

The July 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



NEW Graz Welcomes You!

We look forward to meeting you at the 12th CGCM Annual Meeting and the 2nd Annual Meeting of the GP-TCM RA to be held in Graz, Austria, 26th-30th August. If you have not registered yet, you can still do so on <http://www.cgcm2013.org/>

Arrival by car: Graz is located at the hub of central Europe's road network. Venice, Munich and Budapest are all about four hours' drive away.

Arrival by train: Excellent express train connections within Europe. From Salzburg, it is about 4 h, from Vienna 2.5 h by train. The main railway station is situated about 15 min from the congress centre by bus: www.oebb.at.

Arrival by air: Austrian Airlines, Lufthansa, Tyrolean Airways and other international carriers are serving Graz on a daily basis. The best connections to Graz are via Frankfurt and Munich. There are many connecting flights to Graz. Another option is via Vienna; from there you can take a train or flight. The best is to use Star Alliance carriers. The city centre can be reached from the Graz airport by bus no. 630 and 631 (one-way ticket € 2.10), train, or taxi (approx. 20 €). From Graz airport to the hotels, it's the best to take a taxi.

Graz airport website: www.flughafen-graz.at

Visa: Participants are advised to make their own arrangements and to contact the Austrian Embassy in their residence country with respect to entering Austria. For information please see: <http://www.austria.org>. Please contact the congress secretariat (cgcm2013@uni-graz.at), if you need an invitation letter.

Climate: The weather in Graz at this time of the year is usually pleasant with an average daily maximum of 20 degrees centigrade. However, the nights could be already a little bit chilly.

Important links:

- Constantly updated details of the meetings can be found at <http://www.cgcm2013.org/>
- City of Graz (including interactive city map): www.graz.at
- University of Graz: www.uni-graz.at
- Tourist office of Graz: www.graztourismus.at

NEW Exposed: toxic pesticides cocktail revealed in traditional Chinese herbs

Press release - June 24, 2013

Beijing, June 24, 2013 – Greenpeace East Asia tests on 65 traditional Chinese herbal products have exposed a toxic cocktail of pesticide residues, some of them illegal in China, highlighting the need to end the use of industrial agricultural chemicals.

The Greenpeace East Asia report, 'Chinese herbs: elixir of health or pesticides cocktail?', shows that Chinese herbal products were covered in pesticide residues considered highly hazardous by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Some of the residue levels were hundreds of times higher than EU food safety standards. The report exposes how:

- 51 different types of pesticides residues were found on 65 sampled products;
- 6 illegal pesticides in China (phorate, carbofuran, fipronil, methamidophos, aldicarb and ethoprophos) were found on 26 (40%) of the samples;
- 10 pesticides classified by the World Health Organization as extremely or highly hazardous were found on 26 (40%) of the samples. Among them, extremely hazardous pesticides (class Ia): aldicarb, ethoprophos and phorate; and highly hazardous pesticides (class Ib): Carbofuran, Cyfluthrin, Methamidophos, Methidathion, Methomyl, Omethoate Triazophos.

The July 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



Some pesticide residues were found in extremely high concentrations. For example, the fungicide thiophanate-methyl residue on the San Qi Flower was 500 times over the safety limit according to European maximum residue limits (MRLs) and thiophanate-methyl residue on honeysuckle was over 100 times that limit.

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/press/releases/Exposed-toxic-pesticides-cocktail-revealed-in-traditional-Chinese-herbs/>
<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/Global/eastasia/publications/reports/food-agriculture/2013/chinese-herbs-pesticides-report.pdf>

Statement from the Board of Directors of GP-TCM RA



The study published by Greenpeace on pesticide residues in Chinese herbal drugs is alarming and invites commentary but whether the outcomes of the study are representative must be questioned.

Contamination with pesticides is certainly a serious health risk – it is for this reason that there are clear regulations in place for food as well as for medicinal products. However, there may be a difference whether these regulations are respected and adhered to. When Chinese herbal drugs are used for medicinal purposes, they must undergo rigorous quality control before being allowed to be sold in pharmacies, and the materials must comply with the relevant pharmacopœial monographs. This includes a test for pesticides. If any contaminated batch is detected it must be discarded. On the basis of these stringent regulations, good agricultural and collection practice (GACP) rules have been established and organic farming is common. China has also implemented these rules in the cultivation of medicinal plants.

This raises the question on the origin of the samples tested by Greenpeace. The products tested can be used both as medicine and as food. Based on the list of the suppliers and the legal situation in the particular countries it can be assumed that all the tested products were sold as food supplements.

Thus the results obtained by Greenpeace may be relevant to the food sector, but they are probably not so representative for the field of medicinal products sold in pharmacies. The last published survey of pesticide residues in Chinese herbal drugs sold in German pharmacies by the Central Laboratory of German Pharmacists in Eschborn detected only a single instance of pesticide residues above the limit [1,2], and in some cases excessive heavy metal contents.

The Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association is very much aware of these problems, and therefore has always stressed the importance of GACP and proper quality control for a safe use of Chinese herb drugs [3,4]. In addition, the Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association is currently proposing,

The July 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



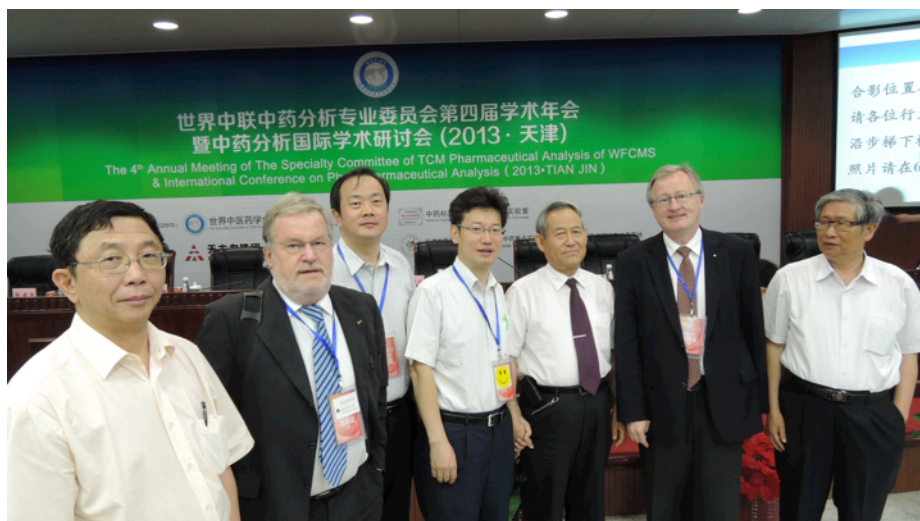
through appropriate channels in EU member states, to prioritise EU-China collaboration in the Health Scheme under Horizon 2020 by including the topics “Traditional Chinese Medicine: Personalised medicine, network pharmacology, safety issues and chronic disease”.

References:

- [1] Ihrig M, Ali SL. Qualität von Drogen der Traditionellen Chinesischen Medizin. *Pharm Ztg* 2001; **146**: 416-22.
- [2] Ihrig M, Kaunzinger A., Baumann J, Orbig H, Reising K, Schäfer R, Scholl C. Qualitätsmängel bei TCM-Drogen (2004). *Pharm Ztg* **149**: 3776-84.
- [3] Uzuner H, Bauer R, Fan TP, Guo DA, Dias A, El-Nezami H, Efferth T, Williamson EM, Heinrich M, Robinson N, Hylands PJ, Hendry BM, Cheng YC, Xu Q., Traditional Chinese medicine research in the post-genomic era: Good practice, priorities, challenges and opportunities. *J Ethnopharmacol.* 2012; **140**: 458-468
- [4] Zhang B, Peng Y, Zhang Z, Liu H, Qi Y, Liu S, Xiao P. GAP production of TCM herbs in China. *Planta Med.* 2010; **76**:1948-55.

Meeting Reports:

1. **NEW** **President-elect and President of the GP-TCM RA played major roles in the 4th Annual Meeting of the Specialty Committee of TCM Pharmaceutical Analysis of WFCMS & International Conference on Phytopharmaceutical Analysis, which was held on 21st -23rd June 2013 in Tianjin, China.** The meeting was co-organised by the TCM Pharmaceutical Analysis Specialty Committee of WFCMS and National Engineering Lab for TCM Standardization Technology and was co-hosted by Tasly, Agilent, Tianjin University of TCM. Approximately 180 experts from mainland China, Taiwan, Austria and Germany attended the conference. The conference focused on the Globalisation of TCM Standardisation. The experts exchanged views and discussed new achievements and developments in a series of theme lectures, keynote speeches, panel discussion and posters. The main contents included the inevitable trend of development of the quality control of TCM products; evolution and quality control of TCM in Europe, ideas and methods about pharmacokinetics of TCM and 3D design essentials, applications of ultrafiltration mass spectrometry in the screening of active ingredients from TCM, etc. President-elect Prof. De-an Guo was a core organiser of this successful event and GP-TCM RA President Prof. Rudolf Bauer also attended the meeting. Rudi gave a lecture on *Quality control of TCM granules – a challenge for pharmacists* and participated in a panel discussion at the WFCMS & International Conference on Phytopharmaceutical Analysis He distributed flyers of the Graz Meetings and advertised GP-TCM RA by presenting the structure and goals. En route Beijing, Rudi met Vice Director Li Da-ning (State Administration of TCM) to discuss monograph issues and to promote GP-TCM RA.



The July 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



2. **Now** BoD Members and Life Member of GP-TCM RA played important roles in AFERP & STOLON International Symposium in Brussels:

On 22nd-24th May 2013, "The French-speaking association for the study and research in pharmacognosy - AFERP" and "The fungal - plant science association teachers-researchers of pharmacy faculties in French – STOLON" co-organised their first joint symposium in Brussels. Two GP-TCM RA Life Members Prof. Caroline Stévigny and Prof. Pierre Duez (Université Libre de Bruxelles, ULB) were among the local organisers of the symposium, with considerable help from their Belgian colleague, Joëlle Leclercq (Université Catholique de Louvain, UCL). The event brought together almost 200 researchers in this multidisciplinary field of natural substances of biological interest, including those belonging to the AFERP and STOLON associations and Belgian scientists.



Four GP-TCM RA BoD members (Prof. Monique Simmonds, Prof. Pierre Duez, Prof. Rob Verpoorte and Dr. Qihe Xu) were invited speakers, presenting their own work with emphasis on the FP7 GP-TCM project. Monique's talk on botanical authentication and Pierre's lecture on toxicological evaluation delivered messages transversal to both botanists and pharmacognosts. Rob particularly rocked the congressists with innovating views on paths to discovery and Qihe delivered a talk explaining, with both humour and food-for-thought spirit, "Why am I here? – The herbal journal of a nephrologist".

This congress gave the possibility to participants to scour the campuses of ULB (welcome party) and UCL (conference) and to enjoy some pleasures of Brussels, notably a degustation of Belgian cheese and beer at the welcome party, a gala dinner at the "Grand Place" and a guided tour of the National Botanical Garden in Meise. More details about this event are available on the website of the AFERP association: www.aferp.univ-rennes1.fr

3. **Now** The 9th BoD Teleconference was held 9:00-11:00 BST / 10:00-12:00 CEST / 16:00-18:00 Beijing Time / 18:00-20:00 Sydney local time, Monday 1st July 2013. The t/c was chaired by Prof. Rudolf Bauer and attended by Prof. Kelvin Chan, Prof. Pierre Duez, Dr. Tai-Ping Fan, Prof. De-an Guo, Prof. Peter Hylands, Prof. Nicola Robinson, Prof. Vivian Wong and Dr. Qihe Xu. Apologies were received from Prof. Aiping Lu, Prof. Monique Simmonds and Prof. Rob Verpoorte.

The July 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



The meeting received reports from President, Vice Presidents, Secretary-General and Treasurer and discussed issues related to the CGCM and GP-TCM RA meetings to be held in Graz.

4. New The 5th Executive Council (ExC) Teleconference was held, 10.00-11.10 BST/ 11.00-12.10 CEST on Friday 26th July 2013. Chaired by Prof. Rudolf Bauer, the t/c was attended by Dr. Tai-Ping Fan, Prof. De-an Guo and Dr. Qihe Xu. The meeting reviewed monthly reports by President, Vice Presidents, Secretary-General and made important decisions on the scientific programmes, travel grants, sponsorship of the 2nd Annual Meeting, the 3rd BoD Meeting and the Members Assembly to be held in Graz, as well as on bylaws amendments and registration.

New Proposal submitted: Why, how and what should Horizon 2020 fund TCM Research?
The UK Medical Research Council (MRC) currently leads the UK delegation on the FP7 Health Programme Management Committee (PMC). The PMC consists of a delegation from each European Member State and one of the Committee's roles is to input into and approve the final content of the calls published under the FP7 Health Theme. The committee/advisory structure for Horizon 2020 has yet to be confirmed; however, the MRC is currently welcoming suggestions for call topics from UK organisations and researchers with an interest in the Horizon 2020, *Societal Challenge: Health, demographic change and wellbeing*. **In response to the call from the MRC, GP-TCM RA members in the UK has put forward the following proposal:**

Proposed Thematic/Disease/Research Area: EU-China collaboration in Health Theme /Chronic Disease / Traditional Chinese Medicine, Personalised Medicine, Systems-based Approach to Pharmacology, Toxicology, Efficacy and Safety

Proposed Call Topic Title: Traditional Chinese Medicine: *Personalised medicine, network pharmacology, safety issues and chronic disease*

Proposed Call Description: The last decade witnessed increased interests from mainline pharmaceutical companies in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) as sources for mainline and new types of drugs. Hundreds of herbal medicinal products (HMPs), including TCM-based products, are being registered as herbal drugs by HMPC/EMA. TCM products are thus entering the EU as sources of legal HMPs and functional foodstuff as well as via online shopping.

In view of this, EU supported the FP7 GP-TCM Coordination Action (<http://project.gp-tcm.org>; 2009-2012). It was concluded that TCM in the globalised market represents both opportunities (its *personalised and function-oriented features, pre-emptive approaches and its values as sources for cost-effective multi-target remedies and modern pharmaceutical discoveries against chronic diseases*) and challenges (*acute and chronic adverse reactions*).

The FP7 GP-TCM project proposes that priority in future EU-China collaborations in the Health Theme under Horizon 2020 should be given to *TCM-related personalised medicine, TCM-based multi-target drugs, especially the treatment of chronic diseases as well as safety issues*.

Proposed Call Objectives:

1. Catalyse innovation in *personalised medicine, systems-based pharmaceutical discovery and healthcare* by integrating knowledge from Western and Eastern approaches to healthcare;
2. Enable *cost-effective therapies* to benefit EU citizens through clinical trials of selected TCM products;
3. Prevent the *risks associated with some TCM products* through promoting appropriate use of materia medica, and evidence-based regulation;
4. Apply *omics and systems biology* methodology to *personalised TCM diagnosis and a network pharmacology approach* to HMP research;
5. Promote *strategic partnership between EU and China, as well as among EU member states*, in health related research and innovation.

The July 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



Justification:

1. EU is the second largest market of TCM products after Asia;
2. Characterised by the use of multi-target HMPs guided by personalised diagnosis, TCM is arguably the most complementary health-related area China has to offer to the EU;
3. Chronic diseases are major challenges facing Europe and personalised medicine and innovative pharmaceuticals are priorities in Horizon 2020;
4. Through the EMA, medicinal regulation is at the EU level. Thus, an EU-China collaboration will achieve sustainable effects;
5. This call is a logical evolution of GP-TCM, EU's first FP7 EU-China collaboration on TCM research. The project developed good practice guidelines, state-of-the-art reports and consensus on priorities, challenges and opportunities for TCM;
6. WHO promotes the use of traditional medicine for healthcare. In the US and Australia, NCCAM and NICM provide leadership and support for strategically directed research of complementary medicine, including TCM, and translation of evidence into clinical practice and health policy.

Potential Project Partners

1. TCM is an integral part of mainstream medicine in China; in China there are 47 well-funded TCM universities and colleges, which are truly interested in continuing collaborations with the EU, already kick-started by the FP7 GP-TCM project;
2. To sustainably develop, refine and disseminate good practices and promote EU-China collaboration in TCM research, the GP-TCM Research Association (<http://www.gp-tcm.org>) has succeeded the FP7 GP-TCM consortium since November 2012 and will guide future developments through promoting integrity, integration and innovation;
3. 15 EU member states have been involved in the FP7 GP-TCM project. The following PIs in 10 EU member states and associated countries support our proposal for giving TCM research priority in EU-China collaboration in the Health Theme of Horizon 2020. These countries will submit their similar proposals to their FP7 Health PMC contacts, respectively.
 - **Austria:** Rudolf Bauer, University of Graz
 - **Belgium:** Pierre Duez, Université libre de Bruxelles
 - **Estonia:** Anu Aaspõllu, Asper Biotech
 - **Germany:** Jandirk Sendker, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, Münster
 - **Ireland:** Helen Sheridan, Trinity College Dublin
 - **Italy:** Enrica Bosisio, University of Milan; Maria Carrara, University of Padova
 - **Luxembourg:** Ning Wang, Centre de Recherche Public- Sante
 - **Norway:** Odd Georg Nilsen, Norwegian University of Science & Technology
 - **Romania:** Joseph Mezei, Transylvanian Association of Integrated Quantum Medicine
 - **The Netherlands:** Rob Verpoorte, Leiden University

The proposal was coordinated by Dr. Qihe Xu (**UK**) and was expertly advised by Prof. Rudolf Bauer (**Austria**), Dr Alessandro Buriani (**Italy**), Prof. Kelvin Chan (**Australia**), Prof. Yung-Chi Cheng (**USA**), Dr. Alexandru-Sorin Costescu (**European Commission**), Dr Tai-Ping Fan (**UK**), Dr. Alex Harris (**MRC, UK**), Prof. Aiping Lu (**China**), Prof. Nicola Robinson (**UK**), Dr. Jandirk Sendker (**Germany**), Prof. Monique Simmonds (**UK**) and Prof. Rob Verpoorte (**The Netherlands**).

The July 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



Background on **Horizon 2020: International Co-operation Activities Across Horizon 2020**

Summary

This article summarises the areas within Horizon 2020 where there is the opportunity to collaborate with partners from non-European countries.

Article

The European Commission's Communication on 'Enhancing and focusing EU international co-operation in research and innovation, a strategic approach' states that a "dual approach" to international co-operation will occur in Horizon 2020. The first approach will be openness in international co-operation and will be supported by Pillar 1 of Horizon 2020 by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, the European Research Council and Research Infrastructures and will focus on researcher-driven activities that are open to researchers from third countries. The second approach will be targeted international co-operation activities via the societal challenges (Pillar 3) and the enabling and industrial technologies challenge (Pillar 2). There will also be cross-cutting international co-operation activities, such as supporting policy dialogue in research and innovation with international partners, which will be supported by Challenge 6: Europe in a changing world: inclusive, innovative and reflective societies.

The funding instruments for supporting international co-operation include research and innovation projects (collaborative projects with international partners), networking activities, and joint initiatives with international partners such as coordinated calls and joint calls.

Any legal entity based in a third country will be able to participate in Horizon 2020, however unlike in FP7, only countries that have a GDP below EUR 3 trillion will be eligible to receive automatic funding.

News of GP-TCM RA members

1. President Rudi Bauer attended three conferences in July, in which he advertised GP-TCM RA and the annual meeting in Graz. On 8-9 July 2013, he attended the 12th International Congress "Phytopharm 2013 and gave a plenary lecture on "*Evaluation of traditional medicines - prospects and hurdles*". (The photograph shows Prof. Peter Shabanov, Prof. Vladimir Dadali, Prof. Valery Makarov, Prof. Alexander Shikov, Prof. Johannes Novak, and Prof. Rudolf Bauer).

From 13 to 17 July 2013, he attended the 54th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy "Natural products at a crossroad: current and future directions" in St. Louis, USA. He gave an invited lecture on "Challenges in the quality control of Chinese herbal products". Monique Simmonds, who also attended, gave a lecture on "Ethnobotany and Natural Product Research: Opportunities and Challenges". (The photograph shows Prof. Guido Pauli, Prof. Rudolf Bauer, and Dr. Cindy Angerhofer).

From 21 to 25 July 2013, he attended the Young Scientists Meeting co-organized by the Phytochemical Society of Europe and the Austrian Pharmaceutical Society "Trends in Natural Products Research" at University of Innsbruck Centre in Obergurgl/Tyrol, Austria, and gave the opening plenary lecture on "Quality Control of Herbal Medicines".



The July 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



2. The Joint Chair In Traditional Chinese Medicine (JCTCM) Program In New South Wales, Australia. To meet the needs and demands of the integration of complementary medicines into healthcare, modernising the healthcare professional/provider (practitioners, nurses, paramedical workers, community care providers and social workers) through education and training is of strategic importance. In July 2012, Australia initiated registration of all Chinese medicine practitioners, supported by standards, codes and guidelines To address some of these issues, an agreement between The University of Sydney (USyd), University of Western Sydney (UWS) and the NSW Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD), now the Office of Science Research (OSR), was initiated in 2008. This established the JCTCM programme to assist in fostering collaboration and growth in the research and development of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in NSW. The Chair is a strategic appointment whereby the holder of the Chair should provide national leadership in TCM research and develop synergistic TCM research programs at USyd and UWS. The programme is jointly funded by DSRD, USyd and the UWS, and the projects are supported through the Faculty of Pharmacy (USyd) and the Centre for Complementary Medicine Research (CompleMED, UWS).

For a reprint of the China Express from the China Studies Centre at the University of Sydney reporting the Joint Chair in TCM program supported by the New South Wales State Government: http://sydney.edu.au/china_studies_centre/china_express/issue_4/features/The-JCTCM-Programme-in-NSW.shtml



“

In Australia, two in three people use complementary medicine each year, with the complementary medicine industry worth \$1.5-2.5 billion per annum¹. Of those that take complementary medicine, around 27% use Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM).²

News and funding opportunities from the EU

1. **New** **EU 28: On 01/07/2013, Croatia became the 28th member state of the EU.**

http://ec.europa.eu/news/eu_explained/130701_en.htm


2. **New** **Horizon 2020: Deal Secured:** After long negotiations a deal has finally been secured on Horizon 2020 during yesterday's triologue meeting. The Irish EU Presidency has announced that the Council and the European Parliament have finally come to an agreement on remaining outstanding issues and that a provisional deal has been secured. The deal is provisional as it still has to be endorsed by so-called Committee of Permanent Representatives in the Council. This should however be a formality. *An agreement was brokered between the Council and the European Parliament, based on the EUR 960 billion budget agreed at the EU Summit in February 2013.*


3. **New** **Lithuanian EU Council Presidency: Health Sector Priorities Announced:** The Lithuanian Health Minister V. P. Andriukaitis stressed that Lithuania is ready to tackle EU health issues. "Citizens of the EU are waiting for us to figure out a way to make the European health systems more resistant to economic hardships and more flexible to innovation," he said. The priorities announced were: *Revision of the tobacco products directive; sustainable health systems;*


The July 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



general approach on clinical trials on medicinal products for human use; regulations on medical devices as well as on in vitro diagnostic medical devices.

4.  COSME programme funding agreed for 2014 to 2020: The European Parliament has come to an agreement with the Irish Presidency for funding for the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME). The Programme will receive EUR 2 billion from 2014 to 2020. COSME is the EU programme specifically designed to assist SMEs through improving access to finance and markets, promoting entrepreneurship and improving conditions for the competitiveness and sustainability of EU SMEs. COSME will achieve this through two separate instruments: (1) Improved access to finance for SMEs in the form of equity and debt comprising over 60% of the total COSME budget; (2) improved access to markets for SMEs, to facilitate business expansion inside the EU and globally through growth-oriented support services via the Enterprise Europe Network.

5.  LIFE Programme 2014-2020 Agreed: An agreement on the LIFE programme, which funds projects in the area of environment and nature conservation, has been brokered between the Council and the European Parliament in the end of June 2013. The current LIFE+ programme (<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>) runs until the end of 2013. From 2014-2020, the LIFE programme will fund projects on priorities such as nature and biodiversity, resource efficiency, and new provisions for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Over EUR 3 billion has been earmarked for the new LIFE programme from the EU budget for 2014 to 2020, a rise compared to the budget for 2007-2013 of around EUR 2.2 billion.

6.  Call for Proposals: Innovative Medicines Initiative 9th Call – 2013: The European Commission has launched a call for proposals, IMI 9th call, for the Joint Technology Initiatives (Annex IV-SP1) under the 2013 Co-operation Work Programme. Deadline(s): 09/10/2013. Call identifier: IMI-CALL-2013-9. Indicative Budget: EUR 135 370 000: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/call_FP7;efo7_SESSION_ID=h4vZRd6cpdBYWLtqznIT5WF3s0ck7qnSn2q202GB6gHf7FnwGhix!1819829539?callIdentifier=IMI-CALL-2013-9&specificProgram=COOPERATION#wlp_call_FP7

Invitations from Meetings, Journals and HMPC:

1. The GP-TCM RA Newsletters invite your inputs: If you have any interesting news to share, please e-mail secretary-general@gp-tcm.org. To recommend your colleagues to join the GP-TCM RA, please advise them to apply: www.gp-tcm.org/about/membership/. Many thanks!

2. 61st International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA), Sept 1 - 5, 2013, Muenster, Germany. <http://www.ga2013.org/>

3. From Hierarchy of Evidence to Good Practice- Celebrating 30 years of the Research Council For Complementary Medicine, 25th September 2013 – 2.00pm-7.00pm. Venue: The Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG www.royalsociety.org. To register in advance, e-mail camrn@rccm.org.uk.

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

- Angelicae sinensis radix – Dang Gui (當歸):
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/herbal/medicines/herbal_med_000197.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001fa1d
- Andrographidis paniculatae folium - Chuan Xin Lian (穿心蓮):
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/herbal/medicines/herbal_med_000173.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001fa1d
- Camelliae non fermentatum folium - Lu Cha (綠茶):
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/herbal/medicines/herbal_med_000175.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001fa1d

The July 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



- Ginseng radix – Ren Shen (人參):
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/herbal/medicines/herbal_med_000106.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001fa1d
- Withaniae somniferae radix – Shui Qie (睡茄):
http://www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/herbal/medicines/herbal_med_000187.jsp&mid=WC0b01ac058001fa1d

5. European Journal of Integrative Medicine special issues:

- **Clinical Guidelines for Integrated Practice.** The Co-Editors of this special issue is Prof. Jianping Liu, Dr. Myeong Soo Lee and Prof. Nicola Robinson. It will be open access and this means publication charges will apply for successful submissions. www.elsevier.com/eujim.
- **Ensuring and Improving patients safety in Integrative health care:** This special issue will be co-edited by Dr. Hugh MacPherson, Prof. Heather Boon and Prof. Nicola Robinson. For details, please visit: <http://www.gp-tcm.org/2013/01/call-for-papers-ensuring-and-improving-patients%C2%92-safety-in-integrative-health-care-the-europeanjournal-of-integrative-medicine/>

Recommended Readings:

NEW 1. **MHRA issues warning to people with diabetes about dangerous herbal food supplement claims:** <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/NewsCentre/Pressreleases/CON295458> The advertisement for Vedagrin (also known as Vedanate) promotes the unlicensed medicine as an alternative to prescribed diabetes medication with the words “say goodbye to your diabetes medication forever”. This breaks advertising regulations for medicines and the MHRA has instructed the company to stop selling the product. Richard Woodfield, MHRA’s Head of Herbal Policy said: “People with diabetes should ignore these advertising claims and continue to take their prescribed medicine.”

NEW 2. **Obesity is a disease in the US. Should it be?** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/23011804>

NEW 3. **A systematic review of experimental and clinical acupuncture in chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy** (Franconi G, et al. eCAM 2013): <http://www.hindawi.com/journals/ecam/aip/516916/>

NEW 4. **Priority Medicines for Europe and the World Update Report, 2013.** In 2004, WHO was commissioned to produce a report on Priority Medicines for Europe and the World by the Netherlands Ministry of Health. In 2013 the European Commission requested that the report be updated as a resource to be used in planning the Horizon 2020 combined research programme for the European Union. The primary audience for the 2013 Update are the decision-makers working in the European Commission, Parliament, and Council who will be responsible for defining the Horizon 2020 Programme. For the first eight chapters of the report there are a total of 38 background papers that have been prepared. http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/priority_medicines/en/

NEW 5. **Attention!! "Omega-3s May Raise Prostate Cancer Risk"**

Omega-3 fatty acids have been shown to have many health benefits. But they may have risks as well, including an increased risk for prostate cancer. In a nine-year prospective study, scientists at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle took annual blood samples from 834 men diagnosed with prostate cancer and 1,393 men who were cancer free. The study, published online in The Journal of the National Cancer Institute, controlled for more than a dozen cancer risk factors. <http://jnci.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2013/07/09/jnci.djt174.abstract>; http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/07/22/omega-3s-may-raise-prostate-cancer-risk/?_r=0

Acknowledgements

Contributions from Prof. **Rudolf Bauer** (Austria), Prof. **Kelvin Chan** (Australia), Mrs. **Greer Deal** (UK), Prof. **Pierre Duez** (Belgium), Dr. **Tai-Ping Fan** (UK), Prof. **De-an Guo** (China), Prof. **Nicola Robinson** (UK), Prof. **Caroline Stévigny** (Belgium), Dr. **Qihe Xu** (UK) are gratefully acknowledged.