not only did they distributed goods with kindness, they also helped out in the kitchen. Also doctors from Dalin Tzu Chi Hospital held lectures in many communities to advocate health education. Doctors from Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital held medical outreaches to the homes of patients who are unable to travel.

In medicine, it is important to have good apparatus, but what is more important is to have a good heart. I am thankful for our doctors who are committed to relieving the suffering of people in pain physically and mentally. Hopefully one day all pain and sufferings can be relieved. It is something that all of us are happy to see, and a direction we endeavor towards.