NIANZENG XING, MD

Vice President of National Cancer Center/Cancer Hospital of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences.

Prof. Xing is the President of Urology Branch of Chinese Medical Doctor Association, President Elect of the Urology Branch of Beijing Medical Association and Director of the Global Chinese Medical Association and Vice President of the Urology Branch. He has won the Special government allowances of the State Council, Wu Jieping-Paul Janssen Medical & Pharmaceutical Award for his outstanding achievements in research of urological oncology. He also serves as Editor-in-Chief of UroPrecision, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Chinese Medical Journal.

Q: What have you achieved in urologic oncology, particularly in clinical research?

My achievements in urologic oncology are driven by innovation to meet patient needs. I have reengineered traditional orthotopic neobladder reconstruction for laparoscopic surgery, reducing urinary reflux and anastomotic stricture. This approach, termed "Xing's Neobladder," has gained recognition in the Chinese urology community. I also refined the ureteral-ileal anastomosis technique, known as "Xing's Anastomosis Technique," minimizing complications such as stricture and receiving international acclaim. While attending the Annual Congress of the European Association of Urology, I saw a local doctor studying one of my surgical videos. This moment highlighted the international recognition and impact of my innovative contributions in the field.

Many patients with suspected prostate cancer are hesitant to undergo biopsies. By leveraging advancements in liquid biopsy and multiparametric MRI, we introduced the concept of radical prostatectomy without prior biopsy, for which we are developing a preoperative diagnostic model to enhance prostate cancer diagnostic specificity. We are also conducting prospective clinical trials to validate this model with hope that this achievement will optimize the management for prostate cancer.

Our clinical research includes pioneering work in new therapies. We launched China's first phase 2 trial combining neoadjuvant immunotherapy with chemotherapy for bladder cancer, achieving a 43% pathologic complete response rate. We are conducting a phase 3 trial to further improve prognosis and exploring novel therapies such as antibody-drug conjugates targeting HER-2 and bispecific antibodies against PD-1/CTLA4. These efforts aim to transform bladder cancer treatment and improve patient outcomes.

Q: As President of the Chinese Urological Doctor Association, what initiatives have you undertaken to improve the diagnosis and treatment of urologic diseases across China?

I have led the development of comprehensive guidelines, standards, and expert consensus for the diagnosis and treatment of urological tumors. In addition, as head of the national quality control expert panel for prostate and bladder cancer, I also spearheaded the creation of China's first quality control indicators for these cancers. Through nationwide lecture tours, we have actively promoted the implementation of these guidelines in primary hospitals, greatly contributing to the standardization and improvement of cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Moreover, I have organized teams of leading experts to visit primary hospitals, sharing their expertise directly with local medical professionals. Under my leadership, the large-scale public welfare initiative "Urological Surgeons on the Move" has significantly enhanced the diagnostic and therapeutic skills of urologists in these hospitals through diverse forms of education and surgical demonstrations.

Additionally, we have introduced advanced treatment concepts and cutting-edge techniques to primary hospitals through specialized training programs and the establishment of medical partnerships. These efforts have accelerated local medical development and technological innovation, thereby ensuring more patients receiving high-quality care.

Q: Could you share your approach to talent cultivation?

Our primary focus is on establishing a robust culture and system for talent development. Through both practice and advocacy, I have worked to cultivate an environment that deeply values the growth of young doctors. We have also refined our talent cultivation system to ensure the comprehensive development of these emerging professionals.

When it comes to how to do the operation successfully and beautifully, I insist that young doctors adhere strictly to the "Three Excellences and One Responsibility" principle: excellence in surgical planning, surgical anatomy and surgical skills, and a profound sense of responsibility that always puts patient interests first.

In scientific research, I place particular emphasis on developing sharp insights, enabling young talents to identify and propose valuable research topics. For instance, the research on neoadjuvant therapy for bladder cancer, which I mentioned earlier, originated from an idea proposed by our young doctors, inspired by clinical needs and cutting-edge international research. Additionally, by actively participating in clinical trials, young doctors can quickly advance their clinical research skills.

National Cancer Center/ Cancer Hospital of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences

The Cancer Hospital of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences is the first specialized cancer hospital in the People's Republic of China. It is a leading national center for cancer prevention, treatment, research, and teaching. It consistently ranks first among national tertiary hospitals specializing in oncology in performance assessments and holds the highest grade for national monitoring indices. Since its establishment, the hospital has achieved over 230 scientific research milestones, including 26 national and 92 provincial or ministerial awards, and has published nearly 100 articles in prestigious journals such as *CA Cancer J Clin*, *Nature*, *Lancet*, and *Cell*.