

GP-TCM Monthly Newsletter October/November 2010

Features in this Issue

1. New EU Strategies and Policies (see p. 2)

2. Revisiting UK's Seed Cathedral in Shanghai 2010 World Expo (1 May - 31 October 2010) – where architecture, botany and science become one. It illustrates the strong links with China and the importance of the conservation of seeds. (see p. 3)



Unofficially called the "dandelion" for its puff-ball structure, the Seed Cathedral portion of the UK pavilion consisted of 60,000 transparent rods bristling from a timber core.

GP-TCM Activities:

1. The 4th and 5th e-MSM teleconferences were held on 12th and 15th October 2010 respectively as Skype teleconferences and gathered a total of seventeen senior consortium members across WP coordinators, Coordination Office, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Panel and other consortium committees. The issues discussed during both teleconferences focused on (i) detailed reports from WP coordinators regarding WP activities over the last three months and future plans after the 1st GP-TCM Annual General Meeting (AGM) at Henley, (ii) the 1st GP-TCM Periodic Report to the European Commission, (iii) other month 18 deliverables, (iv) deliverable quality assurance, (v) the consortium website and newsletter update, (vi) GP-TCM paper to be published in Chinese Medicine and (vii) SOP Panel updates.

2. The 5th GP-TCM Plant Lists Teleconference was held on 20th October 2010. The meeting was attended by Kelvin Chan, Christine Leon, Kenneth Muir, Debbie Shaw, Monique Simmonds, Halil Uzunur and Qihe Xu. Halil led a brief review of the topics discussed at the previous meeting; Monique led the discussions on the consortium's priority plant list, which was debated by all attendees. This session was followed by discussion of future plans. It was decided that SOP teleconferences would replace the plant lists discussion teleconferences in the future and plant lists can be an issue to be covered

by future SOP teleconferences. The issues to be discussed during the SOP teleconferences will be planned by SOP Panel Co-Chairs and discussed at the next teleconference to be held after the 1st GP-TCM Periodic Report to the European Commission has been submitted. In the future, GP-TCM Newsletters will have an SOP Update section to highlight changes in the SOP "rules" and "tools".

3. The WP6 and WP8 joint survey: Discussions between WP6 and WP8 agreed that the collaboratively designed questionnaire survey should target TCM practitioners (acupuncture, moxibustion and Chinese herbal medicine), a variation on the deliverable. A protocol was agreed and drafted. The survey items included: type of treatments, common conditions treated, use of 12 key herbs identified by consensus of WPs, perceptions of safety, attitudes to participation in clinical trials of TCM, demographic characteristics, TCM clinical experience and training. Delay in drafting the questionnaire was an advantage to WP8 as the finalised herb list was agreed by all WPs in August. After piloting in UK and China, questions were rephrased, suggestions incorporated and the questionnaire refined. The questionnaire and accompanying documentation has been translated into Chinese. A practitioner list has been constructed, consisting of key TCM professional bodies and organisations in order to disseminate the survey. A link to the questionnaire <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GP-TCM> has been sent to the various TCM bodies. To date 30 professional acupuncture and TCM herbal bodies have been identified, 14 in Europe, this process is ongoing using a snowballing technique. It is anticipated that data collection will need to be ongoing for the next 4-6 months in order to reach the diversity of practitioners. If you think any individuals or organisations should be contacted, please let Prof. Nicola Robinson and Prof. Wei Ding know: Nicky.Robinson@tvu.ac.uk and weiding@ccmu.edu.cn.

Appointment of New GP-TCM Members and Changes of Labour Division:

1. Prof. Yi-Tsau Huang, Director of the National Research Institute of Chinese Medicine (Taiwan), has been appointed to GP-TCM as an Advisory Board Member. Prof. Huang (born in 1959) received his M.D. degree from National Yang-Ming Medical College in 1984 and Ph.D. degree in cardiovascular pharmacology in 1991 from Glasgow University, Scotland, U.K. He has been a full-time faculty member in the Institute of Traditional Medicine, School of Medicine, National Yang-Ming University since 1992, being promoted from Associate Professor to Professor in 1997 and acted as Director of the Institute during

GP-TCM Monthly Newsletter October/November 2010

1997-2003. During 2000-2001, he attended classes of Chinese Medicine and Herbs in China Medical University, Taiwan and completed 45-credit training course. In October 2009, he was appointed as the Director of the National Research Institute of Chinese Medicine (<http://www.nricm.edu.tw/>) by the Ministry of Education, Taiwan. His research has been focused on pharmacological and therapeutic studies in animal models of portal hypertension firstly and later hepatic fibrosis associated with chronic liver diseases. He has published more than 50 original research papers in journals such as *J. Hepatol.*, *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther.*, *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.*, *J. Ethnopharmacol.*, *Planta Med.*, *Eur. J. Clin. Invest.*, *Life Sci.*, etc. In addition to membership in the Grant Review Board of Chinese Medicine and Herbs Section of the National Science Council, and the Advisory Board of the Committee for Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy, Department of Health, Taiwan, he has been on the Editorial Board of *Liver International*, *Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, and *Chinese Journal of Integrative Medicine*. **Warmest congratulations, Yi-Tsau!**

2. Mrs Greer Deal, Director of Global Regulatory Services (GRS, UK), has been promoted to Deputy Coordinator of WP7. Greer has been a non-beneficiary member of WP7 since February 2010, and this appointment was made in recognition of her valuable contributions. In this new position, Greer will take an active role in the planning and execution of WP7 activities with co-Coordinators Prof. Kelvin Chan and Dr. Tai-Ping Fan, allowing Kelvin to devote more time on the SOP Panel, and relieving Tai-Ping of some WP7 duties, to focus on his other responsibilities as Deputy Coordinator of GP-TCM, and Editor-in-Chief GP-TCM Website and Newsletters. Read more about Greer and the regulatory compliance services offered by GRS: <http://www.globalregulatoryservices.com/dynamicdata/default.asp>
Warmest congratulations, Greer!

Features in this Issue

1. EU Strategies and Policies

The EUROPE 2020 Strategy: The new EUROPE 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth has singled out innovation as one of the key drivers that can get Europe out of the current crisis and also prepare its economy for the next decade. One of the ways to success outlined in the Europe 2020 Strategy is the modernisation and strengthening of the EU's industrial capability with innovation playing a central role in this revitalisation. The overall strategy has been prepared by the Commission following a public consultation, launched in November 2009 and builds on both the achievements of, and the lessons from, the Lisbon Strategy. It is highlighted by “**3 priorities**”, “**5 targets**” and “**7 flagship initiatives**”.

The 3 priorities:

- Smart growth – developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;
- Sustainable growth – promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;
- Inclusive growth – fostering a high-employment economy delivering economic, social and territorial cohesion.

The 5 targets to be reached before 2020:

- 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;
- 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D;
- The "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met;
- The share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a degree or diploma;
- 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.

The 7 flagship initiatives are:

- Innovation; Youth; The digital agenda; Resource efficiency; Industrial policy; Skills and jobs; the fight against poverty.

<http://www.europe-innova.eu/web/guest/copenhagen2010/europe-2020-strategy>

European Union Strives towards an Innovation

Union: One of the seven flagship initiatives within the Europe 2020 Strategy, the European Commission's Communication on an Innovation Union has been formally adopted ahead of its publication in the EU Official Journal on Thursday 7 October 2010. The Innovation Union Communication contains a series of proposals, which aim to improve framework conditions and access to finance for research and innovation in Europe, and to ensure that innovative ideas can be turned into products and services that create growth and jobs. An Annex to the Innovation Union document describes the scope and aims of a pilot European Innovation Partnership on healthy ageing, and outlines several others, which have so far been examined by the Commission.

More information about the Innovation Union Initiative can be found at:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/10/1288&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

A new Commission website on Innovation Union has been launched:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm

Research Policy: Revision of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes Directive Approved.

In early September 2010, the European Parliament approved the report on the "Revision of the Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes". The new EU legislation will, among other aspects, introduce the requirement for national authorities to assess animal

GP-TCM Monthly Newsletter October/November 2010

welfare implications for each scientific experiment. Member States will now have two years to comply with the new rules, which include the requirement to assess whether an alternative method could be used instead of animal testing. For basic research and research into human, animal or plant diseases as well as drug testing and species preservation, animal testing methods can still be used under the new legislation. Another aspect covered by the Directive is that fewer primates should be used for testing, including a ban on the use of great apes. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) agreed in their plenary session this week that some primates can still be used for testing where the goal of the test cannot be achieved without using the species, for example in the case of research into neurodegenerative diseases. Other recent amendments made to the Directive before its approval by the MEPs include the use of different categories of pain that may be inflicted during a test, and the possibility to re-use animals after tests involving "moderate" pain, provided a vet is consulted. In order to make sure that the new legislation is successfully implemented, the Directive foresees that inspections on bodies carrying out scientific experiments using animals are performed on at least 33% of laboratories, including some unannounced checks. The lengthy revision process of the Directive started in 2008 and a review of the Directive is foreseen 5 years after its entry into force.

The new Directive and the EU website on lab animals are accessible at the following web links:

http://ims.ukro.ac.uk/NR/rdonlyres/2C4F5A6F-6007-469E-B536-20B8AC9D1C93/8810/100908_animal_directive.pdf
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/home_en.htm

2. The "Seed Cathedral"

The highly successful 2010 World Expo in Shanghai closed on 31 October. In case you didn't make it, here's a look at one of the star attractions of the show, as recommended by Prof. Monique Simmonds.

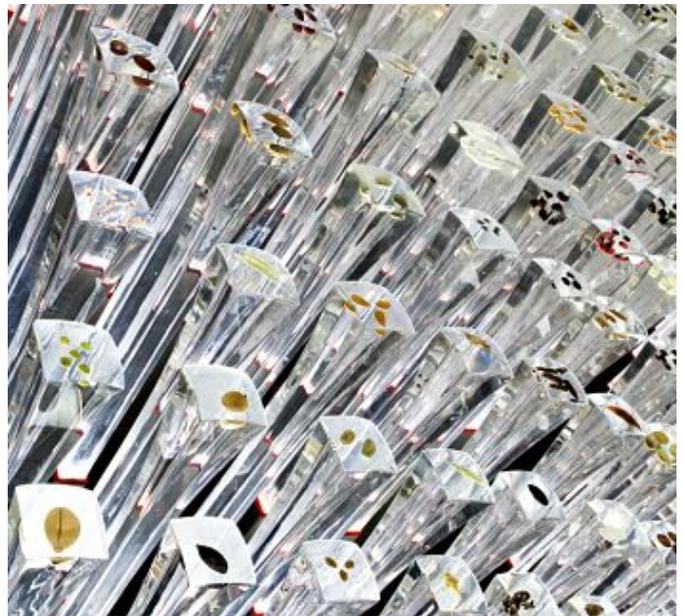
Photos courtesy of Wolfgang Stuppy (Kew Gardens), and texts courtesy of Julie Leibach (*Audubon Magazine*)



By day, sun illuminated the 25-foot rods, made of fiber-optic filaments; at night, LEDs created a hallowed glow.



Inside the cathedral, the rods terminate—or rather, germinate: Those tiny patterns are actually seeds encapsulated in the tip of each rod.



China's Kunming Institute of Botany, a partner in Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Project (MSBP) gave more than a quarter-million seeds to the pavilion. The MSBP's mission: to collect seeds from 25 percent of the world's plant species by 2020.



"The future of mankind will depend on the diversity of plant life," says Kew Gardens seed morphologist Wolfgang Stuppy, who helped on the project.

GP-TCM Monthly Newsletter October/November 2010

Meetings and other news:

1. The 3rd International Conference & Exposition on the Modernization of TCM will be held in Chengdu, China, on 25th-26th November 2010:

<http://english.icetcm.org/info/> (English)
<http://www.icetcm.org/info/index.jsp> (中文)

This is a high-profile meeting sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Health, State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, State Food and Drug Administration, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Chinese Academy of Engineering and 10 other government agencies. GP-TCM members chairing and/or speaking at 3rd ICETCM include, alphabetically:

- **Rudi Bauer** - *Quality standards for sustainable production and use of Chinese medicinal herbs in Europe*
- **Kelvin Chan** - *Patient-reported outcomes and biomarkers monitoring as evidence-based approaches in traditional Chinese medicine*
- **Shilin Chen** - *Frontier Research of Genomic Herbal Medicines and TCM*
- **Tai-Ping Fan** - *New Frontiers in Strategic Alliance in Traditional Chinese Medicine: a European Perspective*
- **Gerhard Franz** - *European Pharmacopoeia Monographs on Herbal Drugs used in Traditional Chinese Medicines*
- **De-an Guo** - *Modern Research and Development of An Innovative TCM Drug-Danqi Tongmai Tablet*
- **William (Weiguo) Jia** - *TCM Database SAPHRON and Its Application in Drug Discovery*
- **Aiping Lu** - *From pattern differentiation in traditional Chinese medicine to improvement of efficacy in clinical practice*
- **Ping Liu** - *The clinical and basic research on TCM treatment of chronic viral hepatitis*
- **Mei Wang** - *Globalization of TCM Based on Systems Biology: Critical Success Factors, Science and Business*
- **Yitao Wang** - *International development of Chinese medical sciences*
- **Claudia Witt** - *The Future of International Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research*
- **Vivian Chi-woon Wong** - *to be advised*
- **Boli Zhang** - *The Future and Challenge of TCM Researches*
- **Yi Zhang** - *Standardization on Quality Evaluation of Tibetan Medicine Reflecting Tibetan Medicine Characteristics*
- **Zhuguang Ye** - *The Current Situation and Development of Innovative TCM New Drug R&D*

2. Genesis 2010, London. Thursday 9th Dec 2010.

Botanicals/Natural Products Stream –

Thematic Leader: Greer Deal, GRS

Chair: Prof. Peter Hylands, Kings College London

<http://www.genesisconference.com/>

Programme

Robert Haslam, Somerset House Consultants, UK

Regulating quality control in the growth, harvesting and processing of botanicals

Holly Mash, Veterinary Consultant, UK

Is there a place for natural products in the veterinary industry?

Graeme Ladds, PharSafer Associates, UK

Compliant Safety Reporting for Small/Medium size Companies

Andrew Davies, STI Pharmaceuticals Ltd, UK

Copying Nature: Synthetic Development of the Naturally Occurring Compounds of Cannabis

Andrea Farmer, MHRA, UK

The Herbal Directive: MHRA's experience to date

Bill Cheliak, Neurodyn Inc, Canada

Ginseng: A case study for a Regulatory Strategy

Dr. Russ Kerr, Nautilus Biosciences Canada Inc, Canada

Natural Product Discovery from Marine Microbes

Greer Deal, Global Regulatory Services, UK

How are Botanical Medicines & Natural Products regulated in the UK?

Jim Furniss, Bridgehead International Limited, UK

Pricing and reimbursement for natural products: criteria for success

3. Hard-nosed scientists back herbal remedies: Two herbal remedies used to treat anxiety have been given the backing of science:

<http://www.metro.co.uk/news/843247-hard-nosed-scientists-back-herbal-remedies>

4. The October 2010 issue of the Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) specialist collection newsletter published by the UK's National Health Service (NHS) library:

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/CAM/Page.aspx?pagename=NEWS>

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/CAM>

5. Free seminar session on how to explore genomes with the Ensembl™ platform.

<http://www.eaglegenomics.com/news/exploringgenomes/>

6. Staying professional in virtual meetings:

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/26/jobs/26career.html?_r=2

Funding opportunities:

1. Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) has launched the 3rd Call for proposals on 22 October 2010, with a budget of €114 million.

<http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/stage-1>

Acknowledgements: Many thanks for the contributions by Mrs. **Greer Deal** (UK), Prof. **Pierre Duez** (Belgium), Prof. **Yi-Tsau Huang** (Taiwan, China), Prof. **Nicola Robinson** (UK), Prof. **Monique Simmonds** (UK), Dr. **Halil Uzuner** (UK) and Dr. **Qihe Xu** (UK).