

# Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association 中医药规范研究学会

# May-June 2021 Newsletter

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The May-June 2021 Newsletter of GP-TCM Research Association









# Message from the executive editor, Simon Ming Yuen LEE

Dear GP-TCM RA members,

Thank you for the previous editor-in-chief, Aiping Lu, consulting editor, Qihe Xu and executive editor, Ping Guo's efforts in curating, writing, and editing the GP-TCM Newsletter in the past two years and their continue support to provide Chinese Materia Medica Highlights, one of the most popular sections in the newsletter, to be continued in the future issues. Also, thank you for the support from all founding members who have been contributing to the success of the GP-TCM RA Newsletter since publication of the first issue in June 2008. The newsletter will continue to serve the mission of our Association, in promoting highquality evidence-based research of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) through developing, disseminating and implementing good practice. On behalf of the newly recruited Editorial Board, the editor in chief, Monique Simmonds, the Board of Directors, Interest Groups' Chairs and Co-Chairs, and Advisors, we are glad to welcome you



to continue reading the GP-TCM RA Newsletter and to support developing our Newsletter as a valuable communication platform.

The new GP-TCM RA Newsletter will be bimonthly available on our Association website at http:// www.gp-tcm.org/news-list/. The new GP-TCM RA Newsletter will keep all popular sections and carry on the valuable tradition of the newsletter developed in the past 14 years. Additional information include, for examples, feature story, post-conference report, student corner, public education and outreach, as well as more resource information (research collaboration matching, research funding opportunities, and career opportunities). All members are always welcome to share their recent news and to send editorials, letters, opinions, suggestions, etc. to editorial board for consideration of publication in the future issues of the Newsletter. Feel free to contact me at simonlee@um.edu.mo.

Each issue of the GP-TCM RA Newsletter will provide readers with news and information organized in nine different sections and prepared in a new editorial design.

We hope that our members will enjoy the content of the GP-TCM RA Newsletter.







### Not all unsolicited emails are scams

your Treasurer's story of becoming an FRSA

Dr Tai-Ping Fan, Treasurer, The GP-TCM RA, tpf1000@icloud.com



It all started with an unsolicited email with a caption: Your invitation to join the RSA. At first, I suspected it to be a malicious scam, phishing for personal details, in these challenging times of the pandemic. But just as I was about to delete the email, two sentences caught my eyes: *"This is in recognition of your contributions to the health and wellbeing sector though your innovative research on angiogenesis and traditional Chinese medicine ..... You have been nominated for Fellowship by a Fellow and we believe there is a legitimate interest that we notify you of this nomination."* I paused immediately and thought it would be prudent to check with my friends who have been Fellows of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) for years.

Alan replied: "Dear Tai-Ping, it is not a scam. I have been a Fellow of the RSA for almost thirty years. I was also a Council Member and Hon. Treasurer for a time. It is a wonderful organisation – founded in 1754 – soon after The Royal Society. I didn't recommend you but would be delighted to do so. The RSA is a very innovative and game changing Association."

Having received Alan's positive reply eased my concerns and changed my attitude. I emailed the RSA and asked if they could tell me the names of my nominators, so that I can thank them personally. The reply: "Normally we would include the name of your nominator in our invitation, but I'm afraid on this case your nominator has chosen to remain anonymous. This is most likely as they are a follower/know of your work but do not personally know you. Apologies I couldn't be more helpful!"

In my supporting documents, I highlighted the 3.5-year GP-TCM Consortium (2009-2012), the EU's first coordination action dedicated to traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) research, initiated and led by Dr Qihe Xu of King's College London, as well as the on-going work pursued by the GP-TCM Research Association since its foundation in April 2012.

As an FRSA, I aim to bring together UK and Chinese healthcare stakeholders to address unmet medical needs. After serving the University of Cambridge for 34 years, I happily retired from the Department of Pharmacology, in October 2020. In collaboration with colleagues in the UK, Europe, and Greater China, I remain very active in the pharmacology of natural products (especially from traditional medicines across the globe). As a Distinguished Professor of the Northwest University (Xi'an), I use multi-disciplinary approaches (pharmacology, bioinformatics, bio-engineering, synthetic biology) to discover and optimize natural products aiming to elucidate their molecular targets and develop novel chemical and/or botanical drugs with pharmaceutical companies.





# Not all unsolicited emails are scams

your Treasurer's story of becoming an FRSA

Dr Tai-Ping Fan, Treasurer, The GP-TCM RA, tpf1000@icloud.com

(cont.)

One important R&D area is the prevention and treatment of diseases where there is excessive angiogenesis (e.g. cancer, atherosclerosis, diabetic retinopathy) or inadequate angiogenesis (e.g. myocardial infarct, chronic wound). For example, with Prof. Xiaohui Zheng of Northwest University, we have developed a novel approach for discovering and patenting pro-angiogenic and anti-fibrotic compounds derived from Salvia miltiorrhizae. We also developed a novel anti-convulsant from Acorus tatarinowii. Together with Prof. Yujie Cai of Jiangnan University (Wuxi), our team has successfully employed an engineered E. coli and cell-free biosynthetic approach to generate D-danshensu (D-3,4-dihydroxyphenyllactic acid), rosmarinic acid and other natural products of therapeutic value. In close collaboration with Prof. Kechun Liu of the Biology Institute of Shandong Academy of Sciences (Jinan, China), we are working to establish a comprehensive zebrafish-based platform of human diseases, for evaluation of biological activities and toxicity of natural and synthetic chemicals.

As a proponent in modernising and standardising traditional medicine for improving health and preventing illness, I cherish the open, optimistic, pioneering, rigorous and enabling values of the RSA, and would like to use my wide-ranging experiences to (i) organise special conferences or webinars to further promote social awareness and influence key organisations (ii) engage with research institutes and the pharmaceutical industry to find practical solutions. For example,

- I have been invited by the Czech Ministry of Health to co-organise a roundtable meeting "Possible Synergies between Western and Traditional Chinese Medicine" in the Chamber of Deputies, Prague, leading to the legislation of TCM in the Czech Republic (2017)
- I was elected Senior Vice President (Europe) of the American Botanical Drug Association (https://www.botanicaldrug.org) (2020)
- I have collaborated with a biotech company in Shenzhen and used patented technologies to produce high quality herbal teas based on established TCM prescriptions for the prevention and treatment of coronavirus infection.

Our translational research over the past 10 years demonstrates an innovative approach in harnessing natural products for the development of potential therapeutics aiming to improve human health. This offers excellent opportunities to engage with the RSA and its Fellows in new adventures bridging pharmacology and other scientific communities in the UK, China and beyond.

Finally, for those who are interested in exploring more about the RSA: <u>https://www.thersa.org/about</u>

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Ordinary Members		
Xin Chen	University of Macau, Macau, China	
Maggie Pui Man Hoi	University of Macau, Macau, China	
Hao Hu	University of Macau, Macau, China	
Yuanjia Hu	University of Macau, Macau, China	
Kit Ieng Jessmym Kuok	University of Macau, Macau, China	
Hio Kuan Amber Lao	University of Macau, Macau, China	
Siu Cheung Eddie So	Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	
Oi Lam Carolina Ung	University of Macau, Macau, China	
Institutional Members		

Western University Vasile Goldis, Arad, Romania



# **Rudolf Bauer**

### Affiliation

Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences Department of Pharmacognosy University of Graz Beethovenstrasse 8 8010 Graz, Austria



#### What are you working on recently? Any specific project that you would like to share with us?

I am a pharmacist by training and have studied in Munich, Germany.Currently I am the deputy head of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Graz, and the head of the Department of Pharmacognosy, which is the department that deals with natural products and herbal drugs. We are doing research on medicinal plants, not exclusively on TCM, but ca. 80% is TCM.

We are still very active in developing quality control methods for herbal drugs and herbal medicinal products, recently also by using metabolomics-based concepts. I am member of the Expert group 13A and also the Chairman of the Expert Group of Chinese Medicine of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM), which are developing the QC monographs of the European Pharmacopoeia. The European Pharmacopoeia is highly relevant in Europe as it is adopted by 39 member states, including the European Union (EU). Since 2008, we have been actively developing monographs for Chinese herbs. Until now, we have successfully established around 80 monographs in the European Pharmacopoeia.

At University of Graz, we are regularly still developing more monographs with graduate and postgraduate students. We do also research on the identification of active compound and drug discovery as well as pharmacological studies of TCMs. Currently; a major focus is on anti-inflammatory activity, anti-cancer activity, and, most recently, on COVID-19.

# Would you like to share with us how you've first crossed the path with TCM is this what makes you carry on engaging with the research and development of TCM now?

I first crossed the path with TCM 30 years ago. In 1991, when the first TCM hospital (TCM Klinik Bad Kötzting) was opened in Germany. I was working at University of Munich at that time, and my boss, Prof. Hildebert Wagner, and I were invited to be in the scientific advisory board of the hospital and to take care of the quality control of the Chinese herbs.

Back in the 90s, TCM was not well known in Germany, the opening of the first TCM hospital in Germany was an extraordinary event back then (and I know that opening a TCM hospital in certain parts of the World is still difficult now.). The government urged the operator to carry out precise studies of the use of TCM in the hospital and to evaluate the outcome systematically. Therefore, the hospital invited scientists from medicine and pharmacy, to become members of the advisory board of the hospital. Prof. Wagner and I (at the University of Munich) were invited to conduct the quality control



(con.) of the medicines (TCM) and we established a QC system to analyse all the herbs before administration to guarantee the safety of the drugs. We had to analyse every batch of TCM supplied to the hospital before the hospital used it on the patients. On the other hand, there were medical doctors and professors from medical faculties in the advisory board and they were responsible for the clinical quality management and studying the outcome of the medical treatment. With the systematic management and scientific procedures, the hospital could provide convincing results proving the effectiveness of TCM treatment. The hospital was eventually recognized by the public after several years, and even the health insurance companies are now covering the treatment in the TCM hospital.

I was not familiar with TCM at all, when I first started working with it 30 years ago. But, after my intensive involvement in TCM, I found TCM very attractive and scientifically interesting. So, I got engaged in TCM research. I realised that herbs have interesting pharmacological effects, and this encourages me to carry on pharmacological studies of TCM and active compound analysis. And this is what I am still doing now.

Furthermore, when I moved to Graz in 2002, I met a colleague at medical University of Graz, Prof. Gerhard Litscher, who is a specialist in acupuncture research, and I suggested establishing an inter-university TCM research centre. Finally, in 2008 we officially established this TCM research centre in Graz with the support of the Government of Styria, and we have been doing TCM research regularly on both quality control and pharmacological aspects since then.

How would you describe "Good Practice in TCM Research and Development", would you like to share with us any example that you would regard as good practice?

I think that we must remind ourselves of the goal of our efforts. In the end, I think the goal is to gain global acceptance and also acceptance by conventional (Western) medicine, so that integrated medicine is achieved to serve the well-being of the patients as we only want the best for our patients.

To achieve this goal of acceptance, doubtlessly we need **evidence-based medicine**. I believe that 'Best Practice' in TCM research and development is to develop evidence-based medicine with high quality, statistically respected data that are accepted by the scientific community. This is what I regard as 'Best Practice' in TCM research and development. I think we have to **adopt reliable methods for our research** and respect statistics to produce highly relevant results.

Likewise, it is important to use the most updated research methods. Since TCM is often believed to be old-fashioned, we should use cutting-edge methods in order to be compatible with conventional (western) medicine research, and to get out of this assumption.

One of the challenges for performing 'good practice' in TCM research is the limitation of funding, which limits the availability of cutting-edge instruments or resources. Some of the highly relevant experimental designs might be restricted due to the lack of advanced resources. Hence, I think that the exchange of scientists and research collaborations are highly needed. It allows researchers to learn about these advanced techniques. Then scientists can improve the experimental design with advanced methods and eventually improve the quality of the research with more relevant outcome.





Do you see any challenges and opportunities in the future development of TCM?

One of the challenges that TCM research always faces is the complexity of TCM. Conventional (Western) medicine focuses on single drug compounds (like aspirin); the pharmacological and the QC studies for a single compound are much easier to do. TCM focuses on a mixture of herbs and even a single herb consists of hundreds of constituents. Therefore, TCM is rather complex compared to Western medicine. We have to face this complexity and this is challenging.

We could reduce the complexity and make it simple, but this will sacrifice the character of TCM. TCM is a holistic type of medicine which needs this complexity. If we only use pure compounds from herbs then it is not TCM anymore, it will be just like Western Medicine. Therefore, we have to keep and allow this complexity and adjust our methods to face and solve the problems. It is not easy, but with advanced methods and computational studies nowadays, we can work with complex mixtures more easily.



For instance, the QC of TCM was regularly based on the analysis of a single marker compound in former time. But in reality, the quality and activity of all these herbs depends on complex mixtures. The current LC-MS and fingerprinting techniques can keep the complexity and control quality of TCM in a better way. With the utilisation of statistical methods like Principal Component Analysis and Multivariate Statistics, we are now able to compare even complex mixtures.

For the opportunities in TCM research and development, I think also Network Pharmacology is quite relevant as it takes system biology into account. TCM does not treat a single target in our body, it treats the whole body system instead. Therefore, methods that keep the complexity of TCM will bring us forward, for example, Omics Techniques. And these are the opportunities for the future development of TCM.

Another challenge in TCM development is that TCM research usually lacks large scale clinical studies, making the significance of the research outcome limited. Since TCM is an individualized type of medicine, it is not easy to do large scale clinical studies. But we have to overcome this problem for example with multi-center studies.



You are very active in nurturing young scientists and postgraduates students, is there any advice you would like to share?

First, we should ask ourselves, in what way TCM research can attract students and young researchers, and what makes them engage in TCM research.

I think young scientists are interested to involve in a research field that is rewarding and can lead to a good career. We should safeguard the good quality of TCM research, making it as relevant as any other scientific research, in order to attract more young talents to our fields.

In principle, research can get more advanced with the **use of the most advanced methods**, but still you need to keep the **contact to the basics**. Some of the omics research methods (mentioned previously) heavily rely on computers, which young scientists are interested in nowadays. I would recommend young scientists that while doing research with the latest techniques, they should still know the basics at the same time. We should know what the drugs/herbs look like although the research is performed based on computers. For example, now we can identify a plant by its DNA sequence, but it is still necessary to study plant morphology and to know how to identify a plant by its appearance and morphology. Misidentification of a plant also leads to wrong DNA data.

# **Related Stories**

Every year, I bring about 25 pharmacy students from Austria to China for a TCM summer school. The objective is to show our students how TCM is practiced in the 'Home Country of TCM (China)'. We regularly have a lot of fun and these students always enjoy the visit very much. However, at the beginning of the trip, students are often sceptical as the culture is so different. However, after 3 weeks towards the end of the trip, they always have adjusted and finally know how nice Chinese hospitality, the people and the country are. They have enjoyed travelling in China so much that they will never forget and will come back to China on their own.





# Rudolf Bauer

I think these opportunities are precious; the students can see the beauty of China and make some good friends. These trips were useful as it allows young students to have the most authentic experience with TCM, it will certainly attract young talents to carry on with TCM research.

Unfortunately, during the pandemic, travel is restricted. Although we can have online conferences/meetings, it is still not the same. Hopefully, we can travel safely soon and scientific collaboration can resume.





Standardization Working Group for Famous Regional Chinese Materia Medica of Hubei recently involved in the evaluation of Chinese Materia Medica standardization projects. Standardization of TCM would benefit the modernization of TCM.

News and photo adapted from: <u>http://daodi-herbs.com/?p=1052</u>



China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences and Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine have officially signed a joint training agreement to jointly host the "Tu Youyou Class" to nurture high-level traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) talents.

News and photo adapted from: https://www.cacms.ac.cn/zykxy/dtyw/202104/cca8b 42d9ad04d139303a2cca66a55ea.shtml





#### 李时珍诞辰纪念日

李时珍是蕲春的,是湖北的,是中国的,更是世界的。

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#### UNESCO世界记忆名录十周年

2011年,《本草纲目》和《黄帝内经》被列入了世界记忆名录。



26th May is the birthday of the ancient TCM expert Li Shizhen, the founder of Compendium of Materia Medica (Ben Cao Gang Mu, 本草綱目). It is also the 10th Anniversary since UNESCO listed Ben Cao Gang Mu as registered heritage and inscribe to the Memory of the World Register.

News and photo adapted from link here.











Development of contemporary medicines after COVID-19 - Liu Changxiao, Chinese Academy of Engineering.

News and photo adapted from link here.



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The reason behind Professor Paul U. Unschuld spending years working on the translation of the TCM classic work - Compendium of Materia Medica (Ben Cao Gang Mu,本草綱目).

News and photo adapted from: https://cn.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202105/26/WS60adc009a3101e7ce9751ac6.html

Paul U. Unschuld





https://www.nature.com/collections/fajdbdifgf



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The National Innovative Alliance for Standardization and Quality Assessment of Chinese Medicinal Materials was established and the first Council Meeting of the Alliance was held on the same day.



News and photo adapted from link here.





The May-June 2021 Newsletter of GP-TCM Research Association Open-access archives since 2008: www.gp-tcm.org/news-list





The International Conference on Medicinal and Food Plant Research & 3rd Sino-CPLP Symposium on Natural Products and Biodiversity Resources (Date 2021/04/09–10) was held in Shaanxi University of Technology, Hanzhong, China and online <u>https://bioconference.snut.edu.cn/index.htm</u>



With over 300 participants from countries such as Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Russia, South Africa etc. The conference has received a total of 81 abstract, 55 posters (http://www.lifechipz.com/poster/ P/W:123456). 15 speakers including Alvaro Viljoen, Norberto Peporine Lopes, Judith M. Rollinger, Alberto C.P. Dias, Clara Bik-San Lau, Chunlin Long and Simon Ming Yuen Lee etc. The abstract will be published in Frontier in Pharmacology in the coming issue.









## Medicinal Plants and Mushrooms of Yunnan Province of China



A new book edited by Prof. Clara Bik-San Lau (Secretary-General and President-Elect of GP-TCM RA) and Prof. Chun-Lin Long

This book, which will be released on 25 June 2021, is part of the book series of Natural Products Chemistry of Global Plants. Although many texts describe plants from China, the focus of this book is to draw on the rich culture and environment of medicinal plants and fungi/mushrooms of Yunnan Province.

In fact, Yunnan Province covers two global hotspots of biodiversity, with the richest biological and cultural diversity in China. In particular, the Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (founded in 1938 and located in the capital city of Yunnan Province) has made great contributions in the fields of botany and phytochemistry, earning an international reputation.

This book covers those medicinal plants and fungi/mushrooms specific to Yunnan Province, and is written mainly by KIB experts in this research field.



Details: <u>https://www.routledge.com/Medicinal-Plants-and-Mushrooms-of-Yunnan-Province-of-China/Lau-Long/p/book/9781032023380</u>

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### Recommended reading and/or recent research highlight





The replication crisis needs field-specific solutions By David. Peterson.

Nature | Vol 594 | 10 June 2021 | 151.

Details: https://media.nature.com/original/magazine-assets/ d41586-021-01509-7/d41586-021-01509-7.pdf

i Include macrofungi in biodiversity targets, Science DOI: 10.1126/science.abj5479

Details: https://doi.org/10.3389/fmed.2021.682090





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Efficacy, safety and response predictors of adjuvant astragalus for diabetic kidney disease (READY): study protocol of an add-on, assessor-blind, parallel, pragmatic randomised controlled trial

DOI: 10.1136/bmjopen-2020-042686













Journal	Торіс	Details and Dealine
WJTCM World Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine	Qi Deficiency and Blood Stasisw	• 25-July-2021 • From October newsletter. Cannot find any online information.
<b>frontiers</b> in Pharmacology	Edible and Medicinal Plants: From Ethnopharmacological Practices to Interdisciplinary Approaches and Regulations	• 30-July-2021 • <u>Click here for details</u>
LCM LONGHUA CHINESE MEDICINE AN OPEN ACCESS JOURNAL TO BAILOGE CHINESE MEDICINE TO THE WORLD	Pharmacology of Chinese Herbal Medicine	• TBC
<b>frontiers</b> in Neuroscience	Opportunities and Challenges for Drug Discovery from Natural Products in Pharmacotherapy of Neurological Disorders	• 21 September 2021 • <u>Click here for details</u>
<b>frontiers</b>	Epithelial Plasticity and Complexity in Development, Disease and Regeneration	• 27 August 2021 (Manuscript) • <u>Click here for details</u>
Set processes	Special Issue: Advancements in Targeting Proteasomal Degradation to Combat Diseases	• 31-August-2021 • <u>Click here for details</u>
molecules	Special Issue "Recent Advances in Chinese Medicine"	• 31-August-2021 • <u>Click here for details</u>
<b>frontiers</b> in Pharmacology	Ethnopharmacology Research Topic "Medicinal Plants in the Treatment of Gastrointestinal Cancers: How can OMICS Approaches help in understanding their mechanisms of action?	• 15 January 2022 • <u>Click here for details</u>
World Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine	Diabetes and Vascular Disease with TCM	• 30-January-2022 http://www.wjtcm.org/ ch/reader/view_news. aspx?id=20201112161559001
PHYTO medicine	Good Practise in Traditional Chinese Medicine – Research Association 10 years celebration <b>Remarks:</b> Peter Hyland's memorial award for young investigators/PhD students who submit the best article(s) in this Special Issue.	• 31- January -2022







Associate/Assistant Professor in Chinese Medicinal Science, University of Macau, China.

Details: https://career.admo.um.edu.mo/zh-hant/icms\_aap\_06\_2021/



香 港 大 學 THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Post-doctoral Fellow, School of Chinese Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, China.

Details: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/unijobs/ listing/256072/post-doctoral-fellow-school-of-chinese-medicine/





# Visiting Associate Professor (Traditional Chinese Medicine), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Details: https://www.jobstreet.com.sg/en/job/visitingassociate-professor-traditional-chinese-mediciner00000846-8563072?jobId=jobstreet-sg-job-8563072&sectionRank=3&token=0~d70dc891-f880-42d7-a66fabf01f933dfe&searchPath=%2Fen%2Fjob-search%2Fchinesemedicine-jobs%2F&fr=SRP%20View%20In%20New%20Tab



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Visiting Professor (Traditional Chinese Medicine), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Details: https://www.jobstreet.com.sg/en/job/visiting-professortraditional-chinese-medicine-r00000845-8563074?jobld=jobstreetsg-job-8563074&sectionRank=4&token=0~d70dc891-f880-42d7-a66f-abf01f933dfe&searchPath=%2Fen%2Fjobsearch%2Fchinese-medicine-jobs%2F&fr=SRP%20View%20 In%20New%20Tab



# G3 🕞 Student Corner: Others







#### Symposium for students, Date: 12 Jul 2021

International Symposium on Research Advance in Global Health

Details: https://www.eugloh.eu/events/international-symposium-onresearch-advances-in-global-health





PhD in Chinese Medicine

School of Chinese Medicine , The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Details: http://www.scm.cuhk.edu.hk/en-gb/programs/researchmaster-doctoral-program/phd-in-chinese-medicine





Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Biomedical Sciences/ Chinese Medicine/ Translational Medicine/ Pharmacy in Chinese Medicine

School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University

Details: https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/education/research\_ postgraduate\_programmes/index.html#list/0







#### Med Plant Hunt with iNaturalist



In order to promote conservation of wildlife, especially wild medicinal plant and TCM herbs, and their environment, a challenge on **"Med Plant Hunt"** will be launched.

The aim of challenge is to encourage our members to identify and recognize the morphological features of living wild medicinal plant in nature.

#### **Eligibility:**

Med Plant Hunt is free and open to all GP-TCM RA members.

Entries must abide by the guidelines below.

#### **Rules & Guidelines:**

iNaturalist is a nature app to help you identify the animals and plants around you and provide a platform to connect you and experts to share about nature. Users can record and share their observations and the findings can enrich scientific data repositories like the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

Create your own account and share your wild medicinal plant observation to mobile iNaturalist app or iNaturalist website.

#### How to enter:

1.Complete the registration form with iNaturalist user ID.

2.Make the observation of living wild medicinal plant around you with iNaturalist app/website.

3. With the submitted iNaturalist ID, your observation for entry will be automatically recorded and results will be announced in the coming issue of the newsletter.

For inquiries about Med Plant Hunt, please send email to gptcm\_medplanthunt@outlook.com





#### Med Plant Hunt with iNaturalist

#### **Prizes:**



- Adventurous Observer: The highest number of observed species
- TCM Photographer: Best photo shoot
- Lucky Observer: Observe rare species



The selected entries will be published on the next issue of the newsletter. An electronic certificate and **a complementary gift** (e.g. water bottle ideal for outdoor activities, sponsored by Macau Pharmacology Association) will be given.





# **Med Plant Hunt Registration Form**

Name:

Email:

Affiliation:

Country or region:

iNaturalist account information

User name:

User email:

(Please send the form to bgtcm\_medplanthunt@outlook.com for registration)





Mongolian milk vetch (*Astragalus mongholicus*, Fabaceae, 蒙古黄耆 / 黄芪 , left) and Hairy fig (*Ficus hirta*, Moraceae, 粗叶榕 / 南芪 , right)



(LEFT) Native to north, northwest and west China (Kazakhstan, Mongolia, and Russia as well), the dried root of Mongolian milk vetch (astragali radix) is an official Chinese medicinal recorded in ancient mainstream materia medica and nowadays national pharmacopoeias. As a *daodi* medicinal material, astragali radix supplements qi, raises the yang, stabilizes the exterior, promotes urination, outthrusts toxins, and engenders flesh. It is an important ingredient of many Chinese medicinal formulas that are indicated for syndromes of spleen deficiency and sinking of the middle qi, lung deficiency with spontaneous sweating, edema and reduced urination from deficiency, and chronic ulcerations and sores due to deficiency.

(RIGHT) Native to Lingnan region of China (south and northeast Asia as well), the dried root of hairy fig (fici radix) is a folk Chinese medicinal recorded in ancient regional materia medica and nowadays provincial standards of Chinese medicinal materials. As a Lingnan medicinal material, fici radix supplements spleen and lung, regulates qi, transforms dampness, and relaxes the tendons. It is also a popular medicinal that is claimed to have similar yet milder supplementing effects with that of astragali radix, and thus recognized as so-called "south astragali radix" by local Chinese medicine community.

### 黄芪

初临粤地遇黄芪 似客相逢近却疑 年幼常闻居北部 方中偶见落花时

#### 南芪

初临粤地夏时长 漫步街头闻酒香 过客频来勤探问 南芪釜里可成汤

The above colour photographs, English texts and Chinese poems are contributed by Prof **Hubiao Chen** (Hong Kong), Dr **Ping Guo** (Hong Kong) and Prof **Jiqing Liu** (Shenzhen), respectively. This column is advised by Prof **Zhongzhen Zhao** (Hong Kong).