

A PARTIAL TRANSLATION OF Nŭ Yì ZÁ YÁN 女医杂言,  
*SAYINGS OF A FEMALE DOCTOR*, BY TÁN Yŭn XIÁN 谈允贤

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## ABSTRACT

*Problem:* Evidence of the few imperial women physicians is singular and unique within the social stratum. Tán Yǔn Xián 談允賢 is a notable exception who chronicles the use of manual modalities as well as effective physician/patient communication. Recent trends in the field of Chinese medicine show both graduating cohorts from AOM schools and the patient population as predominantly female. Lack of female physician text translations further highlights these gaps in Chinese medical literature.

*Purpose:* The purpose of the study is to illustrate the contributions of a female imperial physician, Tán Yǔn Xián 談允賢, by translating an introductory letter and two case studies from Nǚ Yì Zà Yán 女医杂言, *Sayings of a Female Doctor*.

*Methods:* An archival study was completed including a mixture of historical approach and primary source translation. The translation portion is a hybrid translation of an introductory letter and two case studies from Nǚ Yì Zà Yán 女医杂言, *Sayings of a Female Doctor*.

*Conclusion:* Text sections chosen from Nǚ Yì Zà Yán 女医杂言, *Sayings of a Female Doctor*, serve as commentary for the state of gender relations in the Míng 明 dynasty (1368-1644 CE). However, the translations also illustrate practical clinical points still relevant today. The first case study illustrates the open communication