

January-February 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association

News from GP-TCM RA members:

1. Professor De-an Guo, President-Elect of the GP-TCM RA, was honoured with a prestigious National Award: On 18th Jan. 2013, Professor De-an Guo received a National Natural Science Award (Second Grade) in the People's Hall in Beijing, China. Thirteen State Leaders including Jin-ping Xi (Party General-Secretary), Jin-tao Hu (President) and Jia-bao Wen (Premier) issued the award to awardees or their representatives. This is the first National Natural Science Award in TCM field. The GP-TCM RA would like to call on all members to congratulate De-an on his award. **Warmest congratulations, De-an!**



A National First: Professor De-an Guo holding the coveted award certificate

De-an's award will prove to be a huge inspiration for all GP-TCM RA members and will encourage lots of young people joining the field. Here is a brief introduction to the award:

Systematic Analysis of Active Components in Complex System of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Its Application in Quality Standard - Primarily achieved by Guo De-An, Ye Min, Wu Wan-Ying, Guan Shu-Hong, Liu Xuan

Multiple approaches, including natural products chemistry, analytical chemistry, pharmacology and molecular biology, were employed to develop a series of novel methodologies for comprehensive analysis of traditional Chinese medicines. On the basis of these developments, a new model for the quality standards of TCMs was established and successfully adopted by Chinese Pharmacopoeia and United States Pharmacopoeia for the herbal standards.

This project was designed toward the multiple components and complex systematic analysis of traditional Chinese medicine, focusing on the commonly used Chinese herbs such as Dan-Shen (Chinese Salvia) and Ling-Zhi (Ganoderma lucidum). The project brings forward innovative ideas and techniques to establish the integrated "chemical analysis – in vivo metabolism – biological mechanism" methodology, which is applied to modern TCM research. A total of 89 papers resulting from this project have been published in SCI cited journals with Dr. Guo De-An as the corresponding author. The highest impact factor of individual paper reached 9.39. Twenty core papers have been cited for 605 times by other groups, and eight representative papers received 321 SCI citations by other groups.

2. New Year's MBE Honour to Chinese Herbs Expert Christine Leon: Chris Leon of the *Chinese Medicinal Plants Authentication and Conservation Centre* of Royal Botanical Gardens Kew (RBGK)'s Jodrell Laboratory has been awarded an MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in the New Year's Honours List for services to the UK-China Science Relationship. **Warmest congratulations, Chris!**

Chris has been working on the identification and safety of traditional herbal medicines since 1994. In 1998, she commenced an active field programme in China to collect plants and their medicinal parts as used in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). This has taken her to 19 provinces in China where she has worked closely with different groups and fostered collaborations that have resulted in the creation of a vouchered collection of over 4,500 plant and fungal dried reference drugs including common herbal substitutes, adulterants and counterfeits. Housed at Kew, these authentic drugs are actively being used to help improve the safe and efficacious use of Chinese medicinal plants in the UK, to help set standards for their quality control and to promote their sustainable supply from China. Over the years Chris has also built up a network of colleagues across China to undertake related joint research and scientific exchange with a strong focus on TCM plant identification, naming and conservation. Chris says: *'I'm deeply honoured to receive this award but as always the work described is a team effort so I accept this award on behalf of my Kew colleagues that*

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have been so supportive and with particular thanks for the expertise and friendship of my many Chinese colleagues, notably Professors LIN Yu-Lin, ZHANG Bengang, LI Bao Li and CHEN Shi-Lin at the Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Beijing, and without whom this resource would never have materialised.”



Fieldwork: Chris in China

Chris collecting medicinal plants in the Min Shan mountains of Sichuan with Chinese colleagues and local people (**Left**); Chris close to wild populations of *Fritillaria unibracteata*, one of the source species of Chuan Bei Mu (川贝母), central Sichuan (**Middle**).

Chris and local partners and villagers processing and making herbarium vouchers of wild-collected TCM herbs in the Qinling Mountains of Shaanxi province (**Right**). Photos were all taken by LIN Yu-Lin.

This MBE to Chris reflects the regard that these colleagues have for her in China, the great work she is doing and represents years of dedication by Chris that have resulted in the *Chinese Medicinal Plants Authentication and Conservation Centre* at RBGK. The GP-TCM RA would like to call on all members to congratulate Chris on her award!

3. Dr. Vivian Taam Wong, a Member of GP-TCM RA Board of Directors (BoD), Was Appointed Chief Executive of Modernized Chinese Medicine International Association (MCMIA) at the MCMIA AGM on the 5th Jan. 2013. Warmest congratulations, Vivian!



Vivan and her MCMIA colleagues. Vvian is the first on the right at the front row.

MCMIA was established in 2000 as a non-profit organisation by a group of TCM business professionals, scientists and academics. The goal of the association is to foster the internationalisation of TCM through its modernisation, popularisation and the enhancement of the professionalism of the TCM industry. In pursuit of the above goal, MCMIA strives to establish 3 platforms in Hong Kong for TCM. They are a Trading Platform, an Information Platform and a Quality Assurance Platform. The former 2 platforms have already been successfully built in collaboration with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council by co-organising International Conference & Exhibition of the Modernisation of Chinese Medicine & Health Products (ICMCM); weekly column in local newspaper, Ta Kung Pao; and sharing forums with local and Chinese experts on regulatory and policy matters. The Quality Assurance Platform is being

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developed with the help of domestic and international agencies. Each year, MCMIA organises ICMCM which assembles the world's experts to explore the development of TCM, to report on scientific and technological advances, to introduce new products and to update on the global regulatory changes. ICMCM is evolving to become an international focal point for the promotion and the modernisation of TCM.

With Vivian's leadership, GP-TCM RA looks forward to collaborations with the MCMIA.

4. Secretary-General Tai-Ping Fan promoted GP-TCM RA in Korea and beyond in December 2012.

At the invitation of the Korean Society of Pharmacognosy, Tai-Ping gave a Plenary Lecture *Frontiers in Strategic Alliance in Herbal Medicine R&D – a European Perspective* at its 43rd Annual Meeting. He featured GP-TCM RA activities and invited the participants to join the Association. This was followed by another lecture at “New Trends in Natural Products Research” Symposium at Natural Products Research Institute (NPRI) of Seoul National University, where he made good contacts with other speakers, including Prof. Kazuki Saito (*Discovery of novel genes in plant secondary metabolism by integrated omics approach*; RIKEN Plant Science Center, Japan) and Prof. Steven Swanson (*Pharmacology of novel anticancer compounds derived from diverse natural products*; University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy).



Prof. Yeong Shik Kim, a non-beneficiary member of the GP-TCM Consortium, also invited Tai-Ping to meet Prof. Jin-Ho Chung, Dean of College of Pharmacy, as well as senior NPRI staff Prof. Sang Kook Lee and Prof. Sunghyoun Park. In particular, Tai-Ping enjoyed discussing with young members of Laboratory for Biofunctional Natural Products about their vibrant research projects on (i) development of anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer substances from natural products, (ii) preparative separation of natural products by HSCCC, and (iii) development of anti-adipogenic natural products.



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5. A Brilliant Deliverable during the Christmas and New Year Holidays! GP-TCM RA members Dr. Jue Zhou (Zhejiang Gongshang University, Hangzhou, China) and Dr. Fan Qu (Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China) are pleased to report the arrival of their lovely daughter 曲珏伦 (Jue-Lun Qu) on 28th December 2012. **Warmest congratulations to Jue, Fan and their families!**



A Brilliant GP-TCM Deliverable: The lovely Jue-Lun Qu 曲珏伦

Her proud father Dr. Qu commented: “珏 means a pair of beautiful jade and 珏伦 implies brilliance. As she was conceived during our visit to London (伦敦) for our productive GP-TCM reviews or when we attended the GP-TCM Final Conference in Kerkrade in the Netherlands, I regard her also an important deliverable of the GP-TCM project!”

6. Hard copies of the Special Issue of the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* are available at 50 Euros. If interested, please email Prof. Rob Verpoort verpoort@chem.leidenuniv.nl.

7. Your Newsletter Contributions Please: The GP-TCM RA Newsletters are yours and your contributions from your part of the world are warmly invited, with thanks!

The GP-TCM RA: Past Milestones and Future Directions

- In December 2011, Professor Yung-Chi Cheng, Chairman of the Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine (CGCM) and Co-Chairman of the GP-TCM Advisory Board, was awarded the prestigious Cheung On Tak International Award for Outstanding Contribution to Chinese Medicine. He received his award in April 2013. Warmest congratulations!

<http://lib-nt2.hkbu.edu.hk/hkbutube/vod.asp?bibno=b2616879>

- In January 2012, the GP-TCM RA BoD was elected; it met so far in two face-to-face meetings and six teleconferences to discuss issues of GP-TCM RA.
- In March, GP-TCM RA Secretary-General Tai-Ping Fan was invited by the AAAS journal Science to edit a TCM Special Issue, due for publication in Q3/Q4 2013.
- In April, the open-access GP-TCM Special Issue of Journal of Ethnopharmacology was published (Guest Editors: Qihe Xu and Rudolf Bauer). It contains 20 peer-reviewed publications covering all the major aspects we discussed in the past years; the GP-TCM Final Conference (Kerkrade, the Netherland) and GP-TCM Congress (Leiden, the Netherlands) were held successfully; the GP-TCM RA bylaws were approved; a series of Phoenix TV reports on GP-TCM and GP-TCM RA were broadcast in Europe and China:

<http://project.gp-tcm.org/2012/05/gp-tcm-meetings-on-tv/>

- From May to November, nine UK GP-TCM participating institutions jointly proposed to the European Commission that TCM be given top priority in future EU-China collaborations under the Health Theme in Horizon 2020, a proposal endorsed by GP-TCM members in eight additional EU Member States and Associated Country, including Austria, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania and Norway, through their National Contact Points.

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- In September, the request from the GP-TCM RA BoD for the new Association to succeed GP-TCM's CGCM membership was accepted in principle by CGCM and it was agreed that the 12th CGCM Annual Meeting and the 2nd GP-TCM RA Annual Meeting will be held jointly in Graz, Austria in 2013; three GP-TCM RA members were invited by the European Medicines Agency to speak at HMPC (The Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products) Assessors Training on non-European Traditional Medicines and it was accepted in principle that GP-TCM RA will serve as an Interested Party at HMPC.
- In October, the 1st GP-TCM RA Annual Meeting was successfully held on 20th October 2012 in Shanghai (organized by De-an Guo) as part of the 2012 Shanghai International Conference for TCM and Natural Medicine [<http://www.s-tcm.com/english.html>]; senior members of the GP-TCM RA organised the International Symposium on Standardisation and Cooperation of TCM convened by Vice Commissioner of the State Administration of TCM, Da-ning Li, GP-TCM Advisors Academician Boli Zhang and Dr. Xiaopin Wang in Beijing. The main achievements of the GP-TCM project and the objectives and visions of the GP-TCM RA were disseminated to key stakeholders in China and beyond.
- In November, the incomes of the GP-TCM RA surpassed £10,000 and the process for registering GP-TCM RA as a charity in the UK was officially initiated; the FP7 GP-TCM website was archived (project.gp-tcm.org), with its activities carried on by the GP-TCM RA website (www.gp-tcm.org).
- In December, the final four Reports of the FP7 GP-TCM project, including the 2nd Periodic Report, the Final Report to the Commission, the Final Report to the Public, as well as the GP-TCM Dissemination Report, were submitted (available from qihe.xu@kcl.ac.uk) and the new online version of GP-TCM RA Newsletter was launched [<http://www.gptcm.org/2012/12/3514/>].

Future GP-TCM RA annual meetings are: University of Graz, Austria (30th August 2013); China Medical University, Taiwan (2014) and University of Mons, Belgium (2015). In addition, upon completion of membership registration, we will form interest groups dedicated to discussions and collaborations on different aspects of good practices in the R&D of TCM. More exciting initiatives will follow.

Your GP-TCM RA Membership:

As you know, all of us as GP-TCM Members have been invited to become members of GPTCM RA as of 16th April 2012. After a free period of 7.5 months, now it is time for us to select the type of membership that we wish to go for in 2013 and beyond, which will imply different membership dues accordingly.

If you haven't submitted your GP-TCM RA membership application form last year please find the form (word file) and other information (bylaws, membership benefits, etc) on <http://www.gp-tcm.org/about/membership/> and email your filled form to Dr Rui Fang, our Membership Secretary, on membership@gp-tcm.org ASAP.

If you have any question about membership application please also feel free to contact Dr. Rui Fang on membership@gp-tcm.org.

EU Research and Funding:

1. Research Roadmaps for Commission's 2013 Work Programme Published

The Roadmaps for the European Commission's Work Programme (CWP) for 2013 on Research and Innovation activities have been published. The CWP for 2013 was adopted in October 2012. The CWP includes a list of Roadmaps that outline impact assessments which have to accompany major initiatives carried out by the Commission. Under Research and Innovation activities, the following Roadmaps are currently available to all stakeholders:

- Horizon 2020: Renewal of European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership;
- European Metrology Programme for Innovation and Research;

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- Eurostars No. 2;
- Bio-based Industries;
- Innovative Medicines Initiative;
- Clean Sky; and
- Fuel Cell and Hydrogen.

http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/key-documents/index_en.htm

2. Conference on EU Science: Global Challenges and Global Collaboration

The European Parliament, under the auspices of the Irish Council Presidency, will host a five day conference on "EU Science: Global Challenges and Global Collaboration". The conference will commence on 4 March 2013 in Brussels.

The focus of the conference will be on Horizon 2020, the EU's framework programme for collaborative research and innovation from 2014-2020. The aim of the conference is to encourage worldwide collaboration in science and to explore how Horizon 2020 can enable an effective scientific response to global challenges. This conference will also provide an environment to build new partnerships with the view to increase international participation in Horizon 2020.

<http://www.globalsciencecollaboration.org/home>

3. Interview: Reviewing Complementary Medicine in Europe

Research*EU Results Magazine's interview of Dr Wolfgang Weidenhammer can be found at page 14 of the pdf version of the journal:

ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/news/research-eu/docs/research-results-182012_en.pdf

Invitations from Journals and Meetings:

1. 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 analyzing incidents. 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-european-journal-of-integrative-medicine/>

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

2. 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. You can find the Call for Papers for this Special Issue at:

<http://www.hindawi.com/journals/ecam/si/681090/cfp/>

The deadline for submission is July 5th, 2013. The Special Issue is open to both original research articles as well as review articles.

3. International Conference of Traditional and Complementary Medicine on Health 2013 (ICTCMH 2013) will be held in Taiwan in May 2013. It aims to convene world experts in traditional medicine, herbal remedy, and dietary therapy to share the recent scientific evidences and to enhance international collaboration in globalising traditional medicine. Venue: National Research Institute of Chinese Medicine, No. 155-1, Sec. 2, Linong St., Beitou District, Taipei 11221, Taiwan. Official Language: English. Website: <http://ictcmh2013.aonetek.com> or <http://ictcmh2013.nricm.edu.tw>

Free registration: <http://ictcmh2013.aonetek.com/regist>; <http://ictcmh2013.nricm.edu.tw/registration>

4. The 54th Natural Products Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy (ASP) 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

Recommended Reading:

1. FDA approved the second botanical drug:

<http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm333701.htm>

2. HRH The Prince of Wales sets out his vision for health in the *Journal of the Royal Society of*

***Medicine*:** Writing in the journal, HRH The Prince of Wales has called for society to embrace a broader and more complex concept of health. The Prince describes a vision of health that includes the physical and social environment, education, agriculture and architecture. Emphasizing that his point is not to confront accepted medical wisdom, HRH suggests reasons for encouraging a wider perspective on health. Rather than simply treating the symptoms of disease, The Prince advocates a health service that puts patients at the heart of the process by incorporating the core human elements of mind, body and spirit. Click here to read his article

<http://jrsm.rsmjournals.com/content/105/12/496.full.pdf+html>

3. Network Pharmacology and Traditional Chinese Medicine: Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM), an age-old healthcare system derived from China, is a mainstream medicine in China and is also popular in many other parts of the world. Due to historic reasons, the scientific base of TCM awaits consolidation but emerging evidence has begun to illustrate TCM as an area of important medical rediscoveries. For example, the 2011 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award was awarded to Youyou Tu for the discovery of Chinese herb-derived artemisinin, a drug for malaria that has saved millions of lives across the globe and the 7th Annual Szent-Györgyi Prize was awarded to Zhen-Yi Wang and Zhu Chen for their TCM research that led to the successful development of a new therapeutic approach to acute promyelocytic leukaemia. These award-winning projects were both conducted well before the human genome was decoded and when information technology was in infancy. What has TCM to offer in the post-genomic era and the Information Age? To address this important question, the GP-TCM project kicked in as the 1st EU-funded EU-China collaboration dedicated to applying emerging technologies to TCM research. Besides the consensus that omics and systems biology approaches will likely play major roles in addressing the complexity of TCM, more than half GP-TCM consortium members who responded to a consortium survey also cast votes of confidence in network pharmacology in TCM research. Then, what is network pharmacology? What is the state of the art of this technology in modern pharmacological and toxicological studies, and finally, what are its possible roles in TCM research?

http://cdn.intechopen.com/pdfs/41526/InTech-Network_pharmacology_and_traditional_chinese_medicine.pdf

4. Collections of Traditional Chinese Medical Literature as Resources for Systematic Searches

<http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/acm.2011.0587>

5. Chinese Herbal Medicine for Infertility with Anovulation: A Systematic Review

<http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/acm.2011.0371>

6. Evaluation of Impact on Health-Related Quality of Life and Cost Effectiveness of Traditional Chinese Medicine: A Systematic Review of Randomized Clinical Trials

<http://online.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/acm.2011.0315>

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