

Dear Mr Wang Yiduan

First of all, I would like to thank the People's Republic of China and the Organizing Committee of the Congress for their warm welcome. Also thank you for your email and interest in my insight on neural restoration.

I attended the first Congress on Neural Restoration in Beijing from May 15th to 18th, 2008.

I could appreciate the high scientific contents of the congress and quality of the lectures of the Chinese lecturers as well as the western guests.

This high scientific contents and the frank and objective quality of the different debates raised by the interventions have shown the maturity of the Chinese research concerning neural restoration and its indisputable place in the scientific world.

This was a short introduction to your questions which I will now try to answer as accurately as possible.

Your first question is:

1) [How do you judge the role of China in this field?](#)

China's role is precursory and, as any brand new technique concerning research and medicine, China has raised many questions but also triggered critics.

Placing ourselves within the frame defined by the preamble of the WHO constitution, which states the following:

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION**

THE STATES Parties to this Constitution declare, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, that the following principles are basic to the happiness, harmonious relations and security of all peoples:

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition. The health of all peoples is fundamental to the attainment of peace and security and is dependent upon the fullest co-operation of individuals and States.

The achievement of any State in the promotion and protection of health is of value to all.

Unequal development in different countries in the promotion of health and control of disease, especially communicable disease, is a common danger.

Healthy development of the child is of basic importance; the ability to live harmoniously in a changing total environment is essential to such development.

The extension to all peoples of the benefits of medical, psychological and related knowledge is essential to the fullest attainment of health.

Informed opinion and active co-operation on the part of the public are of the utmost importance in the improvement of the health of the people.

Governments have a responsibility for the health of their peoples which can be fulfilled only by the provision of adequate health and social"

China's very own approach, by developing its neural restoration procedure through Professor Huang Hongyun's and his collaborators' technique, corresponds to the preamble of the WHO constitution in my mind.

By organizing the founding Congress in Beijing on neural restoration, China builds a bridge between international collaboration and circulation of knowledge.

It is all the more relevant with the unfortunate natural disaster that hit China where many people will suffer from spinal cord injury.

It is thus justified that China researches on neural restoration with its own approach in the interest of the population suffering from spinal cord injuries (past, present and to come).

Its research in the field rightfully finds its place in the scientific community, in much the same way as research focusing on autologous cells does.

2) [Can we do something to achieve a better clinical trial environment? How do you view the prospect of such improvement?](#)

We can always do something to achieve a better clinical trial environment! The problem lies in the desire and will from the different actors to achieve it and to find the smallest common denominator that carefully handles national sensibilities (different teams in charge of clinical trials), economical and scientific interests at stake.

Considering the emergency to find a solution to neurological disorders of all kind, whether they are from a traumatic, degenerative, viral, bacterial or unknown origin and affecting the whole planet, it appears fundamental to define international criteria, accepted by everyone within the frame of WHO and the UN, by establishing rules that would take into account the specificities of each research. The opprobrium thrown on some techniques in the name of morals or ethics is sometimes a pretext to protect one's own research.

We need to have common rules for different approaches of neural restoration that will certainly be the biggest public health issue of the coming decades.

It seems to me that in order to go beyond sterile debates, further the research and improve the clinical trials environment, we must seize the international community (UN) so that a multicentric commission suggests an approach that would be the smallest common denominator.

Then the different international associations, whose aim focuses on neural restoration (like the International Association of Neural Restoration for China for example), can give their opinion and suggestions for a text, accepted by everyone, to be validated by the UN and become the authoritative reference for clinical trials for everyone and thus go beyond the debate of national interests to the advantage of a global vision..

Illness knows nobody, it can hit everyboby.

3) You attended the "Annual Conference of International Association of Neural Restoration" last month in Beijing. At that time, Prof. Huang Hongyun and the Association suggested creating "The Neural Restorative Cell Transplantation Clinical Practice Principle", and "Spinal Cord Injury Functional Rating Scale". May I have your ideas in this respect?

Your question needs two separate answers.

Concerning the suggestion made by the Association of Neural Restoration on clinical practice principle:

Professor Huang Hongyun and I have patients in common, i.e. they received his procedure and then come to France to combine his results with the Laserponcture® technique that I created.

The results I presented in my lecture at the Congress in Beijing confirm that there are objective recoveries after a cell transplantation with Pr. Huang Hongyun's procedure and Laserponcture®.

Besides Pr. Huang Hongyun also presented the results of his therapy without Laserponcture®, the same way I presented my results with Laserponcture® without using cells of any types.

That shows the complexity and resourcefulness of two techniques that met at the Congress in Beijing for their application on human and the open perspectives if both techniques are combined.

Let me come back on the former question and my answer: the International Association of Neural Restoration, a member of which I have been nominated, may introduce the debate with its proposals exposed during the conference.

Concerning a new scale of functional evaluation of spinal cord injury, I think it is imperative. The scales of ASIA and FRANKEL give only a partial vision of the functional evaluation of spinal cord injuries. In my daily practice, I use an evaluation scale of 7 sheets in addition to the information in the ASIA or FRANKEL scales – when it is included in the file.

With the new techniques for the treatment of spinal cord injuries, a full functional assessment is needed to set the initial state and appreciate the improvements before applying any therapy.

Here again it is necessary to go beyond the partisan susceptibilities (ASIA = US / FRANKEL = UK) to define new international standards that will meet our needs to assess an initial state before applying treatment and appreciate the obtained improvements.

The video recording should be part of the arsenal for the functional evaluation of spinal cord injury.

Because if a scale on paper form finds its historical interest by the picture it takes at a precise moment, it can be valuably confirmed by a video that visualizes the written information on the original form.

I hope I answered your questions. I am at your disposal should you need any further information.

Albert Bohbot