

THE MIHDI JOON FUND

**Beginning with One,
Spreading to Many**

BRC #547

Fall 2008

Fund Developments

The Mihdi Joon Fund continues to evolve and looks forward to bringing informational resources to Bermuda on the benefits of Oriental medicine as a complement to traditional Western medicine in our society.

The World Health Organization defines “traditional medicine” as “the sum total of the knowledge, skills, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness”.¹ It reports that the global market for traditional therapies stands at US \$60 billion a year and is steadily growing.²

Mission Statement

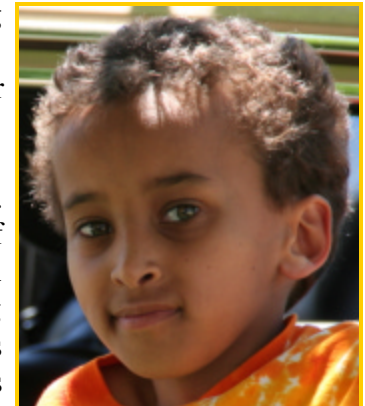
The Mihdi Joon Fund is a registered Bermuda charity #547 designed to provide the funding necessary to pay for the treatment and expenses for Mihdi Q. Brock. It shall further work to promote a greater understanding of the benefits of Oriental medicine and how it complements traditional Western medicine.

As well, The Mihdi Joon Fund is designed to assist those seeking to use Oriental medicine for the treatment of illnesses and diseases for which they cannot afford to pay. This foundation is seeking to create an endowment fund that will manifest these goals.

ORIENTAL MEDICINE IS NOW THE ONLY HOPE FOR MIHDI BROCK

SANTA MONICA, CA – After years of following every lead and searching out the opinions of experts in Western medicine from across the North American continent, a final conclusion has been reached: there appears, to Mihdi’s family, to be no hope, no cure for Mihdi Brock through Western medicine. Oriental medicine offers the only possibility of a treatment program that will bring any healing and sustained life to him.

Since 1999 Mihdi’s father Marvin Brock has been working tirelessly to come up with the best answer to assist Mihdi reach as healthy and as long lasting an adulthood as possible. For the last eight years that answer has been the care and treatment that Mihdi has received from his primary care physician of Dr. Baolin Wu, Master Physician of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Doctor of Neurophysiology, along with the daily herbal prescriptions and hours of physical therapies that Mr. Brock oversees.

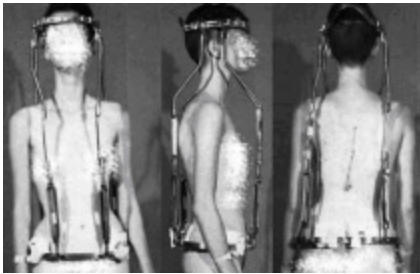


At the same time over these years, they have continued to consult periodically with top-rated centers of Western medicine – the health centers associated with the medical schools of Harvard, Dartmouth College, University of British Columbia, USC, and UCLA along with Cleveland Clinic and Concord Orthopedics.

This past July saw the culmination of these searches for an answer through Western medicine when Mihdi and his father attended at what is perhaps one of the most well known medical centers in the United States, the Mayo Clinic. For one week Mihdi underwent tests, examinations, and procedures including several MRI’s, and Mr. Brock consulted with a battery of physicians, the heads of several different departments working as a team including Orthopedic Surgery, Neurology, and Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine.

The specialist team agreed with past assessments that Mihdi’s condition is complex and is of no known medical

syndrome. They determined that the repair to Mihdi's heart is stable at the moment, the fluid on his brain doesn't appear to be a concern any longer, and while his blood may be prone to clotting, he shows no lasting effects of the stroke. However, the curvature of his spine has worsened over the last year from 83° to over 90°. This curvature progression is reducing the function of his internal organs, in particular his lungs. Testing revealed that his ability to exhale is less than normal for his age. He also has a reduced ability to cough out of the lower section of his lungs, thus he can't expel mucous, leaving him susceptible to pneumonia. It is thought that the curvature of his lower spine may be causing the chronic constipation and his inability to put on weight.

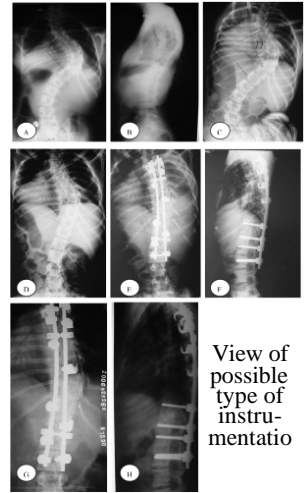


Patient with halo traction device surgically screwed into place.

The primary recommendation of the Mayo Clinic team is to use extensive traction therapy to stretch his spine. The only method, however, that they can suggest for this would be through two surgeries. In the first, a halo traction device would be fitted to Mihdi's body by screws into his skull and pelvic bones. He would wear this device continuously for up to several months in an effort to straighten his spine; a metal attachment to the front of the spine might also be inserted through his abdomen during the same operation. Then a second surgery involving spinal instrumentation would remove the halo and insert metal rods, hooks, screws and wires on either side of the spine from shoulder to hip to hold the straightening in place.

At 11 years of age, Mihdi is just 51 pounds and 4 feet 1 inch tall; he is a small, little boy with an extremely compromised immune system and stressed internal organs. While the Mayo team members agree that it is critical to accelerate treatment at this point, it is doubtful that Mihdi would be able to survive these invasive procedures, which means that there are no further options through Western medicine for Mihdi. Over the years, the suggested treatment from Western specialists has varied little, and several have questioned his ability to survive the surgeries. His health, indeed his life now must rely entirely on the treatment protocols of Oriental medicine and Dr. Wu's expertise.

Dr. Wu also recommends immediate intensive traction therapy; he supports the use of a traction table device. He advises that at this critical stage it is imperative for Mihdi to be in traction on such a device as quickly as possible to gain time to straighten his bones against the resistance of the soft tissue before the bones harden completely. Chiropractors have long used the traction approach to work with the spine. This device is proposed as a suitable method for Mihdi's needs rather than risk his failing to tolerate the surgeries. As The Mihdi Joon Fund has now been apprised of this situation, it has prioritized providing the funding to make a table available for Mihdi's immediate treatment.



Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it. -- Helen Keller

The Mihdi Joon Fund continues to financially support Mihdi's needs in his quest for survival. It has also begun its education program with a series of newsletters and a new booklet to help others learn about the benefits they might experience for their own health issues through Oriental medicine. At this juncture in Mihdi's situation with Oriental medicine providing the only viable treatment plan for him, it emphasizes the importance of helping others learn about possible alternatives that may be available and necessary for them as well. Mihdi's treatment plan and his progress have been carefully documented in order to make public reports. With continued public support, The Mihdi Joon Fund will carry on with this mission to share the benefits of Oriental medicine with all. Anyone who would like to receive more information about Oriental medicine should contact The MJF directly.

¹ General Guidelines for Methodologies on Research and Evaluation of Traditional Medicine 2000
² Fact Sheet N°134 Revised May 2003

The Mihdi Joon Fund has just released a new publication entitled “Exploring Oriental Medicine from Then to Now” which introduces the modality with a brief look at its history, development, and place in our modern world. The following is an excerpt. Please be sure to contact us to get your copy.

Exploring Oriental Medicine from Then to Now



Introduction: Beginning with a Personal Perspective

by Raven Cloudwalker

The Orient – for many of us, it has long been a place of mystery, a place of romance, of danger and intrigue, of fascination – yet how much do we really know about it, and about the knowledge base and technical skills that have developed there through thousands of years of history. For many in the West, perhaps their first opportunity to get a glimpse of these things was during the televised opening ceremonies for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing. Through an incredible display of artistic endeavour and technical precision, China told the story of some of her historical achievements. I remember being awestruck at the exactitude of thousands of performers as they told the story of the invention of movable type. How were they able to coordinate themselves to create such a beautiful and exciting depiction of moving type? What kind of dedication and skill did that take? Fascinating – I could have watched them for hours and hours, caught in the beauty and flow.

This same dedication and skill has been the foundation of the development of Oriental medicine over many centuries. My first exposure to this medicine came almost thirty years ago when a friend gave me a book called *The Chinese Art of Healing* by Stephan Palos; she thought I might be interested. I remember being very puzzled at her thought, but accepted it, and stuck it away on a shelf. There it sat for many years. Sometime later, 15 years later to be more exact, I set out to study Oriental medicine in order to become an acupressurist.

Just prior to that time, I experienced a health crisis, and my Western medical doctor had exhausted his resources to help me; the condition was viewed to be non-life threatening, so I would just stay on a medication until some unknown time in the future, perhaps forever. Then through one of those coincidences that aren't, I discovered that an acquaintance was a practitioner of Oriental medicine. I have to admit that I spent one whole visit just checking him and what he did out; I was very suspicious. In the end, it was a choice between either getting brave and trying it, or staying on medication, not knowing what the long-term results of that might be. I got brave, and three treatments later I was symptom free. I was amazed, elated, dumbfounded; I stayed working with him for many months, and got to the root of what had been causing my problems.

Throughout that period, a sense of wonder stayed with me about this treatment modality that could be so effective, and I wanted to learn more; I wanted to be able to help others as I had been helped. Thus began my study of Oriental medicine, my journey to become a practitioner, and my desire to share the possibilities of what it can offer with others.

To that first book on my shelf, several dozen more have been added. This is a medical methodology about which thousands upon thousands of volumes have been written by Eastern, and more recently Western authors. In another little book I came across called *Chinese Folk Medicine* (1972-Wallnöfer and von Rottauscher), an article published in *The New York Times* in 1971 by the late Dr. Samuel Rosen is included as the afterword. In the article, Dr. Rosen, then Clinical Emeritus Professor of Otolaryngology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine said, “I have seen the past and it works,” after seeing acupuncture used effectively as an anesthetic for numerous surgical procedures during a 1971 visit to China as a guest of the Chinese Medical Association.

Oriental medicine is an effective treatment modality for modern illnesses, particularly for chronic conditions, found in the West, and it can work hand in hand with Western medical treatments for the patients' benefit as evidenced by China's doctors incorporating Western medical techniques into their protocols. At times, Oriental medicine may even be the only alternative an individual has.

The Mihdi Joon Fund Website

Please visit the fund website at www.themihdijoonfund.org for more information on the Fund including its history, an overview of how Mihdi has been helped through Oriental medicine, a selection of articles from The Royal Gazette and the Bermuda Sun, and to see what's new. Stay tuned for updated content.

Victor Hugo once said:

*As the purse is emptied,
the heart is filled.*

The Mihdi Joon Fund

Bermuda Registered Charity No. 547

P. O. Box HM 1987, Hamilton HM HX
441-292-3786

www.themihdijoonfund.org
info@themihdijoonfund.org



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President: Marvin Brock, Sr.
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“A Child’s Life is a Wonderful Thing to Save”