

## The March 2017 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



**NEW** Editorial

### Integrative Chinese Medicine



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According to Professor Tu (*Nat Med* 2011;17:1217–1220), her groundbreaking discovery of artemisinin was inspired by the works by Ge Hong (283–343), who is also widely acknowledged as the earliest to describe faecal transplantation as a useful therapy (*Nature* 2016;540:S110). It was not until very recently that FDA came to appreciate the importance of faecal transplantation and that scientists came to understand the underlying mechanisms, involving gut flora. Ge Hong was also the earliest to document the health benefits of intermittent fasting, which is now understood to have health benefits by inducing autophagy, reprogramming pancreatic cells to restore insulin generation in islets, and reducing risk factors for aging and age-related disorders (*Nature* 2009;457:726-730; *Cell* 2017;168: 775–788; *Sci Transl Med* 2017;9:eaai8700).

In early February, Academician Professors Zhu Chen and Saijuan Chen published a *Cell* Leading-Edge Stories article on their journey of TCM-inspired discovery of arsenic dioxide as a new cure for leukaemia (*Cell* 2017;168:556-560). Entitled *Poisoning the Devil*, the article concluded: “Looking back to our scientific career, we have benefited a lot from the integration of western and eastern wisdoms.”

Integration of western and eastern wisdoms is exactly the approach that GP-TCM RA should adopt for the future.

This is particularly timely as the **Development Plan of the Belt and Road for TCM (2016- 2020)** has just been jointly issued by China's State Administration of TCM and the National Development and Reform Commission. According to the Plan, China will build 30 centres for TCM around the world, formulating 20 international standards of TCM, registering 100 kinds of TCM products and setting up 50 exchange and cooperation bases of TCM by 2020. Five cooperation priorities have been proposed: policy coordination, resource sharing, people-to-people bonds, technology connectivity and unimpeded trade. Particularly relevant to the GP-TCM RA, it proposed to:

- **Collaborate with renowned universities along the route to bring TCM into the higher education of these countries**, expand diploma and postgraduate education and enhance quality of teaching. In countries that are ready, open more TCM-featured Confucius Institute.
- **Support TCM research organisations and higher education institutions to establish joint laboratories and research centres** in countries along the route, to apply internationally advanced modern scientific technologies and methodologies to large-scale scientific collaborations in research of TCM fundamental theories, TCM clinical practice and TCM products, etc. Focusing on common, prevalent and major diseases in countries along the route, carry out evidence-based research, so as to support and guide TCM products to gain entrance to the mainstream market of these countries.

'The Plan' entitled in Chinese 《中医药“一带一路”发展规划（2016-2020年）》 can be found here: [http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?\\_\\_biz=MzA5Nzc0NDkxOQ==&mid=2649649922&idx=2&sn=dd8b00736abe264b26be39485b04ed0&chksm](http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?__biz=MzA5Nzc0NDkxOQ==&mid=2649649922&idx=2&sn=dd8b00736abe264b26be39485b04ed0&chksm)

A few weeks ago, China's State Council published a **medium- and long-term plan to prevent and treat chronic diseases (2017-2025)**. The plan aims to improve people's health, lower the onset risks

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of high-risk populations, and improve patients' quality of life. The plan made lowering the premature mortality of major chronic diseases a core target, saying that by 2020 and 2025 the premature mortality rate of cardiovascular disease, as well as cancer and chronic respiratory diseases among the groups aged between 30 and 70 will drop by 10 percent and 20 percent, respectively, compared with 2015. The plan put forward eight areas to be improved, including health education, standard diagnosis and treatment, health insurance and aid policies.

TCM can be expected to play an important role in the fight against chronic diseases and long-term conditions, a shared grand challenge by the modern world. Indeed, the King's-led FP7 GP-TCM EU-China collaboration has concluded that **prevention and treatment of chronic diseases is the No. 1 grand opportunities offered by TCM!**

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378874112001110>

**On Christmas Day 2016, China's first law on TCM was passed by the top legislature** to ensure development of the time-honored medical science and enhance the public's ability to access more quality products and related services. The law will take effect on July 1, 2017.

[http://english.gov.cn/news/top\\_news/2016/12/26/content\\_281475525362753.htm](http://english.gov.cn/news/top_news/2016/12/26/content_281475525362753.htm)

It can be predicted that the new legislation will be a major milestone not only for China's rejuvenation in health and revitalisation of TCM in China (*Lancet* 2017;389:1086) but also for international cooperation to come.

Under the banner of good practices (*J Ethnopharmacol* 2012;140:458-68) and the "Integrity, Integration and Innovation" principles (*BMC Complement Altern Med* 2013;13:132), **the GP-TCM RA can be expected to play a major role in this great endeavor.**

### **Eulogy and Obituary**

#### **In Loving Memory of Professor George Lewith, by GP-TCM RA Senior Members**

- Prof. **Nicky Robinson**, Immediate Past Secretary-General of the GP-TCM RA: "You will all be sad to know that George passed away unexpectedly on a skiing holiday with his family in Austria on Friday night. He went to have a rest after skiing and did not wake up. We are all shocked as he was such an amazing scientist and friend to many."
- Prof. **Monique Simmonds**, BoD member of the GP-TCM RA: "What very sad news - he was a highly regarded scientist and managed to fly the flag for getting science into different aspects of integrated medicine. We are the poorer for his loss."
- Dr **Tai-Ping Fan**, President of the GP-TCM RA: "I was really saddened and shocked to read the news of George leaving us so suddenly and expectedly... Indeed, George burned brightly and warmed (and occasionally scorched!) those around him and his untimely death is a tragic loss for many of us in the UK, Europe and China. He was instrumental in some key parts of our EU FP7-funded project on good practice of TCM research, clinical studies and regulatory matters."
- Dr **Qihe Xu**, BoD member of the GP-TCM RA and Coordinator of the FP7 GP-TCM project added, "George's unique contribution to the success of the GP-TCM grant, the project, and his continued support to the GP-TCM Research Association will always be fondly remembered!"

#### **Obituary for Professor George Lewith, University of Southampton, UK**

It is with great sadness that we inform staff and students of the untimely passing of George Lewith, Professor of Health Research within the Department of Primary Care.



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George unexpectedly passed away at the age of 67 while on a trip to Austria on **Friday 17 March**. The first doctor in England to receive specialist training in Complementary Medicine, George established the Complementary and Integrated Medicine Research Unit in 1995 during his then appointment as Honorary Visiting Senior Lecturer.

In 2003, George developed and initiated the first annual conference on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Strategies, Training, Research and New Developments (CAMSTRAND). George's work will be celebrated during this year's conference due to take place in Southampton on **Tuesday 6** and **Wednesday 7 June**.

A discussion board is available on the [Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health website](#), for colleagues and friends to share their thoughts about, and memories of, George.

Head of Academic Unit, Professor Michael Moore said:

*George was immensely popular with all the staff and will be sorely missed, he was so supportive of the junior staff and always had time for a quiet word or advice. He was involved in many areas of research and could be relied upon for insightful critical comment.*

*He has been part of the fabric of the unit for over 20 years and his contribution promoting high quality scientific enquiry in the CAM field has been immense. We have been overwhelmed with messages of support from colleagues and friends worldwide demonstrating his reach and influence.*

Our thoughts go out to his family and close friends at this very sad time.



### **Announcement of the Research Council for Complementary Medicine (RCCM)**

The untimely death of Professor George Lewith has been a great shock to all that knew him. It would not be wrong to say that everyone in the field of Complementary medicine knew him, not only for his wise council and facilitative nature but also as a friend and colleague who always gave his timely freely.

George was involved in so many areas and was one of the founder members and Trustee of the Research Council for Complementary Medicine in 1983. He was passionate about the importance of building the scientific evidence base for complementary medicine and its dissemination. He believed that understanding research is necessary for preparing all healthcare practitioners – both in terms of being able to interpret but also that they should be critically aware of its significance and the implications for practice. He strived to engage practitioners in research and was particularly driven in engaging and supporting young

people wishing to develop their research careers.

In 2003, in Southampton, he conceived and initiated the first annual conference on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Strategies, Training, Research and New Developments (CAMSTRAND) specifically to showcase postgraduate and practitioner research. Since then this annual conference it has provided an arena for participants to present and discuss their research in a supportive but critical peer and academic environment. This year (June 6/7<sup>th</sup>) Southampton is to be the host again for CAMSTRAND - <http://www.rccm.org.uk/node/291>. Sadly George will not be with us but would want us to go forward and build on his heritage and we should make the event a special celebration of his life and career.

### **Announcement of the Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health**



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It is with deep regret and profound sadness that we inform you of the passing of Professor George Lewith on Friday, March 17, 2017, while on a family trip to Austria. He was 67.

George Lewith graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge in medicine and biochemistry. He then went on to Westminster Medical School to complete his clinical studies and began working clinically in 1974. In 1977, he became a member of the Royal College of Physicians, and in 1980, a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners. Later in 1999, was elected a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

In addition to his clinical practice, he conducted research within primary care, and complementary and integrative medicine for the last 35 years, inspiring colleagues, students, clinicians, scientists, and public leaders. He published over 350 peer-reviewed articles, authored several books, and generously contributed to the work of others. He was a director of the International Society for Complementary Medicine Research and regularly presented at the Congresses convened by the Consortium. Though retired, he remained active as a university researcher and teacher, as well as maintaining a senior role within primary care at the University of Southampton. In addition, he also was a visiting chair at the University of Westminster Centre for Resilience, worked closely with Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, and was an effective international advocate for the complementary and integrative medicine.

George was married for 40 years, and has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. He traveled widely and worked in Canada, Australia and China. In addition to traveling, he enjoyed many hobbies including swimming, walking, singing in a choir and daily meditation practice.

George had a gift for asking the right questions in just the right way to generate discussion and discovery. He was also known for his thoughtful listening, gentle humor, positive outlook, and remarkable vision. George, a cherished friend for so many in the field, will be sorely missed.

A discussion board will be available on the Consortium website for colleagues and friends to share their thoughts about Professor Lewith, his contributions to the field, and any special memories. The Consortium will compile these comments into a book for his family.

<http://imconsortium.org>

### Report from the GP-TCM RA

**1. The 33<sup>rd</sup> GP-TCM RA BoD meeting was held on 20th March 2017 as a Skype teleconference.** The meeting was attended by Tai-Ping Fan (President), Clara Lau (Secretary-General), Peter Hylands (Treasurer), Aiping Lu (President-Elect), Rudi Bauer, Monique Simmonds, Rob Verpoorte, Vivian Wong and Qihe Xu. Apologies were received from Abraham Chan, Pierre Duez, Thomas Efferth and De-an Guo. The meeting approved the minutes of 32<sup>nd</sup> BoD meeting and received a brief report on the Prague TCM Roundtable meeting "Possible Synergies between Western and Traditional Chinese Medicines" in Prague on 23 February 2017. Treasurer's report suggests the President and the BoD to review and update benefits for corporate members. The BoD decided that the Bylaws need be updated; a working group has been formed (comprising of Rudi, Tai-Ping, Qihe, Clara and Monique). A new structure of membership and fees was discussed and will be integrated into the updated bylaws. The BoD agreed in principle to provide budget for a part-time secretariat, subject to the submission of more details on working hours and justification of the budget requested. After considering a variety of options, the BoD concluded that the 6th GP-TCM RA Annual Meeting will be postponed to July 2018 which will be hosted by Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, UK. Finally, the BoD was updated about the recent submissions of three Qihuang Prize nominations by the GP-TCM RA.



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### European Reports

**1. Uptake of the traditional use registration scheme and implementation of the provisions of Directive 2004/24/EC in EU Member States.** Status: 31 December 2015

[http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en\\_GB/document\\_library/Report/2011/05/WC500106706.pdf](http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Report/2011/05/WC500106706.pdf)

**General information on the registration of THMP can be found at the European Commission website:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/human-use/herbal-medicines/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/human-use/herbal-medicines/index_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_consumer/docs/traditional\\_herbal\\_medicinal\\_products\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/docs/traditional_herbal_medicinal_products_en.pdf)

**2. The European Food Safety Authority has opened a public consultation on two draft guidance documents – on the weight of evidence approach and on biological relevance of observed effects.** EFSA's Scientific Committee has developed a draft guidance document on the use of the weight of evidence approach in scientific assessments for use in all areas under EFSA's remit. The guidance document addresses the use of the weight of evidence in scientific assessments using both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Several case studies covering the various areas under EFSA's remit are annexed to the guidance document to illustrate the applicability of the proposed approach. Following this public consultation, the scientific committee will review the contributions and consider them in developing the final version of the guidance document.

In line with EFSA's policy on openness and transparency and in order for EFSA to receive comments from the scientific community and stakeholders, EFSA has launched public consultations on this draft document. Interested parties are invited to submit written comments **by 1 May 2017**.

Please use the electronic template provided to submit comments and refer to the line and page numbers of the respective document. A generic comments field is also available in this online tool. Please note that after 2 hours non-activity, your working session will expire and comments submitted after that time will not be recorded and transmitted. Therefore, if the page is left inactive for a while, before restart commenting, we advise you to refresh or re-open the page from the link.

If you would like to submit data-sets to support your comments or submit files send an email to: [SCER.PublicConsult.86@efsa.europa.eu](mailto:SCER.PublicConsult.86@efsa.europa.eu)

Please note that comments will not be considered if they:

- are submitted after the closing date of the public consultation;
- are not related to the contents of the document;
- contain complaints against institutions, personal accusations, irrelevant or offensive statements or material;
- are related to policy or risk management aspects, which are out of the scope of EFSA's above. The comments will be further considered by EFSA's Scientific Committee and taken into consideration if found to be relevant.

All comments received will be published. Comments submitted by individuals in a personal capacity will be presented anonymously. Comments submitted on behalf of an organisation will appear with the name of the organisation.

The draft guidance documents are available on these 2 links:

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/170306-0>

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/170306>

Please note that, on both cases, the public consultation will be open until **Monday 01.05.2017**.

**3. The *Lancet* Editorial. What has Europe ever done for health? *Lancet* 2017;389:1165**

The EU has been especially effective in certain areas. In tobacco control, it resisted powerful industry lobbying by mandating changes to the packaging of tobacco products, including graphic photographs that must cover 65% of the front and back covers of packs. In the development of European guidelines, professional bodies with EU support have promoted evidence-based management of a wide range of conditions. The newly established European Reference Networks connecting 900 medical teams across Europe tackle complex or rare diseases and conditions that require highly specialised treatment knowledge and resources.

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EU institutions have concentrated expertise and ensured harmonised decision making...  
Despite these successes, there is still much to do...

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)30812-7/fulltext?elsca1=etoc](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)30812-7/fulltext?elsca1=etoc)

**4. Less than halfway in, Horizon 2020 has received as many applications as FP7:** It is no secret that the EU's research programme, Horizon 2020 - with €77 billion of funding available from 2014 to 2020 - is a hit. From the very beginning, it has been straining under an avalanche of grant applications and according to EU Research Commissioner Carlos Moedas, has now received as many as its predecessor, Framework Programme 7, which ran between 2007 and 2013.

"We've received 140,000 proposals already for Horizon 2020 – the same amount we received during [the entirety of] FP7," Moedas told an audience in Brussels yesterday.

The statistic is one which should conceivably strengthen the Commissioner's hand in negotiations for the next EU spending cycle, beginning in 2021.

The figure also provides plenty of proof for the Commission's claims that applying for Horizon 2020 grants requires less effort from researchers than previously.

The downside, of course, is that with such hot competition, many more researchers are seeing their applications for EU funding fail, at a time when many national R&D budgets have decreased.

The success rate is low by the standard of research programmes, hovering between 12 and 14 per cent – a sharp fall from the average 19 to 21 per cent odds that researchers enjoyed under FP7.

<http://sciencebusiness.net/news/80171/Less-than-halfway-in-Horizon-2020-has-received-as-many-applications-as-FP7>

**5. Commission adopts new rules for funding salaries in Horizon 2020 grants.** Researchers working on EU-funded research and innovation projects will receive at least as much salary as they would get if they were working on national projects, and will be eligible for an additional bonus of up to €8000 per year. <http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=newsalert&year=2017&na=na-270217>

**6. Wilsdon J. UK science, post-Brexit.** *Science* 2017; 355:1243. Nine months since the British vote to exit the European Union ("Brexit"), the UK science community's initial dismay has given way to hard-boiled determination to limit the damage it will do to universities and research. On 29 March, Prime Minister Theresa May is expected to give formal notification of the UK's intention to withdraw under Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, the constitutional basis of the EU. This will set in motion a 2-year period of intense negotiation on the terms of the UK's divorce, and any future agreements with the EU—with research just one line item on a long list of issues to be resolved... However the Article 50 negotiations play out, the message should be unwavering: The UK remains a fantastic place to do research, and will continue to play its part in the collaborative networks that are so vital to 21st-century science. <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/sci/355/6331/1243.full.pdf>

**7. Moedas C. Europe can build on scientific intuition.** *Nature* 2017;543:465. The author Carlos Moedas is EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation. He wrote: "...As boring as it sounds to give statistics, the numbers for the first ten years are so impressive that I can't pass them up. ERC-funded scientists have won six Nobel prizes, five Wolf prizes and four Fields Medals. The ERC-funded projects have also resulted in 100,000 articles being published in scientific journals, including more than 5,500 in the 1% most-cited scientific journals..."

That means that for the first time, Europe has surpassed the United States in terms of the most-cited scientific publications. So let's be vocal about it.

The strong belief that the commission and the ERC have in basic science is contagious. Its model has been recognized as an example of best practice for national funding.

"Since the creation of the ERC, 8 European Union member states have set up their own national research councils inspired by the ERC model. And 11 member states have launched similar funding..."

And he concluded: "I want to see the reputation of the ERC move beyond scientific circles. In the next ten years, we should strive for the ERC to reach the same level of visibility and public awareness as the Nobel prizes. It should become a household name, not just to scientists, but to all European citizens."



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### China and EU-China Cooperation Reports

**Now** 1. Horton R. Offline: **China's rejuvenation in health.** *Lancet* 18 March 2017;389:1086. Last week saw one of the most important gatherings in China's political calendar—the Two Sessions. China's system of governance, including its governance of health, is fiercely complex. But at the national level it can be reduced to three fundamental forces. The most significant is the Communist Party of China. The Party's General Secretary is Xi Jinping (who is also President of the People's Republic). He leads a 25-member Politburo, as well as China's elite decision-making body, the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee...  
[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(17\)30761-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(17)30761-4)

**Now** 2. Henry BA. **The Past and Present of Research Integrity in China.** *The Scientist* March 2017. In 1999, China was responsible for 3.5 percent of scientific studies published globally, according to the journal-ranking database SCImago. By 2015, that number had leapt to 18 percent. Scientific output has exploded in the country alongside its flourishing economy and technological acceleration, leaving it second only to the U.S. in national research spending. Growth, however, has not come without growing pains.

[http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/48577/title/The-Past-and-Present-of-Research-Integrity-in-China/&utm\\_campaign](http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/48577/title/The-Past-and-Present-of-Research-Integrity-in-China/&utm_campaign)

### Other Recommended Readings

**Now** 1. Hornyak T. **Profile: Yoshinori Ohsumi: The rise and rise of a biology superstar.** *Nature* 2017;543:S19. "...In my time, I would do research because I was interested in a subject, but young people want to know whether a subject will yield a good paper or be beneficial for their career," says Ohsumi, a 72-year-old honorary professor at the [Tokyo Institute of Technology](#). "I don't like that attitude. I've always said it's a serious problem for new fields of research. If you want to have a paper in a famous journal, you should work on a popular subject. If you're starting something new, though, it takes a lot of time..."

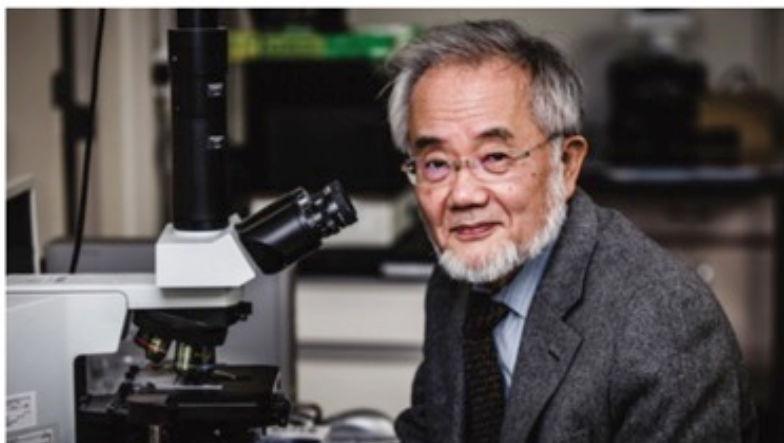


Photo by Benjamin Parks, adapted from Hornyak T. *Nature* 2017;543:S19.

**Now** 2. **Two Molecular Cell papers reported that circular RNAs are translated into proteins *in vitro* and *in vivo*, and have specific functions.**

[http://www.cell.com/molecular-cell/fulltext/S1097-2765\(17\)30136-3](http://www.cell.com/molecular-cell/fulltext/S1097-2765(17)30136-3)

[http://www.cell.com/molecular-cell/fulltext/S1097-2765\(17\)30132-6](http://www.cell.com/molecular-cell/fulltext/S1097-2765(17)30132-6)

**Now** 3. Stephanie Puig & Howard B Gutstein. **Opioids: keeping the good, eliminating the bad.** *Nature Medicine* 2017;23:272–273. Two new studies show that mechanisms mediating the opioid side effects of tolerance, hyperalgesia and physical dependence are mediated spinally and can be dissociated from analgesia. These side effects can be selectively targeted by clinically available drugs without affecting their pain-relieving effects.

[http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v23/n3/full/nm.4277.html?WT.ec\\_id](http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v23/n3/full/nm.4277.html?WT.ec_id)

**Now** 4. **Pushing pseudoscience. Leading US hospitals are pushing alternative therapies**, such as 'energy healing' and homeopathic bee venom, that are supported by little or no scientific evidence, according to a special report by STAT - It reflects the grave reality that anything regarded as "unconventional" will still have a rough road ahead...

<https://www.statnews.com/2017/03/07/alternative-medicine-hospitals-promote/>



**5. Hong Hai. Can Chinese Medicine and Biomedicine Converge?** The eminent and iconoclastic physician William Osler famously said: “The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.” Osler held the Regius Chair for medicine at Oxford and was a founder of Johns Hopkins Medical School in America. He would have received positive endorsement from traditional practitioners of Chinese medicine who, though lacking in knowledge of modern etiology (the science of causes of disease), were “patient-centric” like Osler’s “great” physicians, focussing attention on the particular internal imbalances and the qi flow disruptions that they detected in their patients. The commonly-held view that Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is patient-centric whilst Western medicine is disease-centric marks a persistent distinction between the methods of Chinese and Western physicians in the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses. Indeed it has often been observed, with some amusement, that one can always pick out a Western doctor from a Chinese one, not by the clinical garments that they wear (both wear white coats now in modern clinics), but by the focus of their eyes. One spends most of the consultation session looking at the computer screen as he talks to the patient just within his peripheral vision; the other focuses on looking at the patient and asking questions...

[http://www.asiabiotech.com/21/2103/21030012x.html?utm\\_source](http://www.asiabiotech.com/21/2103/21030012x.html?utm_source)

**6. Hwee-Ling Koh. Integrative Medicine: East Meets West.** The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. This definition has remained unchanged since 7 April 1948. In this era of evidence based medicine, precision medicine and personalized medicine, how does one strive to achieve optimal health as defined by WHO? The key may be “Integrative Medicine”.

According to the Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine and Health, integrative medicine and health reaffirms the importance of the relationship between practitioner and patient, focuses on the whole person, is informed by evidence, and makes use of all appropriate therapeutic and lifestyle approaches, healthcare professionals and disciplines to achieve optimal health and healing. Founded in 2002, the Consortium comprises major medical schools and health systems in the United States of America, Canada and Mexico that are dedicated to the advancement of integrative medicine and health. [http://www.asiabiotech.com/21/2103/21030017x.html?utm\\_source](http://www.asiabiotech.com/21/2103/21030017x.html?utm_source)

## Meeting Reports

**1. A TCM Roundtable meeting “Possible Synergies between Western and Traditional Chinese Medicines” was held in Prague on 23 February 2017.** This high-profile meeting was held

in the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic under the auspices of the Czech Minister of Health, Dr Miloslav Ludvik. Notably, Her Excellency Ambassador Ma Ke-qing from China was the distinguished guest. Dr. Miloslav Ludvik, a keen supporter of closer integration of TCM and Western medicine both in science and medical practice, delivered his opening remarks: “Traditional Chinese medicine may not replace our Western medicine but it





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can be a suitable complement and a certain alternative. I see no reason to deny patients complementary treatment that might help them or relieve them from pain. I am pleased that it is the Czech Republic that hosts such conference. We see participants from the most prestigious universities such as Yale and Cambridge.”

Prof. Roman Prymula (Chief Advisor to the Minister) presided over the entire proceedings. The “home team” consisted of Prof. Rostislav Vyzula (Chairman of the Committee on Healthcare, Chamber of Deputies), Dr. Radek Policar (Deputy Minister for Law and Legislation), Prof. Kamil Kuca (Rector of University Hradec Kralove), Dr. Jan Ruzicka (Special Envoy to the Minister; Cambridge Judge Business School) and other leading medical and herbal medicinal products experts from the Czech Republic.



11 TCM experts from Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, UK and USA took part in this unique event. In addition to 5 Keynote Presentations given by Dr. Tai-Ping Fan (Cambridge), Prof. Yung-Chi Cheng (New Haven), Dr. Jan Ruzicka (Prague) and Mr Jamie O’Mahony (Cambridge), Prof. Jean-Pierre Armand (Paris) and Prof. Gerhard Franz (Regensburg), there were 3 active Roundtable Sessions on i) Modernization of TCM, ii) TCM as Evidence-based Clinical Practice, and iii) Regulation and Legislation of TCM. The panellists included Dr. Mei Wang (Leiden), Dr. Liya Ju (Paris), Prof. Clara Lau (Hong Kong), Prof. Olavi Pelkonen (Oulu), Dr. Ning Wang

(Luxembourg) and Prof. Ryan Abbott (Guildford/Los Angeles).

The purpose of the meeting was to highlight the global state-of-the-art of TCM and convince the Czech Parliament about the clinical value and scientific rigor of TCM research and development. Such public consultations and debates are expected to lead to the official recognition of TCM acupuncturists and TCM therapists in the Czech Republic in April 2017. An important part of this event was the visit to the TCM Clinic within University Hospital Hradec Kralove on 24 February. The visit included a tour to A&E department and Pharmacy, as well as panel discussions with the hospital administrators, doctors and the press. This TCM Centre was opened in September 2015 by the Chinese Vice Premier LIU Yan-dong. It was also a highlight of President XI Jinping’s state visit to the Czech Republic in March 2016. Supported by a €10m donation from CEFC China Energy Company Ltd., a purpose-built TCM Centre will be opened in 2018/2019.



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### Future Meetings

1. **The 10<sup>th</sup> International workshop Metabolomics Basics and Applications to Plant Sciences, Leiden, the Netherlands, May 1-5, 2017**

[www.plantsandmetabolomics.nl](http://www.plantsandmetabolomics.nl)

**2. Invitation to "Phytomedicine and Biopiracy", Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany on July 24-28, 2017.** An International Conference on Science and Society with the Topic "Phytomedicine and Biopiracy" will be held at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany on July 24-28, 2017. Professor Professor Dr. Thomas Efferth, BoD Member of the GP-TCM RA recommended: "This congress is NOT one of these numerous conference announcements, which you are daily bothered by spam E-mails. The concept of this conference is different. We want to foster the dialogue between scientists from biosciences and humanities. As we are all working on medicinal plants and natural products, we are faced with the fair sharing of benefits from the bioprospecting of medicinal plants, which is regulated in the Nagoya Protocol of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (see: Efferth et al., Biopiracy of natural products and good bioprospecting practice. *Phytomedicine*. 2016 Feb 15;23(2):166-73. doi: 10.1016/j.phymed.2015.12.006). The unfair use of traditional knowledge and genetic resources has been termed "Biopiracy". Biopiracy is a hot topic discussed in the humanities, and we as bioscientists have a lot in common to discuss with our colleagues. We like to encourage scientists from all disciplines to come to this conference, where we will discuss issues of biopiracy from various angles. Of course, we also cordially welcoming your contributions in the field of phytotherapy and phytomedicine as oral presentation or poster. We would be happy to welcome you at the Hilton Hotel in Mainz, Germany, a capital city full of history and surrounded by a wonderful landscape, which is under the protection of the UNESCO as world cultural heritage."

<http://www.blogs.uni-mainz.de/biopiracyconference2017/>

3. **The 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine (CGCM) will be held in Guangzhou on August 18 - 20, 2017 (Friday-Sunday).** This year's meeting is going to be organized by Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine. The meeting provides a platform for regulatory-industrial-academic exchanges and potential research collaborations, on various frontiers of Traditional Chinese Medicine among our worldwide CGCM members and guests. You are cordially invited to attend the meetings and submit abstracts. Preliminary programme and more details will soon be announced on the CGCM website [www.tcmedicine.org](http://www.tcmedicine.org). Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact: [centraloffice@tcmedicine.org](mailto:centraloffice@tcmedicine.org)

4. **The Lancet-CAMS Health Summit 2017: a Lancet call for abstracts from China.** Abstracts are invited from China for *The Lancet*-CAMS Health Summit 2017, to be held on **Oct 13-14 2017** in Beijing. Submissions are invited from all aspects of health science including, but not limited to: translational medicine, clinical medicine, public health, global health, health policy, the environment and ecological systems and health, health professionalism, and medical education.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)30130-7/fulltext?elsca1=etoc](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)30130-7/fulltext?elsca1=etoc)

### Invitation from Journals

1. **Invitation from, and publication of the four issue of, *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

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and systematic evaluation

- Acupuncture and Moxibustion: effect mechanism of acupuncture and moxibustion, specificity of acupoint effect, 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 8 issues since 2015.

Full-text PDF articles and electronic/online versions are freely available to global readers: [www.wjtcn.org](http://www.wjtcn.org)

The latest issue, i.e. the fourth issue, volume 2, can be found here: <http://www.wjtcn.org:8080/ch/index.aspx>

The GP-TCM RA Newsletter wishes to particular recommend you to read the following paper: Kelvin Chan. **The Evolutional Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine Outside the Chinese Mainland: Challenges, Training, Practice, Research, and Future Development.** [http://www.wjtcn.org:8080/ch/reader/view\\_abstract.aspx?file\\_no=20160026&flag=1](http://www.wjtcn.org:8080/ch/reader/view_abstract.aspx?file_no=20160026&flag=1)

2. **A Lancet call for papers.** In September 2017, *The Lancet* will dedicate a weekly issue to health care and research in China to coincide with the centenary of Peking Union Medical College; it will be the journal’s eighth such themed issue since 2008. The editors invite submissions of high-quality research from China—or from research teams working on health in China—for this issue in particular. [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)32584-3/fulltext?elsca1=etoc](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)32584-3/fulltext?elsca1=etoc)

3. **Invitation to contribute to an *Acta Pharmacologica Sinica* (APS, <http://www.nature.com/aps>) Special Issue on Fangjiomics:** Co-guest editors Professors Zhong Wang, Dayue Duan, Chunxiang Zhang and Yongyan Wang invite you to contribute to a special issue with the featured topic: **“Fangjiomics: Rational Combination Therapy with Integrated Diverse Drug Profiles and its Implications in Precision Medicine”**. The journal **APS** is published in partnership with Nature Publishing Group (NPG), covering a broad scope of pharmacology and the related life sciences and bringing high-quality and cutting-edge research to international scientific community. All articles published in **APS** are free to access after an embargo period of 12 months (archived in PubMed Central). **Authors in this special issue will NOT be charged publication fees.** The use of combination drug therapy for complexity diseases is a common strategy in both Western and traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) although based on different rationales. The structural complexity of combination therapy is limitless. In clinical practice, however, most combination designs comprise the hierarchy or proportional architectures that lead to combination therapies with spatially homogeneous features. More advanced applications in drug combination therapy in the practice of precision medicine emphasize the integrated consideration of not only patient’s health and disease conditions but also influences by environmental variations, which requires adaptive architectures of drug combination. This special issue of APS will summarize the application of Fangjiomics strategy for the mechanistical design and identification of hierarchy and proportional combination therapies that exhibit spatially fangji’s functionalities, including reviews in theory and methodology of Fangjiomics, research articles of Fangji’s architectures, research article on relationship between Fangji and Zhenghou. The progress in combination therapies exhibit holistic holographic order, whereby the



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multi-dimensional pixilated function dictates the multi-dimensional drugs interior arrangement. Such an integrated combinational design thus opens a new avenue with unusual order and individualized adjustment for precision medicine.

Both reviews and original articles are welcome. Each article should be around 8000 words excluding references, and illustrated with figures. The manuscript should be ready for peer-review by the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2017. <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aphs>

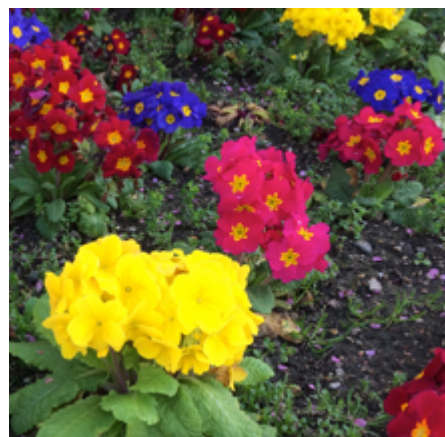
**4. Journal of Zhejiang University-SCIENCE B (Biomedicine & Biotechnology) will publish a special Issue on “Chinese Integrative Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynaecology” in March 2017.** JZUS-B, a monthly journal started in 2005, is an international peer-reviewed journal co-published by Springer & Zhejiang University Press. JZUS-B aims to present the latest developments and achievements in the broad area of Biomedicine, Biotechnology, and Biochemistry, and is indexed by SCI-E (2014 IF is 1.303), MEDLINE/PubMed, PMC, JST, CA, etc.

In this special issue, researchers in the fields of obstetrics, gynecology and Chinese integrative medicine are invited to share their perspectives on their most recent studies. Guest editors are Dr Fan QU, Zhejiang University, China; Professor Nicola ROBINSON, London South Bank University, UK; and Dr Paul J. HARDIMAN, University College London, UK.

For more information, please visit the journal's website <http://www.zju.edu.cn/jzus>. Questions please be addressed to: [jzus\\_lhf@zju.edu.cn](mailto:jzus_lhf@zju.edu.cn)

### Sounding Board

**1. GP-TCM RA Honorary Member Professor Geoffrey Burnstock, University College London, was recently appointed an Honorary Professor of Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine** in recognition of his “significant achievements and extraordinary importance in Traditional Chinese Medicine”. The honour was probably in recognition of his hypothesis about the mechanism underlying the process of acupuncture (*Medical Hypotheses* 2009;73:470-472; *Science*; 346:S23-S25), which has attracted considerable attention internationally. Professor Geoffrey Burnstock PhD DSc FAA FRCS(Hon) FRCP(Hon) FMedSci FRS and his Autonomic Neuroscience Centre at University College Medical School (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ani/prof-GB.htm>) look forward to having collaborations with Chengdu and elsewhere.



**2. Advanced Master in Public Health Methodology (60ECTS) in Belgium.** As every year for more than 15 years, registration for the international Advanced Master in Public Health Methodology (MPHM) organised in Brussels Belgium has opened in mid-February. The objective of this one-year programme is to provide a large degree of autonomy in the use of public health methods and the transmission of this knowledge in professional life. Both basic and advanced methods in statistics, epidemiology and qualitative methods are developed through lectures and practice. Integration with other methods is illustrated in various fields: operational research, health planning, health services research, health strategies and health economics. The course is open to public health executives, medical doctors, decision makers, social sciences professionals (sociologist...), researchers... It's an inter-university program organized by 3 universities: Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) the coordinator, Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL) and Université de Mons (UMONS). The university tries to keep the tuition fees affordable to most students even if you are not eligible to any scholarships (tuition fees from €835 to €4175 for the academic year depending on your country of residence - <http://www.ulb.ac.be/facs/esp/registration.html> ). You will find all the information on our web site: <https://www.ulb.ac.be/facs/esp/esp-en.html>

Informal inquiries please be addressed to Prof Pierre Duez: [pierre.duez@umons.ac.be](mailto:pierre.duez@umons.ac.be)

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**< NOW** 3. This column publishes comments, views and proposals for collaborations or any other features from you and your part of the world. We look forward to hearing from you! Please address to Dr Qihe Xu ([qihe.xu@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:qihe.xu@kcl.ac.uk)), Prof. Pierre Duez ([pierre.duez@umons.ac.be](mailto:pierre.duez@umons.ac.be)) and Prof. Yuan Shiun Chang ([yschang0404@gmail.com](mailto:yschang0404@gmail.com))

### Acknowledgements

Contributions from Prof. **Geoffrey Burnstock** (London), Prof. **Yuan Shiun Chang** (Taichung), Prof. **Pierre Duez** (Mons), Dr. **Tai-Ping Fan** (Cambridge), Dr **Andrew Flower** (Southampton), Prof. **Peter Hylands** (London), Prof. **Olavi Pelkonen** (Oulu) Dr **Fan Qu** (Hangzhou), Prof. **Nicola Robinson** (London), Prof. **Monique Simmonds** (London), Prof. **Zhong Wang** (Beijing), Ms **Hui Xu** (Beijing), Prof. **Rob Verpoorte** (Leiden) and Dr. **Qihe Xu** (London) are gratefully acknowledged.

**Our heart-felt thoughts are  
with those who were killed or  
injured in the terrorist attack  
in Westminster, London, on  
the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, and with  
their families and friends.**

The Editorial Board of the GP-  
TCM RA Newsletters

