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# **Gerontechnology: Inspiration from the Chinese Culture**

**Yeh-Liang Hsu, Ph.D.**

Y. Z. Hsu Chair Professor

Mechanical Engineering Department

Dean of Academic Affairs

Director, Gerontechnology Research Center

**Yuan Ze University, Taiwan**

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# Cultural and social acceptance of gerontechnology development

- ✓ Research in gerontechnology generally emphasizes on how technologies can be used to satisfy the needs of the elderly people.
- ✓ However, the success of a gerontechnology product/service also depends heavily on cultural and social acceptance.
- ✓ In this symposium, the Chinese value and perspective of gerontechnology, in particular, cultural and social issues related to gerontechnology development in the Sinophone world are presented. .
- ✓ Some gerontechnology design concepts inspired from ancient Chinese stories, poems, and other literature are also described.

# Traditional value shared across the Sinophone world

- ✓ The ancient Chinese character of “filial piety” represents a young kid holds an elderly parent carrying a cane, walking gingerly...



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- ✓ 曾子曰：孝子之養老也，

【禮記，內則】

樂其心 不違其志  
樂其耳目 安其寢處

“To take care of the elderly, you should make them happy, let them do what they want, help them see well, hear well, and provide them a safe and comfortable living environment.”

(Zeng, a disciple of Confucius, about 2,500 years ago)

## 「啣指心痛」 – “Finger biting causing heartache”

Zeng served his mother with all faithfulness. One day when he was out cutting wood among the mountains, there came a visitor to his house. His mother became perplexed and, after awaiting her son's return in vein, bit her finger.

Zeng felt heartache all of a sudden and knew there was an emergency. He rushed back home with a burden of wood, and on arrival, knelt down to asked his mother what happened. His mother replied, “Here is a visitor who needs you urgently. So I bit my finger to awake you to come back...”

From the “24 stories of filial piety”