

## The August-October 2016 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



### Top GP-TCM RA News

#### **GP-TCM RA Calls for President-Elect and Members of Board of Directors (BoD)**

- With the approval of the current GP-TCM RA Board of Directors (BoD), the Secretariat is organising the 3rd GP-TCM RA election for nine BoD members, including President-Elect.
- Based on the Bylaws, Prof. Elizabeth Williamson of Reading University (UK) and Prof. Ian Sutherland of Brunel University (UK) have been approved by the BoD to serve as co-Chairpersons of the election. Both are members who do not run election themselves.
- Only GP-TCM RA members can vote and/or be elected.
- The BoD being elected will succeed the current BoD from 1 Jan. 2017 to decide principles and future directions of the GP-TCM RA.
- The new President-Elect will take office on 1 Jan. 2017, when current President-Elect Dr. Tai-Ping Fan becomes President and the current President Prof. De-an Guo becomes Past President. The newly elected President-Elect will be member of the BoD and the Executive Council, and will become President of GP-TCM RA on 1 Jan. 2019.
- Applicants for President-Elect and BoD membership positions need to submit independent applications.
- Details of candidates, election period and announcement of results will be announced in an **Election Special Edition of the GP-TCM RA Brief Newsletter**, and sent to every member of the Association, as well as being presented on the Association website.
- What is required from candidates of BoD members, including President-Elect?
  - A recent photograph;
  - Which position applied for;
  - 200-word self-introduction in English;
  - 200-word personal statement: Why do you apply for the position? What will you do if elected?

#### **New Corporate Members**

We are very pleased to announce that the following 6 organisations have applied to become Corporate Members of the GP-TCM RA. Their profiles, like those of existing Corporate Members will be featured in future Newsletters and website

1. Zhongshan Zhongzhi Pharmaceutical Group Ltd., Zhongshan, China, represented by Mr LAI Zhitian 赖智填
2. Fusheng Pharmaceuticals, Dalian, China, represented by Dr. FU Li 富力
3. Menghe School of Chinese Medicine, Changzhou, China, represented by Dr. GU Shuhua 顾书华
4. Jiangnan University, Wuxi, China, represented by Prof. CAI Yujie 蔡宇杰
5. Biology Institute of Shandong Academy of Science, Jinan, China, represented by Prof. LIU Kechun 刘可春
6. China Pharmaceutical University, Nanjing, China, represented by Prof. LI Ping 李萍

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### **Editorial**

#### **Celebrating the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Chinese Materia Medica Study Group and the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the GP-TCM RA**

Prof. Zhao Zhongzhen, Associate Dean and Chair Professor  
School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University  
Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong SAR China  
[zzzhao@hkbu.edu.hk](mailto:zzzhao@hkbu.edu.hk)



On 8-9 August 2016, the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the GP-TCM RA was held in Hong Kong, featuring fascinating presentations from 58 scholars representing 15 countries and regions. Jointly organized by the School of Chinese Medicine at Hong Kong Baptist University and the TCM Pharmaceutical Analysis Specialty Committee of WFCMS, one of the features of the GP-TCM RA Annual Meeting focused on Innovative Drug Discovery in Chinese Medicine and the *Compendium of Materia Medica (Ben Cao Gang Mu)*, which coincided with the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Chinese Materia Medica Study Group.



Consisting of a group of international scholars united by a passion for preserving the roots of Chinese herbal medicine, the Chinese Materia Medica Study Group has recently begun to celebrate the rapidly approaching 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Li Shizhen, the renowned author of the *Compendium of Materia Medica*. In this year's 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, 10 scholars from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan came together to deliver a diverse range of lectures that captured the spirit of Li Shizhen's scholarship, simultaneously embracing the latest research while clarifying questions that have endured in materia medica research for centuries. Covering a diverse range of topics ranging from classical textual research to innovative applications of Chinese medical theory, this session opened the door to new discoveries and illustrated the vibrant spirit that lives on in the materia medica tradition.

The lecture series opened up with a short greeting and presentation from me, welcoming the group by unveiling my latest publication, a revised hardcover edition of *An Illustrated Atlas of Chinese Materia Medica in Hong Kong*, which was released for the first time on the day of the conference. Next, I briefly shared a premiere screening of an episode of my upcoming TV series to commemorate Li Shizhen and the *Compendium of Materia Medica*, which was well received by the over 150 local scholars, TCM practitioners, pharmacists, and industry leaders in attendance.



Following this brief introduction, Prof. Wu Jialin, a well-known disciple of Prof. Xie Zongwan now working for

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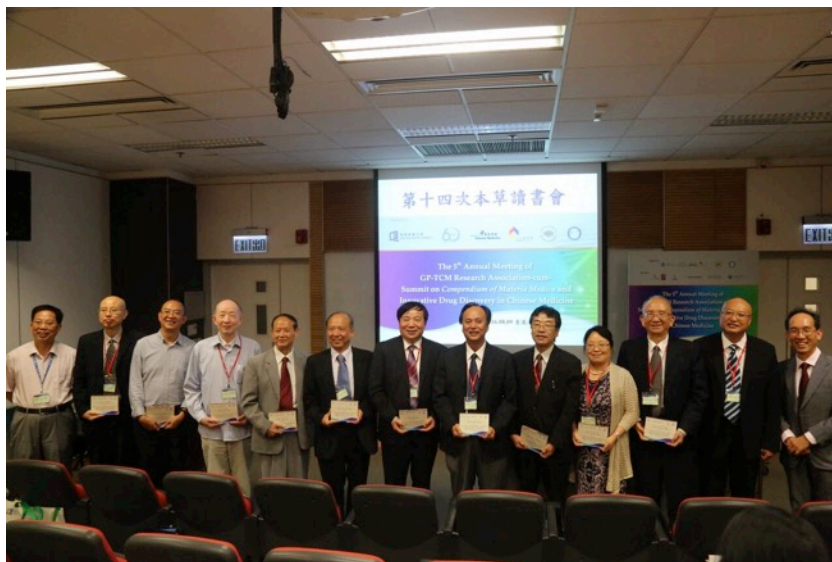
the Chinese Medicine Department of the Hong Kong Department of Health, took the stage to deliver a speech on the urgent need to standardize herbal nomenclature. Using the illustrative examples of *jinqiancao* and *gouwen*, Prof. Wu demonstrated the important role of standardized nomenclature for reducing the confusion that has impacted Chinese medicine for centuries.

Next, Prof. Wang Ping of the Hubei University of Chinese Medicine took the stage, offering a systematic analysis of Li Shizhen's recorded experience with herbal medicines that improve mental faculties. Inspired by research into senile dementia, Prof. Wang meticulously analyzed the records and theories of the *Yellow Emperor's Inner Classic* and the *Compendium of Materia Medica* to probe effective therapies and propose new avenues for integrative medical research.

Prof. Mayanagi Makoto of Japan then introduced groundbreaking original research to clarify the timeline of the arrival of the *Compendium of Materia Medica* in Japan. While it has been widely stated that the first edition of the *Compendium of Materia Medica* did not reach Japan until 1607, Prof. Mayanagi revealed that the true arrival of this fundamental text was actually three years earlier, reaching Japan in 1604. Furthermore, Prof. Mayanagi detailed his research tracing the world's known remaining copies of the Jinling edition of the *Compendium of Materia Medica*, noting that at least 13 extant copies of the Jinling edition are known to exist, with more perhaps still waiting to be discovered.

The fourth lecture presentation was given by Prof. Mei Quanxi from the Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine. Prof. Mei discussed the *Compendium of Materia Medica* and its contributions to safety, underscoring the importance of correct administration, processing, and combinations. Recalling the cautionary tale of thalidomide, Prof. Mei praised the courage of the FDA official whose diligence prevented countless adverse events; similarly, Prof. Mei implored the audience to learn from the wisdom of Li Shizhen to focus on the safe use of Chinese medicines for the health of future generations.

Next, a lecture by the esteemed materia medica scholar Prof. Zheng Jinsheng of the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences captivated the audience. An internationally renowned expert on the *Compendium of Materia Medica*, Prof. Zheng needed little introduction to his audience; indeed, his approach to *bencao* literature research is widely regarded as the gold standard of scholarship in this area.



Prof. Zheng discussed the remaining challenges in the transmission of the *Compendium of Materia Medica*, including the difficulties of overcoming confusion regarding the terminology of cited texts, diseases, geographic names, and drug names. Prof. Zheng demonstrated the feasibility and importance of overcoming these obstacles, and reiterated his hope that the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Li Shizhen can be commemorated by advancing further translation work to promote the *Compendium of Materia Medica*.

Prof. Zheng's inspiring speech was followed by a brilliant lecture from his colleague Prof. Zhang Zhibin at the

China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences. Along with her research partner Prof. Paul U. Unschuld in Germany, Prof. Zhang recently published a bilingual dictionary on the disease terminology of the *Compendium of Materia Medica*, which was widely praised by materia medica scholars worldwide. In her captivating lecture, she outlined her recent efforts to secure more support to advance future developments in materia medica research, including several exciting new projects in the works.

Next, Prof. Deng Jiagang of the Guangxi University of Chinese Medicine delivered a lecture on a novel topic rooted in Chinese medicine and its applied theoretical framework. Noting that materia medica

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scholars traditionally attempted to classify a broad range of natural phenomena, Prof. Deng proposed that pure compounds and modern pharmaceuticals are also subject to the principles of Chinese medicine theory, and he offered a framework for how these drugs can be viewed from the lens of traditional Chinese medicine. This spirit of innovation continued with a subsequent lecture by Prof. Chang Yung-Hsien from China Medical University in Taichung, which focused on the nature of Chinese medicine and essential oils, offering an innovative new approach to investigate therapeutics and research.

The final lecture to cap off this stimulating day was given by Prof. Wang Jiakui of the Chengdu University of Chinese Medicine. Prof. Wang demonstrated his deep mastery of the *bencao* literature with a thorough textual investigation of cinnamon and related drugs, including a meticulous examination of the botanical illustrations found in historical texts of different eras. His fascinating presentation illustrated the depth of the challenges involved in clarifying botanical identity over the centuries, and left attendees with a deep impression of the value of research in this area.

Following the rich lecture series, one final surprise awaited the grateful attendees. In preparation of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Li Shizhen, a cultural project dedicated to the *Compendium of Materia Medica* is underway, and the first song to unite the *bencao* community was broadcast to the audience as the meeting closed. Composed by me and sung by a group of Hong Kong celebrity musicians, the “Song of the Materia Medica” rang out in the hall, eliciting a standing ovation from the delighted audience. As the participants reluctantly departed from the hall, each carried a fresh copy of “The Road of Materia Medica in Hong Kong”, a newly released series of articles and travel notes to commemorate the *Compendium of Materia Medica* cultural project.

Finally, to conclude my editorial, I'd like to include Youtube and QQ links to videos of my TV series on Chinese materia medica. I hope that you will enjoy them! [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoPT\\_y9MvCQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoPT_y9MvCQ)  
<http://v.qq.com/x/cover/ad9z93w6rejptdl/x0318490kd6.html>

### Other GP-TCM RA News

**1. The 5th Annual Meeting of GP-TCM Research Association-cum-Summit on *Compendium of Materia Medica* and Innovative Drug Discovery in Chinese Medicine was successfully held in Hong Kong Baptist University on 8-10 August 2016.** As a collaboration between the GP-TCM RA, HKBU-SCM and the TCM Pharmaceutical Analysis Specialty Committee of WFCMS, the event's main objectives were to promote the sharing of good practices in TCM R&D and evidence-based research on TCM, and to explore new strategies for and approaches to new drug discovery and standardisation of Chinese *materia medica*.



A major international event in the field of Chinese medicine in the academic arena, the two-day and a half Meeting-cum-Summit features talks by 58 top scholars and experts from 15 countries and regions, including the US, the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Russia, India,

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Mainland China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Macau, Hong Kong and Australia. Covering a wide spectrum of topics ranging from quality control, pharmacology and toxicology, regulatory matters and standardisation, clinical studies, acupuncture, the *Compendium of Materia Medica*, to new drug discovery, the event has attracted more than 150 participants comprising scholars, scientists, teachers and students in Chinese medicine as well as representatives from research institutions from various countries and districts. Through the enlightening talks, the audience was able to update themselves with the latest research findings and learn more about the potential and future direction of research in the field of Chinese medicine.

The Opening Ceremony was officiated by Professor Sophia Chan, Under Secretary for Food and Health, HKSAR Government; Dr Constance Chan, Director of Health, HKSAR Government; Ms Annie Choi, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology, HKSAR Government; Professor Xiao Shiyong, Vice Director General of China National Centre for Biotechnology Development, Ministry of Science and Technology, The People's Republic of China; Professor Albert Chan, Chairman of Academic Committee, Sun Yat-Sen University; Professor Rick Wong, Vice-President (Research & Development), HKBU; Mr Abraham Chan, Chairman, PuraPharm Corporation Limited; Ms Chow Ying, China Life Science Sales Director of The Laboratory Solutions Sales, Agilent Technologies (China) Co, Ltd; Miss Agnes Wong, Vice-President, HKBU Century Club; Professor Guo De-an, President, GP-TCM Research Association; and Professor Lu Aiping, Dean of School of Chinese Medicine, HKBU.



In his speech, Professor Lu Aiping said that in view of the increasing popularity of Chinese medicine and the growing recognition of its therapeutic benefits worldwide, evidence-based CM research is of utmost importance in advancing its development and incorporating it into mainstream healthcare systems. He thanked both the Ministry of Science and Technology and the HKSAR Government for their staunch support throughout the years of the work in Chinese medicine as well as their ardent support for this event which he believed will inspire the audience to conduct more and better research in the years to come.

A Book Launch Ceremony of “*An Illustrated Chinese Materia Medica in Hong Kong*” was held at the Opening Ceremony. The book, which is the fruit of a project led by Professor Zhongzhen ZHAO, Associate Dean of SCM, was funded by the Innovation and Technology Commission and sponsored by Eu Yan Sang (HK) Limited, with Professor Zhao as Chief Editor. In addition, there was a poster presentation of abstracts of academic papers at the event and five Best Poster Awards and six Travel Awards were presented to the winners at the Closing Ceremony on 10 August.

The Meeting-cum-Summit was organized to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HKBU with the support from

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the Institute of Creativity of HKBU, and with the PuraPharm Corporation Limited, Agilent Technologies, Qingfeng Pharmaceutical Group, Hung Hin Shiu Charitable Foundation and HKBU Century Club as the sponsoring bodies.

### Abstracts of the meeting:

[http://www.wjtcn.org:8080/ch/reader/view\\_abstract.aspx?file\\_no=20150048&flag=1](http://www.wjtcn.org:8080/ch/reader/view_abstract.aspx?file_no=20150048&flag=1)

Photo album of the Annual Meeting-cum Summit can be found here:

中文: <http://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/tc/scm-event-photos/events/20160808-gptcm/>

English: <http://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/scm-event-photos/events/20160808-gptcm/>

Report on this Annual Meeting-cum-Summit can also be found here:

[http://hkbunews.hkbu.edu.hk/?t=ews\\_details/1486](http://hkbunews.hkbu.edu.hk/?t=ews_details/1486)

**2. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Editorial Board Meeting of WJTCM was held during the 5th Annual Meeting of GP-TCM Research Association-cum-Summit on *Compendium of Materia Medica* and Innovative Drug Discovery in Chinese Medicine (8-10 August 2016)**



To discuss the issues on how to enhance the visibility and impact of WJTCM, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Editorial Board Meeting of WJTCM was held on 9 August 2016. Editors-in-Chief De-An Guo and Jing-Yan Han summarised the statistics on submission and production rates to date. They thanked Director Jin-Ming Wei, Managing Editor Hui Xu, Production Editor Wen-Ting Zhang and their team at the Editorial Office, encouraged Editorial Board members to be more proactive in soliciting, submitting and scrutinizing manuscripts, as well as proposing and editing Special Topics for future volumes of the Journal. Two Special Topics in progress are *TCM for Gastrointestinal Diseases* (2016) and *TCM for Cerebral Diseases* (2017). <http://www.wjtcn.org>

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### **3. President-Elect Tai-Ping Fan's Report on the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Beijing University of Chinese Medicine (BUCM)**

#### **❖ Forum on Chinese Medicine Innovation (8-9 September 2016)**

Session I: Dialogue between Traditional Medicine and Modern Medicine

Session II: The Future of Integrative Medicine Education



Opening address by President Anlong Xu of BUCM

Prof Dominique Charron gave the first lecture



#### **Keynote speakers**

Prof Dominique Charron, President of HLA & Medicine and Jean Dausset Laboratory Network (Paris, France) delivered a thought-provoking lecture on *HLA System: Model of Modern Holistic Medicine*, while Dr Jean-Pierre Armand, President of the PreciMed European Platform gave an engaging overview on *Phase 1 to Phase 4, Which Trial Methodology in Cancer is Relevant to TCM?* Academician CHEN Kaixian 陈凯先院士 – *TCM in Contemporary Era: Status, Role and Innovative Development* 中医药在当代的地位、作用和创新发展; Academician HUANG Luqi 黄璐琦院士, Vice President of China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences – *The Development of Molecular Pharmacognosy*. 分生药学的任务和发展; Academician SHI Yigong 施一公院士, Vice President of Tsinghua University – *The Beauty of Life Science* 生命科学之美; Prof Lorenzo Cohen, MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of Texas – *Lifestyle Factors for Cancer Prevention and Control* 生活方式与癌症防控; Prof WANG Qi Grand Master of TCM at BUCM 王琦国医大师 – *The Development of "Preventive Treatment of Disease" in China* 中国治未病发展报告

#### **❖ Official 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of BUCM on Liangxiang Campus (10 September 2016)**



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Among the VIPs are WANG Guoqiang (Deputy Director of the National Health and Family Planning Commission; Director of State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine), Professor Barney Glover (Vice-Chancellor and President of Western Sydney University); Academician ZHANG Boli (President of China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences and Tianjin University of TCM), CHEN Xiaohong (Former Deputy Director of the National Health and Family Planning Commission)

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### ❖ The Founding Conference of New Media Academic Alliance of Chinese Medicine 全国中医药学术新媒体联盟成立大会 (9 September 2016)

<http://www.bucm.edu.cn/xxxw/36174.htm>; <http://finance.sina.com.cn/roll/2016-09-20/doc-ifxvykwk5214851.shtml>  
<http://learning.sohu.com/20160909/n468113186.shtml>

Represented by Prof DONG Ling, BUCM led an exciting new development in TCM education and R&D by founding an alliance of all the 23 universities and colleges of Chinese Medicine in China with Xinhuanet and China Association of Chinese Medicine (CACM). The purpose is to further integrate the internet new media platform resources and excellent academic resources to create a TCM-specific communication matrix for better promotion of TCM culture, heritage and development. To kick-start the Alliance, two projects – “Academic Micro-plus” and “TCM Video Contest for the Young” – were initiated. CACM will use “Academic Micro-plus” as a new media means to spread the academic and clinical experiences of experts and strengthen the academic status of Alliance within healthcare industry, as well as expanding their influences on student bodies. By holding nation-wide “TCM Video Contest for the Young” to test students’ knowledge of TCM, these live on-line completions will fully motivate the creativity and proactivity of TCM students’ performance, thus capturing the general public’s attention and imparting a better understanding of the culture and knowledge of TCM.



### ❖ Chinese Medicine Pre-disease Theory Symposium and Launching of *Textbook of TCM Pre-disease Treatment* (11 September 2016) 中医治未病高峰论坛暨《中医未病学》《中医治未病发展报告》首发式

[http://jk.ccntv.cn/2016/redianzixun\\_0912/18552.html?from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=0](http://jk.ccntv.cn/2016/redianzixun_0912/18552.html?from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=0)

[http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?\\_\\_biz=MzA5MjU4NDUzNQ==&mid=2654139006&idx=1&sn=3a399fa7854c5908f8fcc2419e9d3edc&chksm=8bacbd46bcd3450bc50f735b2de38023d8d4f13761c3749987f8206b212a1249d07ae2ca2d9&mpshare=1&scene=1&srcid=0929qrCoOt0Zbnou00xgTZLg#rd](http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?__biz=MzA5MjU4NDUzNQ==&mid=2654139006&idx=1&sn=3a399fa7854c5908f8fcc2419e9d3edc&chksm=8bacbd46bcd3450bc50f735b2de38023d8d4f13761c3749987f8206b212a1249d07ae2ca2d9&mpshare=1&scene=1&srcid=0929qrCoOt0Zbnou00xgTZLg#rd)

[http://jk.ccntv.cn/2016/redianzixun\\_0912/18552.html?from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=0](http://jk.ccntv.cn/2016/redianzixun_0912/18552.html?from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=0)

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At the meeting President XU Anlong of BUCM pointed out Grand Master WANG Qi 王琦国医大师 first founded *TCM Body Constitution Theory* 中医体质学学科 in 1995, which has become a special subdiscipline. By combining a large amount of clinical data with their own scientific research, Prof. Wang Qi's team evaluated the establishment of, and achievements in, TCM Pre-disease Treatment System over the past 9 years, leading to the publication of "*Report on the Development of TCM Pre-disease Treatment*" and the first-ever innovative teaching material "*Textbook of TCM Pre-disease Treatment*". These two books are instrumental to the implementation of public health service across the globe.

Academician CHENG Jing 程京院士 (Department of Biomedical Engineering, Tsinghua University School of Medicine; President of Boao Bio-Group Co. Ltd) stressed that the current "disease-based" diagnosis and treatment model is not conducive to the implementation of health strategy in China. By making full use of scientific and technological advances, a wide range of state-of-the-art biomedical engineering products has been developed in collaboration with Prof. WANG Qi. When such user-friendly equipment becomes affordable and/or available to the general public, it would open the door for the provision of better healthcare (diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and management) to the entire Chinese population and beyond.

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Dr. Tai-Ping Fan (Angiogenesis and Chinese Medicine Laboratory, University of Cambridge) gave a brief overview on the current status of TCM in the European Union (EU), following the implementation of European Directive 2004/24/EC taking full effect on 1 May 2011. He also highlighted the encouraging news by British Health Minister Jeremy Hunt on 3 April 2014: *If there is sufficient evidence that Chinese medicine is beneficial to patients, the Chinese medicine may be included in the British National Health Insurance (NHS) system.* To establish a robust evidence-based platform for accurate assessment of patient's TCM body constitution type and appropriate treatment, Tai-Ping Fan offered to liaise with the UN and/or WHO about translating "*Textbook of TCM Pre-disease Treatment*" into English for global access.

Grand Master WANG Qi highlighted the unique theoretical basis of TCM body constitution, and its impact on the practice of TCM pre-disease treatment, the details of which can be found in "*Report on the Development of TCM Pre-disease Treatment*" and "*Textbook of TCM Pre-disease Treatment*". Significantly, he summarized the special questionnaires (in 7 languages) and techniques that are being used for (1) assessment of body constitution, (2) biological characterization, (3) physiological and biochemical evaluation, (4) genome identification, (5) early warning system of physical fitness. Through global standardisation of the 9 basic TCM body constitution types and their variants, as well as good practice of pre-disease treatment, TCM can be used more effectively to achieve desirable clinical outcome.

[http://baike.baidu.com/link?url=MH91wHvZGsl-20W9WP0Tu14UMgPfhvMrR5y0LnBIDWSa-zmjbe-\\_jTE4zLzwISmDIEYNdzNk1F235pMvx3KeWQ0J33lzJEy4jfp5zFHsbXe](http://baike.baidu.com/link?url=MH91wHvZGsl-20W9WP0Tu14UMgPfhvMrR5y0LnBIDWSa-zmjbe-_jTE4zLzwISmDIEYNdzNk1F235pMvx3KeWQ0J33lzJEy4jfp5zFHsbXe)

**3. Prof. Li En's new book on *Yellow Emperor's Canon of Medicine: Theoretical Development and Modern Studies* 黄帝内经理论传承与现代研究 will be launched in the Great Hall of the People in November 2016.**

This monumental book by Prof. LI En 李恩 (Hebei Medical University, Shijiazhuang), LI Zhao-Guo 李照国 and LI Zhen-Jiang 李振江 received high praises and endorsement from TCM Grand Master DENG Tie-Tao 邓铁涛国医大师 <http://baike.baidu.com/view/102075.htm> (lower photo on the left) and Academician WU Xian-Zhong 吴咸中院士 <http://www.baik.com/wiki/吴咸中> (lower photo on the right) It covers the main academic thoughts, concept system, academic status and significance of *Huangdi Neijing*, and its status in, and contribution to, the world's medical history. This two-volume book is unique in many ways, including detailed annotations of the original TCM classic, plus accurate English translation, as well as modern interpretation and research. It is an important reference book for studying TCM and the charting the course for effective integration of TCM and Western medicine. <http://210.73.61.165/goods.php?id=5813>



Prof. LI En signing his latest book for Tai-Ping Fan (above)

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*Yellow Emperor's Canon of Medicine: Theoretical Development and Modern Studies* (middle). Hand-written endorsements from TCM Grand Master DENG Tie-Tao 邓铁涛国医大师 (left) and Academician WU Xian-Zhong 吴咸中院士 (right)

## European Reports

1. The European Medicines Agency has recently published for public consultation calls for scientific data for the systematic review of the monograph on:

- *Avena sativa* L., herba and *Avena sativa* L., fructus:  
[http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/doc\\_index.jsp?curl=pages/includes/document/document\\_detail.jsp?webContentId=WC500208672&url=menus/document\\_library/document\\_library.jsp&mid=0b01ac058009a3dc](http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/doc_index.jsp?curl=pages/includes/document/document_detail.jsp?webContentId=WC500208672&url=menus/document_library/document_library.jsp&mid=0b01ac058009a3dc)
- *Tanacetum parthenium* (L.) Schulz Bip., herba:  
[http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/doc\\_index.jsp?curl=pages/includes/document/document\\_detail.jsp?webContentId=WC500208685&url=menus/document\\_library/document\\_library.jsp&mid=0b01ac058009a3dc](http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/doc_index.jsp?curl=pages/includes/document/document_detail.jsp?webContentId=WC500208685&url=menus/document_library/document_library.jsp&mid=0b01ac058009a3dc)
- *Verbascum thapsus* L., *V. densiflorum* Bertol., *V. phlomoides* L., flos:  
[http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/doc\\_index.jsp?curl=pages/includes/document/document\\_detail.jsp?webContentId=WC500208673&url=menus/document\\_library/document\\_library.jsp&mid=0b01ac058009a3dc](http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/doc_index.jsp?curl=pages/includes/document/document_detail.jsp?webContentId=WC500208673&url=menus/document_library/document_library.jsp&mid=0b01ac058009a3dc)
- *Calendula officinalis* L., flos:  
[http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/doc\\_index.jsp?curl=pages/includes/document/document\\_detail.jsp?webContentId=WC500208684&url=menus/document\\_library/document\\_library.jsp&mid=0b01ac058009a3dc](http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/doc_index.jsp?curl=pages/includes/document/document_detail.jsp?webContentId=WC500208684&url=menus/document_library/document_library.jsp&mid=0b01ac058009a3dc)

Please, send your comments to [hmpc.secretariat@ema.europa.eu](mailto:hmpc.secretariat@ema.europa.eu) using the standard template: <http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=search.jsp&q=WC500017099.doc&btnG=Search&mid>

- [Draft European Union herbal monograph on Allium sativum L., bulbus](#)
- [Draft European Union herbal monograph on Glycine max \(L.\) Merr., oleum](#)

Please, send your comments by **31 October 2016** to [hmpc.secretariat@ema.europa.eu](mailto:hmpc.secretariat@ema.europa.eu) by using the standard [template](#).

2. Reflection paper on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in herbal medicinal products/traditional herbal medicinal products

The purpose of this reflection paper is to promote discussion about the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in herbal substances, herbal preparations and herbal medicines and to invite all interested parties including suppliers and manufacturers of herbal substances/herbal preparations, manufacturers of herbal medicinal products (HMPs)/traditional herbal medicinal products (THMPs), pharmaceutical industry associations, healthcare professional groups, learned societies, consumers and patients' associations, governmental institutions as well as EU and EEA-EFTA Member States to submit any scientific data or documented information (new, published or unpublished) and comments relevant to the evaluation of this problem.

Comments should be provided by **15 December 2016** using this [template](#). The completed form should be sent to [hmpc.secretariat@ema.europa.eu](mailto:hmpc.secretariat@ema.europa.eu).

- [Call for scientific data for the systematic review of the monograph on Commiphora molmol Engler, gummi-resina](#)

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- [Call for scientific data for the systematic review of the monograph on \*Trigonella foenum-graecum\* L., semen](#)
- [Call for scientific data for the systematic review of the monograph on \*Polypodium vulgare\* L., rhizoma](#)
- [Call for scientific data for the systematic review of the monograph on \*Oenothera biennis\* L.; \*Oenothera lamarckiana\* L., oleum](#)

Comments should be sent by **15 October 2016** by email to [hmpc.secretariat@ema.europa.eu](mailto:hmpc.secretariat@ema.europa.eu).

**3. The European Commission has published an updated version of its standard briefing on Horizon 2020 proposal evaluation:** The current version 2.1 dated 26 July 2016 contains the following changes compared to the previous version of 28 June 2016:

- Slide 3 – new slide on the outcome of the UK referendum; the slide states the following: "Until the UK leaves the EU, EU law continues to apply to and within the UK, both when it comes to rights and obligations. This includes the eligibility of UK legal entities to participate and receive funding in Horizon 2020 actions. Experts should not evaluate proposals with UK participants any differently than before";
- Slide 4 – new slide on countries eligible for funding in Horizon 2020;
- Slide 15 – reference to conflict of interest posed by experts involved in mock evaluations.

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/support/expert/h2020\\_expert-briefing\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/support/expert/h2020_expert-briefing_en.pdf)

**4. Masood E. Resilient British science will withstand Brexit.** *Nature* 2016;535:467. UK scientists have had to fight to stay international before, and they must not stop now. [http://www.nature.com/news/resilient-british-science-will-withstand-brex-it-1.20324?WT.ec\\_id](http://www.nature.com/news/resilient-british-science-will-withstand-brex-it-1.20324?WT.ec_id)

### China and EU-China Cooperation Reports

**1. President Xi calls for full protection of people's health.** (Xinhua News): BEIJING, Aug. 20 (Xinhua) -- Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for full protection of the people's health, stressing that public health should be given priority in the country's development strategy. [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-08/20/c\\_135618492.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-08/20/c_135618492.htm)

**2. McGilvray A. China: High-tech transformation.** *Nature* 2016;537, S8–S9. Chinese researchers are benefiting as the government looks to science to lead the economic transition to become a world-leader in the production of high-value technology. [http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v537/n7618\\_supp/full/537S8a.html?WT.ec\\_id](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v537/n7618_supp/full/537S8a.html?WT.ec_id)

**3. Making TCM acceptable abroad** (China Daily, August 29, 2016). Beijing Tongrentang Group Co Ltd, the world's largest producer of traditional Chinese medicine, plans to increase investment outside China and open at least 200 overseas branches in the next five years... [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2016-08/29/content\\_39183654.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2016-08/29/content_39183654.htm)

**4. Kanthor R. China.** *Nature* 2016;536, S6–S8. As China continues to increase its investment in research, it is offering opportunities that can be difficult to find elsewhere. [http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v536/n7617\\_supp/full/536S6a.html?WT.ec\\_id](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v536/n7617_supp/full/536S6a.html?WT.ec_id)

### Omics in Progress

**1. Tycko J, et al. Methods for Optimizing CRISPR-Cas9 Genome Editing Specificity.** *Molecular Cell*; 2016;63(3):355-370. Advances in the development of delivery, repair, and specificity strategies for the CRISPR-Cas9 genome engineering toolbox are helping researchers understand gene function with unprecedented precision and sensitivity. CRISPR-Cas9 also holds enormous therapeutic potential for the treatment of genetic disorders by directly correcting disease-causing mutations. Although the Cas9 protein has been shown to bind and cleave DNA at off-target sites, the field of Cas9 specificity is rapidly progressing, with marked improvements in guide RNA selection, protein and guide engineering, novel enzymes, and off-target detection methods. We review important challenges and breakthroughs in the field as a comprehensive practical guide to interested users of genome editing technologies, highlighting key tools and strategies for optimizing specificity. The genome editing community should now strive to standardize such methods for measuring and reporting off-target activity, while keeping in mind that the goal for specificity should be continued improvement and vigilance. [http://www.cell.com/molecular-cell/fulltext/S1097-2765\(16\)30331-8?elsca1](http://www.cell.com/molecular-cell/fulltext/S1097-2765(16)30331-8?elsca1)

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**2. The Human Functional Genomics Project (HFGP)** aims to characterize and understand interindividual variation of human immune responses more comprehensively by combining 'omics' technologies with in-depth functional phenotyping of the immune responses in healthy and diseased individuals (<http://www.humanfunctionalgenomics.org/>).

[http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v22/n8/full/nm.4140.html?WT.ec\\_id](http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v22/n8/full/nm.4140.html?WT.ec_id)

**3. How DNA could store all the world's data.** Extance A. *Nature* 2016; 537: 22-24. Modern archiving technology cannot keep up with the growing tsunami of bits. But nature may hold an answer to that problem already. [http://www.nature.com/news/how-dna-could-store-all-the-world-s-data-1.20496?WT.ec\\_id](http://www.nature.com/news/how-dna-could-store-all-the-world-s-data-1.20496?WT.ec_id)

**4. Kusebauch U, et al. Human SRMATlas: A Resource of Targeted Assays to Quantify the Complete Human Proteome.** *Cell*. 2016;166:766-78. The ability to reliably and reproducibly measure any protein of the human proteome in any tissue or cell type would be transformative for understanding systems-level properties as well as specific pathways in physiology and disease. Here, we describe the generation and verification of a compendium of highly specific assays that enable quantification of 99.7% of the 20,277 annotated human proteins by the widely accessible, sensitive, and robust targeted mass spectrometric method selected reaction monitoring, SRM. This human SRMATlas provides definitive coordinates that conclusively identify the respective peptide in biological samples. We report data on 166,174 proteotypic peptides providing multiple, independent assays to quantify any human protein and numerous spliced variants, non-synonymous mutations, and post-translational modifications. The data are freely accessible as a resource at <http://www.srmatlas.org/>, and we demonstrate its utility by examining the network response to inhibition of cholesterol synthesis in liver cells and to docetaxel in prostate cancer lines. [http://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(16\)30849-2?elsca1](http://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(16)30849-2?elsca1)

**5. Marx V. Proteomics: taking on protein complexes.** *Nature Methods* 2016;13:721–727. [http://www.nature.com/nmeth/journal/v13/n9/full/nmeth.3966.html?WT.ec\\_id](http://www.nature.com/nmeth/journal/v13/n9/full/nmeth.3966.html?WT.ec_id)

### Other Recommended Readings

**1. TCM “cupping” in spotlight.** All eyes were on Michael Phelps when he entered the pool with what looked like slices of pepperoni on his body -- or, really round bruise marks. It's called "Cupping" and it's been all the rave at this year's Olympic games with some of the top athletes and celebrities seeking effective alternative healing treatments.

- **What Is Cupping?** <http://time.com/4443105/cupping-rio-olympics-michael-phelps/>
- **Was Michael Phelps' latest gold medal a victory for Traditional Chinese Medicine?** <http://www.scmp.com/sport/other-sport/article/2000983/was-michael-phelps-latest-gold-medal-victory-traditional-chinese>
- **CCTV videos:**
  - Traditional Chinese Medicine Museum in Shanghai.** <http://english.cctv.com/2016/08/26/VIDEQW1H8ASGhNK55Frjoqzp160826.shtml>
  - The history of traditional Chinese medicine in modern China. How is the government promoting its development today? How is TCM accepted globally?** <http://english.cctv.com/2016/08/14/VIDEf54ZVqvdzoBM5sdx1aMp160814.shtml>
- **Chinese medicine getting more popular but China not the winner** (This article appeared in the Hong Kong Economic Journal on Aug. 31. Translation by Julie Zhu). <http://www.ejinsight.com/20160901-chinese-medicine-getting-more-popular-but-china-not-the-winner/>

**2. Original clinical research on acupuncture published in high impact medical journal Annals of Internal Medicine (IF = 16)** 中国大陆针灸研究者发表高水平临床试验，发表于美国《内科学年鉴》(影响因子 = 16) “Acupuncture for Chronic Severe Functional Constipation. A Randomized, Controlled Trial” by Z. Liu, S. Yan, J. Wu, L. He, N. Li, G. Dong, J. Fang, W. Fu, L. Fu, J. Sun, L. Wang, S. Wang, J. Yang, H. Zhang, J. Zhang, J. Zhao, W. Zhou, Z. Zhou, Y. Ai, K. Zhou, J. Liu, H. Xu, Y. Cai, and B. Liu. *Ann Intern Med*. 2016 Sep 13. doi: 10.7326/M15-3118.

### ABSTRACT

**BACKGROUND:** Acupuncture has been used for chronic constipation, but evidence for its effectiveness remains scarce. **OBJECTIVE:** To determine the efficacy of electroacupuncture (EA) for chronic severe functional constipation (CSFC). **DESIGN:** Randomized, parallel, sham-controlled trial. (ClinicalTrials.gov:

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NCT01726504). **SETTING:** 15 hospitals in China. **PARTICIPANTS:** Patients with CSFC and no serious underlying pathologic cause for constipation. **INTERVENTION:** 28 sessions of EA at traditional acupoints or sham EA (SA) at nonacupoints over 8 weeks. **MEASUREMENTS:** The primary outcome was the change from baseline in mean weekly complete spontaneous bowel movements (CSBMs) during weeks 1 to 8. Participants were followed until week 20. **RESULTS:** 1075 patients (536 and 539 in the EA and SA groups, respectively) were enrolled. The increase from baseline in mean weekly CSBMs during weeks 1 to 8 was 1.76 (95% CI, 1.61 to 1.89) in the EA group and 0.87 (CI, 0.73 to 0.97) in the SA group (between-group difference, 0.90 [CI, 0.74 to 1.10];  $P < 0.001$ ). The change from baseline in mean weekly CSBMs during weeks 9 to 20 was 1.96 (CI, 1.78 to 2.11) in the EA group and 0.89 (CI, 0.69 to 0.95) in the SA group (between-group difference, 1.09 [CI, 0.94 to 1.31];  $P < 0.001$ ). The proportion of patients having 3 or more mean weekly CSBMs in the EA group was 31.3% and 37.7% over the treatment and follow-up periods, respectively, compared with 12.1% and 14.1% in the SA group ( $P < 0.001$ ). Acupuncture-related adverse events during treatment were infrequent in both groups, and all were mild or transient. **LIMITATIONS:** Longer-term follow-up was not assessed. Acupuncturists could not be blinded. **CONCLUSION:** Eight weeks of EA increases CSBMs and is safe for the treatment of CSFC. Additional study is warranted to evaluate a longer-term treatment and follow-up.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27618593>

<http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=2552076>

[http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?\\_biz=MzA5Nzc5NTcxOA==&mid=2667882044&idx=1&sn=255a53cea75a23adbb92ef5ef24ece3b&scene=5&srcid=0914z3CvnhKdiECmm9mRmpvl#rd](http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?_biz=MzA5Nzc5NTcxOA==&mid=2667882044&idx=1&sn=255a53cea75a23adbb92ef5ef24ece3b&scene=5&srcid=0914z3CvnhKdiECmm9mRmpvl#rd)

**Sounding Board:** This section is reserved for GP-TCM RA members to express their opinions, share their views and comment on publications in previous issues of the GP-TCM RA Newsletters. All members are sincerely invited to contribute proactively. Please e-mail your Co-Editors Dr Tai-Ping Fan ([tpf1000@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tpf1000@cam.ac.uk)) and Dr Qihe Xu ([qihe.xu@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:qihe.xu@kcl.ac.uk)).

**1. The Research Grants Council of Hong Kong is launching the Eighth Round of the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme** (the “Scheme”). The Scheme aims to attract top international students to pursue PhD studies in Hong Kong’s world-class research universities. The fellowship provides a monthly stipend of HK\$20,000 (approx. US\$2,600) and a conference and research related travel allowance of HK\$10,000 (approx. US\$1,300) per year for a period of three years. More than 230 fellowships will be awarded for PhD studies commencing in the 2017/18 academic year. The deadline for initial application is **1 December 2016**. The poster and leaflet of the Scheme are attached for your information, and we should be much grateful if you would grant assistance in circulating them to interested parties of your university / institution. Electronic versions of the above-mentioned publicity materials are available online for download:

- Poster: <http://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs/Poster2017-18HKPFS.pdf>
- Leaflet: <http://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs/Leaflet2017-18HKPFS.pdf>

If you or any interested parties require further information, please feel free to contact [HKPF@ugc.edu.hk](mailto:HKPF@ugc.edu.hk) or visit the Scheme’s website at [www.rgc.edu.hk/hkphd](http://www.rgc.edu.hk/hkphd).

If you are interested in applying for such an opportunity with the School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University, please contact Prof. Aiping Lu, Dean of the School: [lap64067611@126.com](mailto:lap64067611@126.com)

### Meeting Reports

**1. The 15th Meeting of the Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine (CGCM)** was held successfully from August 23 to 25, 2016 in Academia Sinica, Taipei by CGCM Taiwan Chapter, while a satellite conference “Frontier Phytomedicine Research for Healthcare” was also held on August 22, 2016. The program emphasizes interactive panel discussions between experts and professionals in different disciplines to exchange new insights and promote collaborative research. Seventeen discussion sessions took place during the three-day meeting, covering a comprehensive range of themes on various frontiers of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Two new sessions were included this year, which are TCM Diagnosis and Preventive Medicine, an overwhelming and positive response was received. The local organizer also



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arranged various social activities for the participants, likes welcome reception, gala dinner and visits to National Herbal Garden and Taipei City Hospital, it attracted near 400 participants to attend.



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Photos of the 15<sup>th</sup> CGCM Meeting can be found at the following photo gallery:  
[http://abrc.sinica.edu.tw/2016/CGCM/main/Photo.php?tit\\_id=20160822124039](http://abrc.sinica.edu.tw/2016/CGCM/main/Photo.php?tit_id=20160822124039)

**2. The 1<sup>st</sup> Chinese Materia Medica Resources Meeting held in Xi'an on 10-13 August 2016.**  
<http://d.eqxiu.com/s/NUN4gfLY?eqrcode=1&from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0&toPage=567207160>



### Future Meetings

**1. The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Modernization of Traditional Chinese Medicine will be held in Chengdu, China on 23-25 October 2016.** For promoting the development of traditional medicine, so as to provide better medical service to people worldwide, Prof. Lu Hua, the President of Teaching Hospital of Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine (CDUTCM), welcomes you to attend this meeting. This is a very meaningful series of conferences which has been successfully co-sponsored three times by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Public Health, China Food and Drug Administration, State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and People's Government of Sichuan Province. Led by Prof. Lu, President of the Teaching Hospital of CDUTCM is organizing the 11th Panel Forum on topic of "the Development of TCM Healthcare". <http://www.icetcm.org.cn>

### Invitation from Journals

**1. Invitation from *World Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine (WJTCM)*.** WJTCM, ISSN 2311-8571, a new peer-reviewed journal (quarterly) launched in 2014, is the official journal of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS) and the GP-TCM RA. **Aim & Scope:** Introduce clinical efficacy and mechanism of TCM to doctors and biomedical researchers around the world, so as to provide new ideas and methods for solving the complicated and difficult cases.

- WJTCM includes reviews and original articles focused on four aspects:
- Modern Research on Chinese Materia Medica: theories of processing, property, and compatibility of Chinese materia medica; safety of Chinese materia medica; active principles and mechanism and efficacy of crude drugs and Chinese compound formulas
- Research on TCM Theory: scientific connotation and biological foundation of TCM basic theories
- TCM clinical Research: disease and syndrome, TCM safety, efficacy evaluation, evidence-based and systematic evaluation
- Acupuncture and Moxibustion: effect mechanism of acupuncture and moxibustion, specificity of acupoint effect,

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acupoints compatibility, efficacy evaluation of acupuncture and moxibustion.

**Submission to the Journal:** All the articles can be submitted via ScholarOne: <https://mc03.manuscriptcentral.com/wjtcn>, Detailed information about requirements of manuscript and format can be found in “Instruction&Forms” by the above URL, or by accessing WJTCM home page [www.wjtcn.org](http://www.wjtcn.org). All WJTCM articles will be published online via WJTCM website ([www.wjtcn.org](http://www.wjtcn.org)). PDF articles and electronic/online versions are freely available to global readers. WJTCM has successfully published 6 issues since 2015. Full-text PDF articles and electronic/online versions are freely available to global readers: [www.wjtcn.org](http://www.wjtcn.org)

### Nobel News

**Nobel Laureate Roger Tsien Dies** [By Kerry Grens | August 31, 2016]



Roger Tsien, a biochemist at the University of California, San Diego, (UCSD) who earned a Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2008 for his work on green fluorescent protein, died last week (August 24) in Oregon. He was 64. Tsien is best known for his work on green fluorescent protein (GFP)—but he expanded fluorescent labeling into different colors, and even the infrared. “By working to understand the mechanisms behind GFP’s florescence, Tsien has developed several related proteins that glow in virtually all the colors of the rainbow,” *The Scientist* reported in 2008 when Tsien won the Nobel with Osamu Shimomura and Martin Chalfie. Tsien and his colleagues later designed a technique to visualize fluorescent proteins using electron microscopy....

<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/46930/title/Nobel-Laureate-Roger-Tsien-Dies/>

**Autophagy Pioneer Wins Nobel** [By Kerry Grens | October 3, 2016]

[http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/47183/title/Autophagy-Pioneer-Wins-Nobel/&utm\\_campaign=NEWSLETTER\\_TS\\_The-Scientist-Daily\\_2016&utm\\_source=hs\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=35225131&hsenc=p2ANqtz-JlJxK4-5k3eIOMX9TxHYPXg5XGHUhi1NCvfoL3xaspoaOkrBjYtuTIVjzojuJi-diifd2nq92wLUWYQ\\_yMFGN\\_XUw&hsmi=35225131](http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/47183/title/Autophagy-Pioneer-Wins-Nobel/&utm_campaign=NEWSLETTER_TS_The-Scientist-Daily_2016&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=35225131&hsenc=p2ANqtz-JlJxK4-5k3eIOMX9TxHYPXg5XGHUhi1NCvfoL3xaspoaOkrBjYtuTIVjzojuJi-diifd2nq92wLUWYQ_yMFGN_XUw&hsmi=35225131)



Yoshinori Ohsumi, an honorary professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, has won the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Ohsumi is recognized for his discoveries on the mechanisms of autophagy, the process by which a cell recycles unnecessary components. “His discoveries opened the path to understanding the fundamental importance of autophagy in many physiological processes, such as in the adaptation to starvation or response to infection,” according to the Nobel Foundation’s announcement. The prize “is a tremendous acknowledgement of this important pathway, which many people haven’t heard of, and it will highlight the importance of the pathway in human diseases [including] cancer and neurodegeneration,” Ohsumi’s friend,

Sharon Tooze of the Francis Crick Institute in London, told *The Scientist*. First identified as a survival pathway in yeast, dysregulation of autophagy is linked to everything from chemotherapy resistance to amyloid- $\beta$  aggregation in Alzheimer’s disease.

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