

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month: Celebrating Pioneers in Medicine

Source: <https://www.oregonclinic.com/about-us/blog/asian-american-and-pacific-islander-heritage-month-celebrating-pioneers-medicine>



May is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the contributions of AAPI individuals to the history and culture of the US.

The Oregon Clinic is proud to honor the many incredible contributions that AAPI physicians have made, and continue to make, to the medical community and society as a whole. The men and women highlighted below are just a few of the many AAPI researchers and healthcare professionals whose work has been essential to advancing the field of medicine.



Margaret Chung, M.D.

Margaret Chung, MD became the first American-born female Chinese physician in 1916. Dr. Chung was denied residencies and internships in hospitals before becoming an emergency surgeon in Los Angeles. In the early 1920s, she helped establish the first Western hospital in San Francisco's Chinatown and led its OBGYN and pediatrics unit, where she treated the local Chinese American community. Dr. Chung also helped to establish Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services, the women's branch of the naval reserves during World War II, which paved the way for women's integration into the US armed forces.



Tsai-Fan Yu, M.D.

Dr. Tsai-Fan Yu was a Chinese American researcher, physician, and the first woman to be appointed as a full professor at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Yu received her medical degree from Peking Union Medical College in 1939. For most of her career, Dr. Yu conducted extensive research into the causes of and treatments for gout. She helped develop an explanation for the cause of gout and experimented with early drugs to treat the disease, which are still used today.



Tetsuko Akutso, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Tetsuko Akutso was a Japanese American surgeon and pioneer in the field of artificial heart development. Dr. Atsuko started working on artificial heart-lung bypass research while studying at Nagoya Imperial University Medical School in Japan. In 1957 he moved to the US as a research fellow with the Cleveland Clinic.

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May 2023 Calendar

*Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Mental Health Awareness Month*

- 1-5 – Teacher Appreciation Week (US)
- 1 - Melanoma Monday (US)
- 3 - National Interpreter Appreciation Day (US)
- 4 - National Day of Prayer (US)
- 5 – African World Heritage Day (International)
- 6-12 - National Nurses Day & Week (US)
- 7-13 - National Hospital Week (US)
- 13 – Indigenous Arts Day (US)
- 14 - Mother's Day (US)
- 15 - International Family Day
- 25 – Shavuot (Judaism)
- 26 - Buddha Day (Buddhism)
- 28 – Pentecost (Western Christianity)
- 29 – Memorial Day (US)
- 30 - World Multiple Sclerosis Day

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There, he was the chief collaborator of Dr. Willem Kolff and a member of the team that conducted the first successful experimental implant of a total artificial heart in the United States. His work led to the second implantation of a total artificial heart in a human being in 1981.



David Ho, M.D.

Dr. David Ho is a Taiwanese American physician who was named Time's Man of the Year in 1996 for his pioneering research in HIV/AIDS. When HIV was first discovered in the 1980s, scientists believed that the virus lay dormant in patients for years before attacking the immune system, and medication was withheld until patients exhibited visible symptoms of full-blown AIDS. Dr. Ho's research proved that the virus replicated itself immediately when entering a patient's bloodstream. This led to the introduction of the drug cocktail used to slow the virus immediately upon detection. Dr. Ho has published more than 400 scientific papers on HIV/AIDS and is now the Scientific Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center and the Irene Diamond Professor at Rockefeller University in New York City.



Marjorie Mau, M.D.

Dr. Marjorie Mau became the first Native Hawaiian woman to be recognized with the title of "Master" physician by the American College of Physicians in 2016. In 2010, the National Institutes of Health recognized Dr. Mau and seven other scientists as mentors to young scientists around the country in its "Biomedical Faces of Science" program. In addition to treating patients on Moloka'i and in Honolulu, Dr. Mau is a prolific scientist who has conducted groundbreaking research in metabolic disorders among Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. She is also an advocate for training the next generation of diverse medical professionals to be health disparity researchers.

How Important is the Work of Medical Translators?

Source: <https://www.daytranslations.com/blog/how-important-is-the-work-of-medical-translators/>

The medical industry is one that's constantly evolving. Medical translation is a humanitarian service that allows people fighting disease and illness to gain access to healthcare services, regardless of what language they speak. In this post, we'll be taking a closer look at just how vital the work of medical translators is and why it's a specialized field of linguistics.

What Exactly Is Medical Translation?

Medical translation is a specialized translation service used for medical services, healthcare, and the pharmaceutical industry. It plays a vital role in helping healthcare professionals provide healthcare services to limited English proficiency (LEP) patients. Translators and interpreters in healthcare settings are there to ensure that patients also understand their condition and subsequent treatment.

What Are The Challenges Related To The Jobs Of Medical Translators?

Even the slightest error in medical translation can lead to severe problems that can be harmful to human health. One mistranslated word in the dosage of medications can result in permanent damage to patients.

Medical translators and interpreters need extensive knowledge of medicine, pharmacology, and the technology used within the healthcare sector. In some specialized fields, these linguists also need knowledge of biochemistry, engineering, and physics. In the light of these requirements, it's safe to say that medical translators must be both professional linguists as well as medical experts.

Why Are Medical Translators So Important?

Accurate Medical Translations Ensure Patient Safety. Since medical translations include clinical, marketing, regulatory, software, training, and technical content, there will always be a need for medical translation as new discoveries are made and implemented across the world.

Healthcare organizations across the world need translations of the documents and labeling associated with medical devices and pharmaceuticals into the country's official language. This ensures the safety of the patients using these medications and devices. And when patient safety depends on a clear understanding of directions, there is no room for mistranslation errors.

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Medical Translators are Subject-Matter Experts

The highly-regulated, sensitive, and technical nature of medical texts requires interpreters and translators to be subject-matter experts within their medical field of specialization. It is their job to translate medical texts in a way that guarantees that all users, patients, and physicians will understand them without errors.

The Cost of Mistranslations

The use of non-expert translators can have dire consequences such as clinical trial failures and in the worst case, the death of a patient. The story of 18-year old Willie Ramirez highlights the importance of professional medical translations.

In 1980, Willie was admitted to a hospital in Florida in a comatose state. His Spanish-speaking family described his condition as “intoxicado” to the paramedics. This description was translated by a bilingual staff member, who mistakenly translated it as ‘intoxicated.’

But the term “intoxicado” is actually an umbrella term used to describe when you’ve eaten or drank something that caused you to become sick. So its true meaning is much more closely related to the idea of poison than intoxication.

In Willie’s case, the hospital didn’t have a professional interpreter or translator on hand. And the family thought that the medical staff understood what the problem was. Even though Willie was suffering from an intracerebral hemorrhage, the doctors treated him for an international drug overdose.

The hemorrhage went untreated for 36 hours, and by the time the correct diagnosis was made, and surgery was done, it was too late. And that mistranslation left Willie quadriplegic.

New Staff Profile: Thu Le



Thu is the newest addition to MIS’s written translations team. She was born and raised in Vietnam. In February 2018, Thu and her family immigrated to Nebraska from Vietnam in search of new opportunities and to reunite with other relatives. For Thu, languages have always been her passion, as she has learned that they shape cultures and have an influence on people.

Thu began working as an interpreter in March 2018 after meeting a Vietnamese liaison at her younger sister’s school. The liaison praised Thu’s English skills and encouraged her to use them to help her community. In October 2018, Thu became a Vietnamese community advocate for a local nonprofit organization, where she completed a course in Behavioral Interpreting. Her experience as an interpreter sparked her interest in the medical field. She graduated as a physical therapist assistant in 2021 and worked as a traveling physical therapist assistant in Modesto, California. Thu feels honored to have the opportunity to work for a prestigious organization like UC Davis Health. Thu is now back in Nebraska to pursue higher education to become a physical therapist, and feels grateful to have the opportunity to continue to serve Vietnamese community by providing written translation services.

During her leisure time, Thu enjoys traveling and learning new things. For Thu, the best destinations to travel to are the national parks in the United States. Thu has recently passed her citizenship test, which grants her more freedom to explore the world and be a global citizen.

Welcome to UC Davis Health, Thu! We are happy to have you onboard!