

# The Medical Dedication Award Honoree

## Dr. Lin Chin-Lon, CEO of Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation



Dr. Lin Chin-Lon, CEO of Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation, was recognized with an individual award at the 31st Medical Dedication Awards for his personal contributions in the field of health care (<http://www.hwe.org.tw/>). The award was personally presented by Premier Su Tseng-Chang. Dr. Lin pointed out that “this honor belongs to the Tzu Chi medical practitioners, Tzu Chi International Medical Association (TIMA), and like-minded Bodhisattvas all over the world.”

This recipient of the Medical Dedication Award is introduced as follows on the website of HWE Foundation:

Shortly after the horrific Taroko Express derailment accident on April 2 2021, a tall, gray-haired, elderly gentleman in a white doctor’s robe arrived at the accident site, Qingshui Tunnel. His presence greatly boosted the morale of young healthcare professionals who were engaged in on-site rescue operations. This elderly gentleman was Lin Chin-Lon, CEO of Buddhist Tzu Chi Medical Foundation. Harnessing his extensive experience in the provision of medical care after large-scale disasters, he coordinated injury examination and first aid services provided for a large number of victims in close cooperation with the



**Dr. Lin Chin-Lon has embraced a patient-centered care philosophy in his medical practice with great perseverance and consistency.**

on-site commander. Despite his ripe age of 78, he was personally present at the site from around 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. He didn't leave before it had been confirmed that there were no more survivors." His leadership of the medical team by example and personal presence at the frontline left the deepest impression on everyone present at the site.

A total of eight individuals and one group earned awards at the 31st Medical Contribution Awards held in 2021. A Special Contribution Award was bestowed on Yeh Ching-Chuan, professor at the Department of Public Health, Tzu Chi University, and former health minister. Dr. Lin Chin-Lon was jointly recommended for the award by Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital, Chu Chia-Hsiang, Director-General of Hualien County Health Bureau, and Dr. Liang Chung-Chao, Chairman of Hualien County Medical Association.

HWE Foundation invited all award recipients to attend an official visit to the Presidential Office Building and the Legislative Yuan on October 29, 2021. They were personally received by President Tsai Ing-Wen and Legislative Yuan President You Si-Kun. President Tsai expressed her deep gratitude for their selfless dedication and benevolent spirit in the field of health protection. She emphasized that "there are numerous healthcare professionals who are steadfastly devoted to providing medical



**President Tsai Ing-Wen personally receives the Medical Dedication Award recipient Lin Chin-Lon and his wife Hung Hsiu-Mei.**

care in remote regions. Dr. Lin Chin-Lon is a perfect example. He has made a long-term commitment to cultivating medical talent in remote regions and promoting smart telemedicine and remote consultation to give patients in these areas access to medical care without the hassle of long journeys." Legislative Yuan President You Si-Kun also commended the award recipients for being a positive force in Taiwanese society and thanked them for their efforts and contributions for the sake of Taiwan.

The grand award ceremony was held in the international conference room on the 10th floor of Taipei Grand Hotel at 2:00 pm on Saturday, October 30, 2021. The

four superintendents of Hualien, Dalin, Taipei, and Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital and representatives of TIMA Northern Taiwan Chapter observed the ceremony as “friends and relatives”. The organizer further invited Vice President William Lai, former Vice President Chen Chien-Jen, Premier Su Tseng-Chang, Health and Welfare Minister Chen Shih-Chung, and Ms. Chang Bo-Ya, Senior Advisor to the President to give speeches and present the awards and thereby manifest the glorious achievements of the award recipients.

After Vice President Lai presented the first award to Mr. Lue Hung-Chi, Professor Emeritus of National Taiwan University College of Medicine and “Father” of pediatric cardiology in Taiwan, Dr. Lin Chin-Lon took the stage to receive his award.

Premier Su Tseng-Chang, one of the award presenters, gave the following address: “I’d like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my deepest respect and gratitude to healthcare workers all over Taiwan. In the wake of the local COVID-19 outbreak last year, the country experienced extreme hardship, but in the face of this arduous challenge, Taiwan became a haven of bliss in rough seas due to the extraordinary contributions of our medical practitioners. By presenting these very meaningful awards, we identify shining examples

among the selfless contributions and touching stories of different generations of healthcare professionals who perform their duties with great dedication in every corner of our nation for the younger generation to emulate and learn from. The goal is to give all citizens a clear glimpse of their dedicated efforts... Dr. Lin Chin-Lon, our next award recipient, gave up his career in the US to return to Taiwan and assume a post at the remote Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital at age 52. In addition to Hualien, he has provided medical care in numerous remote areas of Taiwan and wherever a natural disaster struck. He even led medical teams to overseas regions with a need for healthcare services at his own expense and thereby increased Taiwan’s international visibility, which is a truly amazing feat.”

Ms. Chien Li-Ju, TVBS anchor and host of this award ceremony, interviewed Dr. Lin about his original motivation to give up his successful career in the US and return to Taiwan. Dr. Lin stated frankly that “I have served in Catholic hospitals since the beginning of my career. Patient-centered care has been my core philosophy since I decided to pursue a career as a doctor. In America, people often say that you should show everyone what you have accomplished instead of engaging in empty talk. They call this “You put up, or you shut up.” After his conversion to Buddhism, he visited

numerous bodhimanda and gradually came to realize that religions differ in the dimension of actual practice. He pointed out that there are a lot of Catholic and Protestant hospitals, but he has never seen a Buddhist hospital before. Buddhism emphasizes the doctrine of faith, vow, and practice, which has rarely been applied to the field of health care.

When he later returned to Taiwan to visit his ill father, he heard of a Buddhist hospital in Hualien. His former professors Tseng Wen-Pin, Yang Sze-Piao, and Tu Shih-Mien had invested significant efforts in the construction project. He therefore made a special trip to Hualien to see for himself. This trip turned out to be a life changer. Dr. Lin is firmly convinced that every aspect of Dharma Master Cheng Yen's Tzu Chi world which rests on the four pillars of charity, medical care, education, and culture can withstand public scrutiny. He therefore spontaneously decided to join Tzu Chi and become a volunteer. After his return to Los Angeles, he assisted the US Chapter of Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation in the establishment of a Tzu Chi volunteer clinic, which was the first of its kind in overseas areas. This clinic provides free medical treatment and medication to US citizens with no health insurance coverage.

After his return to Taiwan, he made an unwavering commitment to enhancing healthcare services in remote regions of

Taiwan in the context of his engagement in the Tzu Chi medical care system. He pointed out that "if suffering residents can't leave their home regions, blessed individuals must enter these regions and offer help." In Hualien, he promoted the following two projects which left a deep impression on local citizens: "Health Grocery Stores" to facilitate the provision of health education inside local communities and cultivation of "Health Gatekeepers" who visit seniors with limited mobility to measure their blood sugar, blood pressure, and monitor their health status.

Dr. Lin further stresses that patient care is not confined to the hospital. Pre- and post-hospital care is also extremely important. He advocates holistic, around-the-clock care for the whole family and team encompassing the physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions. He also points out that health care is an ancient profession with lofty ideals and values. Modern technology offers numerous advanced treatment methods and enhances the quality of medical care. Notable examples include the evolution of telemedicine from 4G to 5G, cloud-based medical records, use of relevant technologies and devices such as smartphones, tablets, and wireless transmission. All these technologies can be utilized for pre- and post-hospital care on the foundation of a patient-centered

philosophy.

Dr. Lin is deeply grateful for the compassion exhibited by Dharma Master Cheng Yen in the establishment of Tzu Chi Hospitals in remote regions. He concluded by stating that “this special honor is not only a recognition of my personal achievements. Seven Tzu Chi hospitals in Taiwan and numerous volunteers of Tzu Chi International Medical Association are deeply devoted to the provision of

healthcare services in remote regions all over the world. During the most severe stage of the pandemic in the previous two years, we did not relent in our efforts to offer assistance and care to seniors, children, and women in remote regions. The honor of this Medical Dedication Award belongs to the Tzu Chi medical practitioners, Tzu Chi International Medical Association (TIMA), and like-minded Boddhisattvas all over the world.”



**The four superintendents of Hualien, Dalin, Taipei, and Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital and representatives of TIMA Northern Taiwan Chapter personally congratulate Dr. Lin Chin-Lon and his wife Hung Hsiu-Mei (Commemorative group photo).**