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I have 27 years since I started writing the first edition of 'The Foundations of Chinese Medicine'; this proved to be very popular with students and it has been used as a textbook by many acupuncture colleges around the world. The 2nd edition is a revision of the second edition published in 2005.

As we have learned, this book is intended to give the foundations of the principles of Chinese medicine. It is not only the beginning to the journey of learning Chinese medicine; there are of course, very many different directions of Chinese medicine and especially, I hope, that this book can provide a foundation from which practitioners can build and branch in different directions.

Many papers are listed in the bibliography for those who are interested. Chinese textbooks and some classics were also included, in particular the Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon (Qimin Questions to the Imperial Physician) and the Classic of Difficult Issues (Zhi Jing). I have tried to present the theory of Chinese medicine from Chinese books but I have also personally presented my own experience gleaned over nearly 40 years of practice. Whenever I presented my experience, I provided this with the statement 'experience is being gained'.

With the exception of the last changes made in the 2nd edition:

an expanded discussion of the functions of the Internal Organs

an expanded discussion of the functions and nature of the Triple Burner

an expanded discussion of external pathogenic factors such as causes of disease and its patterns

an expanded section on Diagnosis, especially a section on pathology (chapters 27, 28 and 29)

a complete revision of the clinical manifestations of the pattern of the Internal Organs with a clear distinction between Yin deficiency and

Yang deficiency, and the addition of typical prescriptions for each pattern.

A more detailed discussion of the identification of the various organs from the Chinese 'Five Elements' perspective.

An expanded discussion of the nature, anatomy and clinical application of the Extraordinary Vessels.

The discussion of categories such as the Five Elements, the Eight Trigrams, the Four Images, the Six Phases, the Ten Gods, the Four Symbols, the Five Elements and the Eight Extraordinary Points.

A complete rewording the functions of the points with emphasis on clinical consideration and the addition of some points not previously discussed.

An expanded discussion of the midday and night function of acupuncture points.

The many changes made the following changes in addition to the 2nd edition:

Over 200 new figures accompanying the book.  
New self-assessment tests to help students to check their knowledge.

New exercises with self-assessment tests.

New diagrams illustrating the concepts and development of the Internal Organs, mainly.

New sections with figures as follows: 'Introduction to the functions of the various Internal Organs' (a logical article); 'The six Extraordinary Circuits' (a logical article).

More illustrations throughout the book.

More 'acupuncture point applications' with emphasis on point actions.

More case histories.

Increased emphasis the point nomenclature.

The reader will notice that I do not use the term 'Traditional Chinese Medicine' in just my books, probably due to the association with the term 'Acupuncture'. This is not