

The June 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



1.  Updated invitation from The CGCM Annual Meeting and the 2nd Annual Meeting of the GP-TCM RA are to be held in Graz, Austria, 27th-30th August. **Deadlines approaching fast!**

- **Deadline for abstract submission: 28th June, 2013;**
- **Deadline for early registration: 30th June, 2013;**
- **Deadline for hotel reservation: 26th July, 2013.**

Graz is a beautiful city of rich historic heritages. We look forward to welcoming you in Graz!

<http://www.gp-tcm.org/2013/05/2nd-annual-meeting-of-the-good-practice-in-traditional-chinese-medicine-research-association-gp-tcm-ra-30-august-2013/>

<http://www.graztourismus.at/cms/ziel/2865539/en>

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/931>

The following speakers have confirmed to give keynote lectures at the GP-TCM RA Meeting, under the theme of **“TCM Research in Europe – opportunities and challenges”**

- *Prof. Tommy Yung-Chi Cheng, New Haven: What it takes to globalize Chinese Medicine. A case study of Phy906/kd018*
- *Prof. Geoffrey Burnstock, London: Purinergic signalling and the hypothesis for its involvement in acupuncture*
- *Prof. Jan van der Greef, Leiden: Opportunities and Challenges in system-based TCM research*

In addition, short lectures and poster presentations are invited.

On 30th August 2013, the Annual Members' Assembly of GP-TCM RA will take place. It is an important opportunity for members to meet each other, to have your voices heard by the Executive Council and Board of Directors, and to forge collaborations with members, stakeholders and invited experts. For Student Members or those who have submitted Student Membership applications upon registration, four GP-TCM RA Travel Grants, €500 each, will be awarded.

For those who are interested in TCM research but not members yet, you are also sincerely welcome. The meeting will prove not only a showcase of the GP-TCM RA, but also an excellent opportunity to interact with GP-TCM RA Corporate Members, Honorary Members, Life Members, Ordinary Members, Student Members, as well as invited experts.

The following themes will be addressed at the CGCM Meeting:

- Acupuncture
- Bioinformatics and Database
- Bioinformatics: Application of “Omics” in TCM Research
- Clinical Investigation
- Education
- Herbal Resources
- Interregional Collaborations in Industry and Academia
- Natural Products
- Polychemical Activities and Mechanism Study

Both meetings will provide an excellent platform for regulatory-industrial-academic exchanges and potential research collaborations on various frontiers of TCM. The organisers and the local Organising Committee cordially invite you to participate in these important events. You can find the exact program and constantly updated details of the meetings at <http://www.cgcm2013.org/>

To download the latest CGCM announcement: [CGCM2013 ANNOUNCEMENT_V5](#)

To download the CGCM registration form: [12th_CGCM_Registration_Form](#)

To download the abstract submission form: [12th CGCM – Abstract Submission Form](#)

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Now **Congratulations! We warmly congratulate Professor Monique Simmonds for her award of an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's Birthday Honours on 17 June 2013.** Message from the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richard Deverell: I am delighted to announce that Professor Monique Simmonds has been awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for her significant contribution over 25 years to the goals and mission of RBG Kew and to service in her community. Monique has achieved outstanding levels of success in the fields of science, business development and innovation and in addition has given her time freely as a Justice of the Peace for 25 years and Chair of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens Advisory Committee since 2010. Monique has been an exceptional ambassador for Kew and her scientific expertise and innovation have contributed both directly and indirectly to the well-being of the planet and to communities around the world.

Now **Congratulations! We also warmly congratulate Professor Zhu CHEN (former Minister of Health, China) and his wife Professor Sai-Juan CHEN for their election to Fellowship of The Royal Society and the Royal College of Physicians, respectively.** Read their paper: Arsenic trioxide controls the fate of the PML-RARalpha oncoprotein by directly binding PML. Zhang XW, Yan XJ, Zhou ZR, Yang FF, Wu ZY, Sun HB, Liang WX, Song AX, Lallemand-Breitenbach V, Jeanne M, Zhang QY, Yang HY, Huang QH, Zhou GB, Tong JH, Zhang Y, Wu JH, Hu HY, de Thé H, **Chen SJ, Chen Z.** *Science.* 2010 Apr 9;328(5975):240-3. doi: 10.1126/science.1183424.

Now **Congratulations! The FP7 GP-TCM Project Public Summary has been approved by the European Commission and now published** on CORDIS, the Community Research and Development Information Service of the European Commission, in its role to disseminate the outcomes of research projects funded by the European Union. The FP7 GP-TCM consortium thanks all members who have contributed to this report in one way or another! On CORDIS the publishable summary is referred to as a "Report Summary" and can be found under the "Results" section of your project's permanent link:

http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/90960_en.html

Recommended Readings:

1. **Now** **Editorial: The Quest for Modernisation of Traditional Chinese Medicine** (Xu Q, et al. *BMC Complement Altern Med.* 2013, 13:132)

Abstract: Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is an integral part of mainstream medicine in China. Due to its worldwide use, potential impact on healthcare and opportunities for new drug development, TCM is also of great international interest. Recently, a new era for modernisation of TCM was launched with the successful completion of the *Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research in the Post-genomic Era* (GP-TCM) project, the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) coordination action on TCM research. This 3.5-year project that involved inputs from over 200 scientists resulted in the production of 20 editorials and in-depth reviews on different aspects of TCM that were published in a special issue of *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* (2012; volume 140, issue 3). In this narrative review, we aim to summarise the findings of the FP7 GP-TCM project and highlight the relevance of TCM to modern medicine within a historical and international context. Advances in TCM research since the 1950s can be characterised into three phases: Phase I (1950s-1970s) was fundamental for developing TCM higher education, research and hospital networks in China; Phase II (1980s-2000s) was critical for developing legal, economic and scientific foundations and international networks for TCM; and Phase III (2011 onwards) is concentrating on consolidating the scientific basis and clinical practice of TCM through interdisciplinary, interregional and intersectoral collaborations. Taking into account the quality and safety requirements newly imposed by a globalised market, we especially highlight the high-quality evidence behind TCM, update the most important milestones and pitfalls, and

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propose *integrity*, *integration* and *innovation* as key principles for further modernisation of TCM. These principles will serve as foundations for further research and development of TCM, and for its future integration into tomorrow's medicine. <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6882/13/132>

2. **Journal Club: Naturally derived anti-inflammatory compounds from Chinese medicinal plants.** (Wang Q, et al. *J Ethnopharmacol.* 2013;146:9-39)

Abstract: *Ethnopharmacological relevance.* Though inflammatory response is beneficial to body damage repair, if it is out of control, it can produce adverse effects on the body. Although purely western anti-inflammatory drugs, orthodox medicines, can control inflammation occurrence and development, it is not enough. The clinical efficacy of anti-inflammation therapies is unsatisfactory, thus the search for new anti-inflammation continues. Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) remains a promising source of new therapeutic agents. CMM and herbal formulae from Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), unorthodox medicines, play an important anti-inflammatory role in multi-targets, multi-levels, and multi-ways in treating inflammation diseases in a long history in China, based on their multi-active ingredient characteristics. Due to these reasons, recently, CMM has been commercialized as an anti-inflammation agent which has become increasingly popular in the world health drug markets. Major research contributions in ethnopharmacology have generated vast amount of data associated with CMM in anti-inflammation aspect. Therefore, a systematic introduction of CMM anti-inflammatory research progress is of great importance and necessity. *Aim of the study.* This paper strives to describe the progress of CMM in the treatment of inflammatory diseases from different aspects, and provide the essential theoretical support and scientific evidence for the further development and utilization of CMM resources as a potential anti-inflammation drug through a variety of databases. *Material and methods.* Literature survey was performed via electronic search (SciFinder®, Pubmed®, Google Scholar and Web of Science) on papers and patents and by systematic research in ethnopharmacological literature at various university libraries. *Results* This review mainly introduced the current research on the anti-inflammatory active ingredient, anti-inflammatory effects of CMM, their mechanism, anti-inflammatory drug development of CMM, and toxicological information. *Conclusion* CMM is used clinically to treat inflammation symptoms in TCM, and its effect is mediated by multiple targets through multiple active ingredients. Although scholars around the world have made studies on the anti-inflammatory studies of CMM from different pathways and aspects and have made substantial progress, further studies are warranted to delineate the inflammation actions in more cogency models, establish the toxicological profiles and quality standards, assess the potentials of CMM in clinical applications, and make more convenient preparations easy to administrate for patients. Development of the clinically anti-inflammatory drugs are also warranted. [**NB** The abstract of this paper was reproduced here verbatim, with no editorial input from the Editor of this Newsletter]

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378874112008471>

3. **Journal Club: How Many Salicylic Acid Receptors Does a Plant Cell Need? (Kaltdorf & Naseem.** *Sci. Signal.*, 11 June 2013 Vol. 6, Issue 279, p. jc3 [DOI: 10.1126/scisignal.2003944]

The small-molecule hormone salicylic acid (SA) is a plant immune signal for which the receptors have only recently been identified. Two recent studies reported that the transcriptional coactivator nonexpresser of pathogenesis-related genes 1 (NPR1) and its paralogues NPR3 and NPR4 are bona fide SA immune signal receptors in plants. Fu et al. demonstrated that because of their binding affinity for SA, NPR3 and NPR4 are SA receptors for immune responses in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Both NPR3 and NPR4 function as adaptors in proteasomal degradation of NPR1 in an SA-dependent manner. By applying nonequilibrium methods, they showed very low binding affinity of NPR1 for SA, suggesting that it may not qualify as an SA immune signal transduction receptor. However, using a method of equilibrium dialysis, Wu et al. found that SA binds to NPR1 and induces a conformational change in NPR1 or introduces steric hindrance that relieves repression of the transcriptional activation domain of NPR1 by an autoinhibitory N-terminal domain. This derepression leads to the expression of SA-dependent defense genes. Here, we discuss the importance of emerging SA perception models.

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<http://stke.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/sigtrans;6/279/jc3>

4. **Journal Club:** **Plants perform molecular maths. Arithmetic division guides plants' use of energy at night.** (Heidi Ledford, *Nature* doi:10.1038/nature.2013.13251)

As if making food from light were not impressive enough, it may be time to add another advanced skill to the botanical repertoire: the ability to perform — at least at the molecular level — arithmetic division. Computer-generated models published in the journal *eLife* illustrate how plants might use molecular mathematics to regulate the rate at which they devour starch reserves to provide energy throughout the night, when energy from the Sun is off the menu. If so, the authors say, it would be the first example of arithmetic division in biology. http://www.nature.com/news/plants-perform-molecular-maths-1.13251?WT.ec_id=NEWS-20130625 **Arabidopsis plants perform arithmetic division to prevent starvation at night** (Scialdone A. *et al.* *eLIFE*, <http://elifesciences.org/content/2/e00669>)

5. **Debate:** **Acupuncture in ancient China: how important was it really?** (Lehmann H. *J Integr Med.* 2013;11:45-53). <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23464646>

Abstract: Although acupuncture theory is a fundamental part of the Huangdi Neijing, the clinical application of the needle therapy in ancient China was always a limited one. From early times there have been warnings that acupuncture might do harm. In books like Zhang Zhongjing's *Shanghanlun* it plays only a marginal role. Among the 400 emperors in Chinese history, acupuncture was hardly ever applied. After Xu Dachun called acupuncture a "lost tradition" in 1757, the abolition of acupuncture and moxibustion from the Imperial Medical Academy in 1822 was a radical, but consequent act. When traditional Chinese medicine was revived after 1954, the "New Acupuncture" was completely different from what it had been in ancient China. The conclusion, however, is a positive one: The best time acupuncture ever had was not the Song dynasty or Yuan dynasty, but is now - and the future of acupuncture does not lie in old scripts, but in ourselves.

6. **The U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention is offering free online access to public standards to help ensure the quality of the herbal ingredients used in medicinal products.** USP has proposed the first 23 ingredients to be included in the new Herbal Medicines Compendium (HMC) for comment by interested stakeholders worldwide at hmc.usp.org. HMC will provide standards for herbal articles, but will not include standards for ingredients of animal origin, synthetic chemicals, or biotechnology-derived medicines.

<http://www.pharmtech.com/pharmtech/article/articleDetail.jsp?id=813817&topic=332>

7. **Mushroom killed hundreds in Yunnan:** Previously unknown poisonous compounds isolated from a new species of mushroom may be responsible for the deaths of hundreds in China, but precisely how the fungus killed its victims is not clear.

<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/35247/title/Little-White-and-the-Three-Toxins/>

8. **China's SFDA released 2012 Annual ADR report in March 2013:**

<http://www.sda.gov.cn/WS01/CL0051/79058.html>

[http://translate.google.co.uk/translate?hl=en&sl=zh-](http://translate.google.co.uk/translate?hl=en&sl=zh-CN&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sda.gov.cn%2FWS01%2FCL0051%2F79058.html)

[CN&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sda.gov.cn%2FWS01%2FCL0051%2F79058.html](http://www.sda.gov.cn%2FWS01%2FCL0051%2F79058.html) (Google translation)

9. **Featured research using twins: King's scientists celebrate discovery of hundreds of genes for common age-related diseases:**

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/newsevents/news/newsrecords/2013/06-June/Twin-research-comes-of-age.aspx>

10. **Traditional Chinese Medicine — Where is the Evidence? Ensuring the safety, efficacy and quality of TCM requires a great deal of research and development.**

http://www.nutraceuticalsworld.com/blog/Evidence-Based-Nutraceuticals/2013-06-10/traditional-chinese-medicine-where-is-the-evidence?email_uid=003a204b9e/list_id=396c189146/

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News in the Pharmaceutical Industry

1. **Now AstraZeneca announces new Cambridge Biomedical Campus HQ.** On 18th June 2013, Pascal Soriot, Chief Executive of AstraZeneca, announced that the company's new £330m research and development (R&D) facilities will be located in the new 11-acre (4.5 hectares) Biomedical Campus site, near Addenbrooke's Hospital to the south of Cambridge. It is expected to employ about 2,000 people and open by 2016. The company will cease R&D at Alderley Park in Cheshire and close its London HQ. The majority of posts will move to Cambridge, but 700 jobs are being axed. The new site will become AstraZeneca's largest centre for cancer research. It will also focus on cardiovascular, metabolic, respiratory, inflammation and autoimmune disease research. David Willetts, Minister for Universities and Science, described the investment in the new site as "excellent news for the UK life sciences industry. It strengthens our global competitiveness and supports our aim of making the UK the best place in the world for the discovery and commercialisation of medical innovations." AstraZeneca currently employs about 6,700 people in the UK and is the second largest drugs company in the UK after GlaxoSmithKline.

<http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/News/AstraZeneca-move-to-Cambridge-Biomedical-Campus-will-boost-search-for-new-drug-treatments-20130618145741.htm>;

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/pharmaceuticalsandchemicals/9937889/AstraZeneca-moves-HQ-to-Cambridge-in-research-revamp.html>; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-21833207>;

2. **Bayer buys herbal drugmaker Steigerwald. (17th May 2013)** Bayer has boosted its consumer care business by acquiring fellow Germany-based company Steigerwald Arzneimittelwerk, which specialises in pharmacy-only herbal medicines. http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/13-05-17/Bayer_buys_herbal_drugmaker_Steigerwald.aspx?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter

3. **Scientists taking Chinese medicine West:** CNN News on Chi-Med's efforts on developing new TCM products for the globalised market. Video and text reports are available here, just in case you missed it in the May Newsletter:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2013/05/27/world/asia/chinese-western-medicine-trials/>

Meeting Reports:

1. **Now** The 4th Executive Council (ExC) Teleconference was held, 1pm-2pm BST/ 2pm-3pm CEST on Thursday 13th June 2013. Chaired by Prof. Rudolf Bauer, the t/c was attended by Dr. Tai-Ping Fan, Prof. De-an Guo, Prof. Peter Hylands and Dr. Qihe Xu. The meeting reviewed monthly report by President, Vice President, Secretary-General and Treasurer and especially focused on the 2nd Annual Meeting to be held in Graz and its programme, finance and bursary.

2. **Now International Conference of Traditional and Complementary Medicine on Health 2013 was held in Taiwan, 24th-26th May 2013.** It attracted attendees from Czech, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, the UK and the USA. Ten invited speakers gave speeches on topics that broadly covered different fields, from herbal remedy, dietary therapy to the recent scientific findings on preventive medicine. Plenary speeches, oral presentations and posters were of interest to many attendees in that most of the topics were very practical and might have great potential for the preventive application and the treatment of some diseases in the future. All speeches made for this conference have been or will be published in the *Journal of Traditional and Complementary Medicine*.

JTCM is a quarterly open access journal that covers the fields of traditional medicine, preventive herbal medicine, and dietary therapy. It welcomes articles presenting observation and experimental investigation in clinical studies, animal experiments, or in vitro studies. It especially welcomes studies involving biomedicine. Welcome to visit JTCM website (<http://www.jtcm.org>) for more details.

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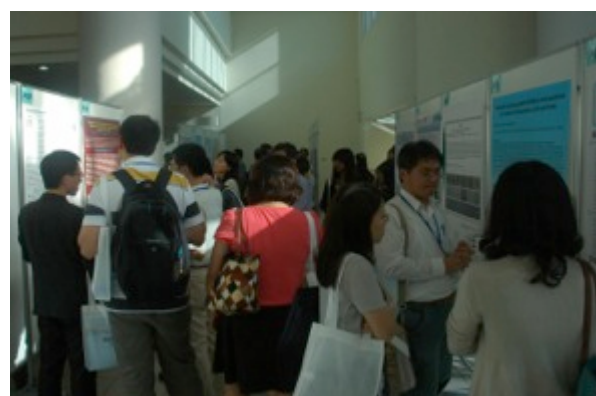
Opening ceremony session



Attendees outside the meeting venue



eCAM Editor-in-Chief Edwin L. Cooper lecturing



80 posters were displayed

3. **AFERP & STOLON International Symposium** was held in Brussels, 22nd - 24th May 2013. (to be featured in the July Newsletter)

Additional Meeting Invitations:

1. **17th International Congress "Phytopharm 2013"** will be held on 8th-10th July 2013 in Vienna, Austria: <http://www.ipharm.sp.ru/phyto2013.html>
2. **The 54th Natural Products Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy** will be held in July 2013 in St Louis MO, USA. Over 500 international attendees are expected. The ASP 2013 website is now live: www.asp2013.org
3. **International Conference & Exhibition of the Modernization of Chinese Medicine & Health Products 2013 (ICMCM)** will be held in Hong Kong on 15th – 17th August 2013:
<http://www.hktdc.com/fair/icmcm-en/International-Conference-and-Exhibition-of-the-Modernization-of-Chinese-Medicine-and-Health-Products.html>
4. **61st International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)**, 1st – 5th September 2013, Muenster, Germany.
<http://www.ga2013.org/>
5. **From Hierarchy of Evidence to Good Practice - Celebrating 30 years of the Research Council For Complementary Medicine**, 25th September 2013 – 2.00pm-7.00pm. Venue: The

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Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG www.royalsociety.org. The RCCM is celebrating in its 30th year with a conference to be held at the Royal Society on 25th Sept. This conference will explore how the RCCM has helped the evidence debate. Individual care does not always 'square' with RCT evidence. It is importance to find the balance using evidence from various sources and as a practitioner understanding how to use it. There are challenges in providing individuals with the care they need while being able to achieve patient based outcomes. A major challenge to practitioners has been having the evidence available to be able to advertise their practice. What weighting should we give to different forms of evidence and will it be acceptable to agencies such as CAP ASA? Speakers include: Nick Hudson (CAP ASA), Prof Sarah Stewart-Brown (University of Warwick), Prof George Lewith (University of Southampton), Dr Karen Pilkington (University of Westminster). For both the afternoon conference and evening reception: RCCM and CAMRN members - £80.00; Non-members – £95.00 until 30th August (after this date £110). To register in advance, e mail camrn@rccm.org.uk. To confirm your booking, send your cheque, made out to the Research Council for Complementary Medicine, c/o Professor Nicola Robinson, Professor of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Integrated Health, Faculty of Health and Social Care, London South Bank University, 103 Borough Road, London SE1 0AA, UK.



THE RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR
COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE

FACILITATING & DISSEMINATING
RESEARCH EVIDENCE FOR
CAM SINCE 1983

6. The 4th International Conference on Modernization of Traditional Chinese Medicine will be held in Chengdu, Sichuan, China on 26th – 27th September 2013: A meeting series held once every 3-5 years since 2002, the conference is organised by the Sichuan Provincial Government and co-sponsored or co-organised by China's Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Health, State Administration of TCM, State Food and Drugs Administration and many other governmental ministries, research institutions and international organisations. This year, with the theme of **"TCM Concerted Innovation & Industrial Development"** the conference will comprise 8 panels, each covering an important aspect of TCM. For example, the Panel 2 of the conference is entitled **Heritage and Development of Basic Theories of TCM** and focuses on research of (i) theory of TCM *zang-fu* visceral manifestation and biological basis (中医藏象理论及生物学基础研究); (ii) aetiology, pathogenesis and therapeutic methods and principles in TCM (中医病因、病机与治则治法研究); (iii) theory of TCM drug properties and actions (中药药性和功效的理论研究); (iv) TCM drug formulation and compatibility, and mechanism of action (中药复方配伍规律与作用机制研究); and (v) new technologies and methods of TCM heritage research (中医传承研究的新技术、新方法). For details of all panels, please visit the official website of the conference: <http://www.icetcm.org>. Any inquiries please be addressed to: icetcmcd@163.com. **The conference cordially invites international submission of abstracts before the deadline on 15th July 2013.**

Invitations from HMPC and Journals

1. A couple of HMPC draft documents are currently out for public consultation on herbal substances that might be of interest for GP-TCM-RA members to comment (either monograph or public statement that can be found under 'consultation'):

- Angelicae sinensis radix – Dang Gui (当归):
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/herbal/medicines/herbal_med_000197.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001fa1d
- Andrographidis paniculatae folium - Chuan Xin Lian (穿心莲):
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/herbal/medicines/herbal_med_000173.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001fa1d

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- Camelliae non fermentatum folium - Lu Cha (绿茶):
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/herbal/medicines/herbal_med_000175.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001fa1d
- Ginseng radix – Ren Shen (人参):
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/herbal/medicines/herbal_med_000106.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001fa1d
- Withaniae somniferae radix – Shui Qie (睡茄):
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/herbal/medicines/herbal_med_000187.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001fa1d

2. European Journal of Integrative Medicine announces a special issue: Clinical Guidelines for Integrated Practice. The journal is affiliated with the Research Council for Complementary Medicine (www.elsevier.com/eujim); Editor-in-Chief: Prof. Nicola Robinson (UK). The Co-Editors of this Clinical Guidelines special issue will be Prof. Jianping Liu, Dr. Myeong Soo Lee and Prof. Nicola Robinson. The invitation from the journal reads: "Clinical guidelines are designed to support decision-making processes in patient care. How relevant are they to practice, are they used in practice, do they improve care, how are they constructed and disseminated? Often the content of a guideline is based on a systematic review of clinical evidence as well as best practice and expert opinion. Evidence-based healthcare is now regarded as gold standard motivated and has been supported by clinicians, politicians and management who are rightly concerned about quality, consistency and costs. Many have been developed, though the process is time- and resource consuming. Many have been disseminated, but have they had a major impact on practice? This special issue will be open access (all articles free to access and download) to facilitate access to and use of the guidelines. This means publication charges will apply for successful submissions. For more information, please see www.elsevier.com/eujim.

3. An earlier invitation from the European Journal of Integrative Medicine: Ensuring and Improving patients safety in Integrative health care: Keeping patients safe is a vital part of all healthcare. Improving patient safety involves assessing how patients could be harmed, preventing or managing risks, reporting and analysing incidents. This special issue will be co-edited by Dr. Hugh MacPherson, Prof. Heather Boon and Prof. Nicola Robinson. For details, please visit: <http://www.gp-tcm.org/2013/01/call-for-papers-ensuring-and-improving-patients%C2%92-safety-in-integrative-health-care-the-europeanjournal-of-integrative-medicine/>

The European Journal of Integrative Medicine invites authors to contribute to this special issue planned for late 2013. Please submit your articles to www.elsevier.com/eujim

4. Invitation from Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine (eCAM): eCAM would like to inform GP-TCM RA members about an upcoming Special Issue on "Efficacy and Safety of Medicinal Plants used in the Management of Diabetes Mellitus," which will be published in November 2013. The deadline for submission is 5th July, 2013. The Special Issue is open to both original research articles as well as review articles. You can find the Call for Papers for this Special Issue at: <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/ecam/si/681090/cfp/>

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