Introduction

- China has the second largest pharmaceutical industry in the world
- High drug prices are a major reason for the high costs of healthcare in China (~50% of healthcare spending)
- Many researchers are looking to develop the pharma industry further while also controlling costs
- ChiCTR was founded in 2005 with these goals in mind

Methods

- Due to COVID-19, this internship was entirely virtual
- Use online databases (PubMed, JSTOR, Google Scholar, etc) to find articles related to Chinese Hospitals and Clinical Trials
- Help to understand the history and knowledge production of Chinese Hospitals

Objective of the Study

To understand the changes being made to improve clinical trial policy and practice in China, as well as the relationship between clinical trials and hospitals. What role has the Chinese Clinical Trial Registry had in pushing change?

Chinese Clinical Trial Registry (ChiCTR)

Mission:
"To unite clinicians, clinical epidemiologists, biostatisticians, epidemiologists and health care managers, to manage clinical trials and promote their quality in China, so as to provide reliable evidences from clinical trials for health care workers, consumers and medical policy decision makers, and also to use medical resources more effectively to provide better service for Chinese people and all human beings"

General Clinical Trial Information

- Majority of Clinical Trials in China are conducted in hospitals because 1. very few private practices in China 2. provides good access to trial participants because hospitals are the largest healthcare provider in China
- Issues: issues with patient records, clinical trial staff not trained in Good Clinical Practice (GCP)
- In 2014, the Chinese Government created new regulations for hospitals that sponsor clinical trials

Discussion

- Acknowledging the issues in clinical trial policy and practice helps to address both the practical and ethical problems that exist regarding research in China
- Increasing transparency of clinical trials could potentially speed up the drug approval process and provide individuals who wish to volunteer the necessary information, which will keep them safe
- ChiCTR is not the only group trying to address these issues. The government and WHO is also involved – world wide effort

Questions

- What are the implications of these changes to clinical trial policy and practice on the health and wellbeing of the Chinese? On the Pharma Industry?
- How will COVID-19 impact clinical trials and research in China?

Conclusion

- In the past several years, the number of clinical trials registered has dramatically increased, proving the work of ChiCTR to be rather successful
- Promoting Good Clinical Practice in Chinese labs and hospitals is a priority
- Next steps: will look at specific hospitals and try to understand their management systems and how research fits into them

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