Record Nr. UNINA9910814595503321 Autore Guo Zibin <1961-> Titolo Ginseng and aspirin: health care alternatives for aging Chinese in New York / / Zibin Guo Pubbl/distr/stampa Ithaca, N.Y.:,: Cornell University Press,, [2000] ©2000 **ISBN** 1-5017-2171-2 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (xii, 173 p.) Collana Anthropology of contemporary issues Disciplina 362.1 Transcultural medical care Soggetti Minority older people Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Frontmatter -- Contents -- List of Tables -- Preface -- Introduction --Nota di contenuto Part I. Elderly Chinese Immigrants in Flushing -- 1. Setting the Stage --2. Chinese Americans in the United States - A Population of Diversity --3. The Research Site -- 4. Fieldwork in Flushing -- Part II. Health Care Concepts and Resources -- 5. Aging, Migration, and Health -- 6. Traditional Chinese Medicine -- 7. Health Care in Modern China and Taiwan -- 8. Health Care Resources in Flushing -- Part III. Aging and Health among the Chinese Elderly -- 9. Concepts of Aging -- 10. Big and Small Problems -- 11. Self-Care and Home Remedies -- 12. Health Care Decisions -- 13. Using the U.S. Health Care System -- 14. Conclusion -- References -- Index Sommario/riassunto Navigating the maze of modern American health care is rarely easy; those who enter it are confronted with a dizzying array of specialists, practitioners, and clinics from which to choose, and are forced to make decisions regarding drugs and treatments about which they may know very little. For immigrants, finding their way can be difficult-especially for those to whom Western medicine is itself unfamiliar. In this engaging, accessible, and detail-rich book, Zibin Guo narrates elderly Chinese immigrants' response to contemporary American medicine. Traditional Chinese medicine emphasizes self-care and the medicinal value of foods and herbs; American doctors' responses to the ailments

of their Chinese patients can seem impersonal and unnecessarily

interventionist. Distrust, expense, and problems of communication and interpretation often frustrate both patient and practitioner. Guo paints a picture of a population that, despite its outward appearance of homogeneity, demonstrates a surprisingly wide variety of health-care knowledge, practice, and belief. Using case materials and interviews, he analyzes the blend of folk treatments and respect for Western science that coexist in the health care regimens of these elderly Chinese immigrants.