

# GP-TCM Monthly Newsletter Christmas 2010 Special Issue

## Merry Christmas from GP-TCM!



圣诞节快乐, 聖誕節快樂  
Frohe Weihnachten  
Joyeux Noël  
Gelukkig Kerstfeest  
Feliz Navidad  
Feliz Natal, Buon Natale  
Glædelig jul, God Jul  
Häid joule, Hyvää Joulua  
สุขสันต์วันคริสต์มาส

<http://www.jacquelawson.com/viewcard.asp?code=2520856215411&source=j1999>

## Features in this Issue

### 1. China invests 4 billion RMB in constructing 16 National Clinical Research Bases of TCM

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference & Exhibition on TCM Modernization (Chengdu, 25-26 Nov., 2010), the State Administration of TCM (SATCM) and Sichuan Provincial Administration of TCM hosted a special meeting on the overview and construction progress of 16 national clinical research bases of TCM in Tianjin, Changchun, Chengdu, Shanghai, Anhui, Guangdong, Hunan, Hubei, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Henan, Shandong, Heilongjiang, Liaoning, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and Tibet Autonomous Region. This meeting was actively attended by representatives from the US, the UK, Germany, Japan, Korea and other countries from South East Asia. On behalf of GP-TCM, Deputy Coordinator Dr. Tai-Ping Fan (University of Cambridge) paid warmest tributes to this monumental task undertaken by the Chinese government to establish the efficacy and safety of TCM in cooperation with overseas clinicians and scientists. He also offered his personal and GP-TCM's assistance in facilitating future collaborations between the UK, EU and China. This public gesture was eagerly welcomed by Mr Li Daning, Vice-Commissioner of SATCM. More to follow.

### 2. WHO moves to classify traditional medicines

The World Health Organization (WHO) will create a web-based classification system for traditional medicines to help bring them out from "the dark side of the planet of health information."

The project will hopefully lead to greater recognition of traditional healing techniques and more objective research into their efficacy, adds Dr. T. Bedirhan Üstün, who's heading the project to develop the international information standards. "Now we at WHO collect information on Western medicine care and we turn a blind eye totally to traditional medicine care, but at least

30%–40% of care is delivered in a traditional medicine setting."

Üstün hopes the initiative will begin to bridge the divide between traditional and Western medicine that is evident even in countries in which traditional medicine is widely-practiced. "There is an ongoing practice in China, for example, when you enter the hospital, you turn right you get Western medicine care, you turn left you get traditional medicine care."

But Üstün stresses that the creation of a classification system for traditional medicine practices does not constitute an endorsement of their use, though it may promote research that ultimately provides evidence to support such use.

The WHO's foray into the area will initially be limited. "We are differentiating between folk medicine and traditional medicine," Üstün says. Traditional medicines have longstanding histories with nationally applied, written standards and a systematic approach, he explains. "We are not dealing with snake oils, hocus pocus type of magical [practices]."

WHO will also focus initially on developing information standards for traditional medicine practices in China, Japan and Korea, as they have a long history of use and higher level of standardization in comparison with other nations.

Read more: <http://www.cmaj.ca/earlyreleases/14dec10-platformE-burr.dtl>

## GP-TCM Activities:

**1. The first Periodic (18 months) Report of the GP-TCM project and all individual deliverable reports** have been submitted to the European Commission. Let's sincerely thank Halil for his tireless work and all WP leads for their cooperation on this matter! These documents will be uploaded to the members-only domain of our website in the New Year. You are welcome to visit! **You will find that, following the rules for all FP7 projects**, FP7 and EC banners have been attached to all our reports and our website: <http://www.gp-tcm.org/>

**2. A GP-TCM guest commentary published in *Chinese Medicine***  
<http://www.cmjournal.org/content/5/1/42>

**3. The 6<sup>th</sup> e-MSM teleconference was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010** as a Skype teleconference and brought together seven senior consortium members across WP coordinators, Coordination Office, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Panel and other consortium committees. The issues discussed during the teleconference included (i) the 1<sup>st</sup> GP-TCM Periodic Report to the European Commission, (ii) other month

## GP-TCM Monthly Newsletter Christmas 2010 Special Issue

18 deliverables, (iii) SOP Panel updates, (iv) invitation to participate in 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Chinese Medicine (WCCM), and (v) 2<sup>nd</sup> GP-TCM Annual General Meeting planning.

**4. WP1-WP2 discussion meeting was jointly held on 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> December 2010** in Braga, Portugal to discuss several topics related to both WPs and also work on their deliverables. Further meeting details will be provided in the next issue of Newsletter.

### GP-TCM Announcements, Appointments and Labour Division:

**1. Dr. Alexandru Costescu is assigned as the new Project Officer for GP-TCM at the European Commission (EC):** Due to a staff reorganisation at the EC, Dr. Iiro Eerola, our Project Officer since the initiation stage of GP-TCM, will no longer be in charge of liaison with us. Nevertheless he will still sit on our Advisory Board and will continue to receive our Monthly Newsletters. Let's sincerely thank Dr. Eerola and wish him all the best in his future work and life. Meanwhile, we are pleased to welcome Dr. Costescu to succeed Dr. Eerola. The Coordination Office of GP-TCM has now been in touch with Dr. Costescu and he will be kept informed through our Newsletters too. We are looking forward to a close cooperation with Dr. Costescu in view that we are going to submitting our first official Periodic Report soon. **Warmest welcome, Alexandru!**

**2. Appointment of Prof. Odd Georg Nilsen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway), to GP-TCM as a non-beneficiary member** dedicated to WP3 (toxicology; led by Prof. Pierre Duez, ULB, Belgium, and Prof. Xinmin Liu, IMPLAD, China) and WP6 (clinical studies; led by Prof. Ken Muir, Warwick University, UK). Trained in Pharmacology at the University of Oslo and in Toxicology at the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Odd Georg is Head of Toxicology and Metabolism, Department of Cancer Research and Molecular Medicine, Faculty of Medicine. He has published more than 120 papers and ~100 international abstracts. Since 2005, using a metabolomic approach, he has been working on *in vitro* identification, evaluation and metabolic and transport interactions of herbs or purified Chinese herbal constituents. The aim is to obtain knowledge for maintaining patient safety during combined herb-drug intakes or treatments and also to focus on interactions that might be beneficial for improving therapeutic efficacy. Nineteen international publications, six master theses and three PhD theses have been produced within this research area. Since 2009, his research has been moving towards herb-drug pharmacokinetic interaction studies in man; a well equipped new laboratory has been built for determination of small molecules and metabolites in different body tissues. Research collaboration and

exchange of doctorate and post-doctorate students are established with China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences in Beijing, where he has been appointed an Honorary Professor in 2006 and he also has well established collaboration with Fudan University in Shanghai. In addition, he has produced several expert reports for European industry on drug metabolism, pharmacokinetics, drug safety and drug analysis and has performed more than 20 clinical drug pharmacokinetic or drug-drug pharmacokinetic interaction studies in man. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Odd Georg!**

**3. Appointment of Dr. Li-jun Ma to GP-TCM as a non-beneficiary member** dedicated to WP10 (management; led by Dr. Qihe Xu, KCL, UK): Li-Jun is a Research Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology at Vanderbilt Medical Centre. His research focuses on fibrotic mechanisms of kidney diseases, diabetes and obesity and his publications on the importance of genetic background in animal models, the importance of PPAR and PAI-1 in obesity and fibrogenesis, as well as on the reversibility of fibrosis have been widely cited (for more than 1,000 times, based on Google Scholar). In addition to his research in conventional medicine, Li-Jun also has a long interest and strong expertise in an important branch of Chinese medicine, Tai Chi Chuan, a kind of martial arts widely acknowledged for its benefits to health. In 1971, Li-Jun began to study Yang-style Tai Chi Chuan, at the age of seven, with Master Xi-Fang Chen who was from the birthplace of Yang-style Tai Chi Chuan, Chen Village, Henan, China. In 1999, Li-Jun won two gold medals for his performances of 24-form Tai Chi Chuan and 32-form Tai Chi Sword in the Chicago Wushu Tournament. Li-Jun has been teaching Yang-style Tai Chi in the Nashville area since 1999 including the YMCA, MTSU, The Nashville Chinese School and the Fannie Mae Dees Park. Due to his medical background and extensive Tai Chi experience, he has been selected as an instructor for "Therapeutic Tai Chi" classes at Vanderbilt Centre for Integrative Health since summer 2009. Li-Jun's research and his Tai Chi class schedule can be found at the websites below. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Li-Jun!**

<http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/root/vumc.php?site=vmcpathology&doc=14911>  
<http://www.vanderbilthealth.com/integrativehealth/23113>

**4. Appointment of Mr. Andreas Marmann (Heinrich-Heine-University, Germany) to GP-TCM as local assistant to WP2 Coordinator Prof. Peter Proksch (Germany).** Andreas studied pharmacy at Heinrich-Heine University in Düsseldorf, Germany. He completed his 2<sup>nd</sup> Staatsexamen. After the academic portion of training, he worked in a public pharmacy before returning to the Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Biotechnology at Heinrich Heine University, as a PhD student. In July 2010, he graduated as a pharmacist. At the moment, he is working on the

## GP-TCM Monthly Newsletter Christmas 2010 Special Issue

bioactivity-directed isolation and identification of secondary metabolites of marine microorganisms, in the research group of Prof. Peter Proksch. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Andreas!**

**5. Appointment of Mr. Mazin Al-Khafaji (Avicenna, UK) to GP-TCM as a non-beneficiary member** devoted to WP6 (clinical studies; led by Prof. Kenneth Muir, Warwick University, UK). Mazin is a clinician, scholar and teacher of Chinese Medicine and is widely known for his successful and innovative approach to education and practice. After studying acupuncture in the UK, he left for China in the early eighties in order to study Chinese Herbal Medicine, as he felt this held the key to making a real difference in clinical practice. He first thoroughly studied the Chinese language, and then attended the Chinese Herbal Course alongside Chinese students at the Shanghai College of Chinese Medicine. He graduated as Doctor of Chinese Medicine in 1987. Ever since his return to the UK, he has actively promoted and taught best practice in Chinese Medicine. He set up practice in Brighton and Hove, and right from the outset established his own Herbal Dispensary so that he could control the quality and authenticity of the herbs he used for his patients. In 1998, he established the Avicenna Centre for Chinese Medicine as a platform for people to practise excellence in Chinese Medicine. Mazin sees patients with a wide variety of difficult diseases, and specialises in the treatment of skin, auto-immune and allergic as well as respiratory and digestive diseases. He has introduced regular blood testing to monitor all patients on herbal medicine at the clinic and collected data over 15 years, and advocated this as good practice within his professional organisations. He runs a unique dispensary (RCHM approved supplier), which offers innovative and specialised services such as decoction service for prescriptions, paozhi (raw herbs treated in special ways so that their function changes), custom-made ranges of external applications such as washes, creams and ointments. Avicenna has a considerable research library consisting of Chinese medical texts and books and topical articles collected from Chinese medical journal, regularly holds practical CPD days for students and practitioners, and runs a professional forum for registered practitioners on its website. Mazin lectures widely at conferences and on a postgraduate level, and runs a Dermatology Diploma Course in London. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Mazin!**

**6. Appointment of Prof. Giovanna Franconi (University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy) to GP-TCM as a non-beneficiary member** devoted to WP8 (Acupuncture and Moxibustion studies; led by Prof. Xiaomin Wang, CCMU, China). Giovanna obtained her Medical Doctor degree with honours in 1983 at Tor Vergata University in Rome, Italy. She completed her PhD in Heart and Lung Pathophysiology with honours

in 1991 after a 3-year NIH Multidisciplinary Training Fellowship at the Cardiovascular Research Institute of the University of California San Francisco in the USA. She spent her Residency in Internal Medicine at Tor Vergata University in Rome and at the Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia, PA, USA. She received her Acupuncture Degree with honours in 2009 from Xin Shu Acupuncture School in Rome, and in 2007 she completed a Masters Degree in Integration of Western Medicine and Traditional Chinese Medicine with honours at Sapienza University in Rome. Since 1993 she has been employed at the Department of Internal Medicine at Tor Vergata University as Researcher, and since 2006 as Aggregate Professor. She is currently head of the Acupuncture Clinic for male infertility at the CTO Hospital in Rome, the only public Acupuncture Clinic for male infertility in Italy. Prof. Franconi is now working on evaluating the effectiveness and the neuroendocrine mechanisms of acupuncture in human diseases such as chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy and infertility. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Giovanna!**

**7. Appointment of Dr. Luigi Manni (Institute of Neurobiology and Molecular Biology (INMM), Italian National Research Council (CNR), Italy) to GP-TCM as a non-beneficiary member** devoted to WP8 (Acupuncture and Moxibustion studies; led by Prof. Xiaomin Wang, CCMU, China). Luigi obtained his degree in Biology at University "La Sapienza" Rome in 1987. After graduation and military service, he was employed in two different pharmaceutical companies first in Quality Control, then in R&D, and Production branches. In 1996, Luigi joined the group of Dr. Luigi Aloe – a main collaborator of the Nobel Laureate Rita Levi-Montalcini - at INMM, CNR, Italy. There he started studying the role of the nerve growth factor (NGF) in the physiology and pathology of nervous, immune and endocrine systems. From 1998 to 2002, he was a guest researcher in the laboratory of Prof. Thomas Lundeberg at Karolinska Institute (Stockholm, Sweden). From 2002 to 2005, he was at Göteborg University (Sweden) in the group of Prof. Elisabet Stener-Victorin. In 2005, Luigi defended his PhD thesis, entitled: *Adrenoceptors and Nerve Growth Factor: Effects of Electroacupuncture and Physical Exercise in Rats with Steroid-Induced Polycystic Ovaries*, at Göteborg University, Sweden. He is now working at INMM, CNR in Rome, on the effects of electro-acupuncture in animal models of cognitive decline associated with aging and diabetes. The aim of this study is to use acupuncture to modulate the "neurotrophic milieu" in the nervous system. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Luigi!**

### EU Funding, Conferences and Projects:

**1. New ERC calls are now open - deadline for**

## GP-TCM Monthly Newsletter Christmas 2010 Special Issue

submission of proposals is 10<sup>th</sup> March 2011: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call\\_id=385](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&call_id=385)

**2. Annual Report on EU Research & Technological Development Activities in 2009 published:** Each year the EU publishes an Annual Report on its Research and Technological Development (RTD) activities for that year. The report for 2009 has recently been published. The short report gives a useful overview of the main RTD activities the EU has carried out in 2009. It covers both policy developments, like the implementation of the European Research Area (ERA), and FP7 implementation. The report finishes with a short section on the outlook for 2010.

[http://ims.ukro.ac.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E9F5D1E9-DE88-42DE-98AE-F389B715E920/8958/101115\\_annual\\_report\\_eu\\_rtd\\_activities\\_2009.pdf](http://ims.ukro.ac.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E9F5D1E9-DE88-42DE-98AE-F389B715E920/8958/101115_annual_report_eu_rtd_activities_2009.pdf)

**3. The European Commission has set up a Centre for European Union Small and Medium Size Enterprises (EU SME Centre) in Beijing.** The Centre is one of the objectives of the Small Business Act. It will be fully operational in January 2011. The Centre will help strengthen trade relations between the European Union and China and, in particular, will provide information on relevant legislation and procedures in China. The Centre will also organise advice, training and matchmaking opportunities for European SMEs wishing to export to or invest in the Chinese market. The Centre will be operated by a consortium of European Chambers of Commerce, led by the China-Britain Business Council. It will cooperate with other business support organisations and in particular with the European Enterprise Network, linking up 600 similar centres for the purpose of exchanging information on business opportunities. [http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/news/news\\_7030.en.xml.html?mode=subscription](http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org/news/news_7030.en.xml.html?mode=subscription)

**4. The 8<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Chinese Medicine to be held in the UK, Sept 2-3, 2011:** <http://www.2011wccm.com/>

**5. The 59<sup>th</sup> International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA) to be held in Turkey, Sep 4 - 9, 2011:** <http://www.ga2011.org/>

**6. Call for collaborations from Taiwan on a book on Problem-Based Learning of TCM:** Interested parties with related experiences please contact Prof. David CY Kwan ([http://cmucfd.cmu.edu.tw/english/intro\\_3.html](http://cmucfd.cmu.edu.tw/english/intro_3.html)), Director of Centre for Faculty Development and Coordinator of Vascular Biology Research Group, China Medical University, Taichung, TAIWAN. His e-mail address: [kwancy@mail.cmu.edu.tw](mailto:kwancy@mail.cmu.edu.tw)

### Other news

**GenomeQuest Adds Chinese Patents to Research Service. Drug Discovery & Development - December 16, 2010** [www.ddmag.com/news-GenomeQuest-Adds-Chinese-Patents-to-Research-Service-121610.aspx](http://www.ddmag.com/news-GenomeQuest-Adds-Chinese-Patents-to-Research-Service-121610.aspx)

GenomeQuest, a leader in sequence data management, announced that it has expanded its content for patent search to include sequences filed at SIPO, the patent office of China. Already, over 40,000 sequences from over 5000 Chinese patents are indexed and searchable in GQ-IP, the company's online patent research solution that now holds information on over 300,000 patents globally.

“Our preliminary analysis indicates that over 50% of Chinese patents with biological sequences are not filed in other country or international patent databases outside of SIPO,” said Kamalakar Gulukota, GenomeQuest Product Evangelist. “If your invention will be marketed in China, including SIPO in your patent search is required to ascertain the total patent landscape around your sequence.”

Indexed sequences from SIPO patent filings are immediately available to GQ-IP users.

**The Role of Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicines in Cancer Therapy - from TCM Theory to Mechanistic Insights.** W. L. Wendy Hsiao & Liang Liu. *Planta Med.* 2010 Aug;76(11):1118-31.

Traditional Chinese medicine-based herbal medicines have gained increasing acceptance worldwide in recent years and are being pursued by pharmaceutical companies as rich resources for drug discovery. For many years, traditional Chinese medicines (TCM) have been applied for the treatment of cancers in China and beyond. Herbal medicines are generally low in cost, plentiful, and show very little toxicity or side effects in clinical practice. However, despite the vast interest and ever-increasing demand, the absence of strong evidence-based research and the lack of standardization of the herbal products are the main obstacles toward the globalization of TCM. In recent years, TCM research has greatly accelerated with the advancement of analytical technologies and methodologies. This review of TCM specifically used in the treatment of cancer is divided into two parts. Part one provides an overview of the philosophy, approaches and progress in TCM-based cancer therapy. Part two summarizes the current understanding of how TCM-derived compounds function as anticancer drugs.

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