

**The May 2017 Newsletter of
The GP-TCM Research Association
The Dragon Boat Festival Special Edition**



Now Editorial

The 2017 Consensus Camp of Taiwan Herbal Pharmacopeia



Prof. **Yuan-Shiun Chang** (張永勳教授)

Deputy Editor-in-chief

The GP-TCM RA Newsletter

Professor of Pharmacognosy

Department of Chinese Pharmaceutical Sciences & Chinese Medicine Resources

College of Chinese Medicine

China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan.

E-mail: yschang@mail.cmu.edu.tw; yschang0404@gmail.com

“The 2017 Consensus Camp of Taiwan Pharmacopeia” was held in Taipei on the 5th May 2017. The meeting was jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and Welfare and China Medical University. Taiwan Herbal Pharmacopeia was promulgated by the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan, in 2013 with three hundred herbal items. To speed up the compilation of the next version of Taiwan Herbal Pharmacopeia, four sub-committees were organized, namely, herb origin, quality specification, herbal preparation and clinical aspects, with 20–25 expert members in each sub-committee. Besides all sub-committees members, the consensus camp brought together over 200 eminent researchers, academicians, physicians, manufacturers, as well as experts from the corporate sector, marketing consultants and representatives from organizations related to TCM.

The consensus camp provided an opportunity to feature the many examples of different pharmacopeia in different countries and to advance the quality of TCM products in terms of manufacturing. In many ways, this consensus camp will help improve regulatory requirements, standards of the future work and updates of Taiwan Herbal Pharmacopeia. It was clear that this camp lent momentum for moving forward together to navigate the development of quality control of TCM by having an insight on different pharmacopeial versions.



Group photo of Speakers and Chairmen

Four speakers were invited to the Consensus camp, including **Prof. Rudolf Bauer** from Austria and **Prof. Yukihiro Goda** from Japan.

Prof. Yi-Tsau Huang, the Director General, Department of Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy, Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan, delivered his opening remarks and kicked off the consensus camp with the first session on the topic “Taiwanese Herbal Pharmacopeial Edition and the Quality Control of TCM”. He presented the characteristics of current Taiwanese Herbal Pharmacopeia and future work to create updated monographs. Besides, his presentation also provided a general guide on the quality control of TCM in Taiwan.

Prof. Huang presented Taiwan Herbal Pharmacopoeia to Prof. Bauer

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer, University of Graz, the Chairman of TCM-Working Party of the European Pharmacopeia. With the topic “Quality Control of TCM in Europe and Related Regulations in European Pharmacopeia”, Dr. Bauer offered a lot of convincing and timely information on the

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importance of serious quality control based on pharmacopeial monographs in order to guarantee safety and efficacy of herbal drugs.

The session continued with an inspirational talk by **Dr. Yukihiro GODA**, Head of Division of Drugs, National Institutes of Health Sciences, Japan, entitled “Quality Control of Kampo and Related Regulations in Japanese Pharmacopeia”. Apart from presenting the content and development of Japanese Pharmacopeia, he lent insights into features of crude herbs and Kampo products, including the manufacturing process, in Japan, and illustrated application of qNMR in checking the purity of chemical markers in quantitation of herbs and herbal preparations.

The afternoon session started with the topic “The Development of Quality Specification to Taiwan Herbal Pharmacopoeia and International Trend of Quality Control of TCM” by **Prof. Yuan-Shiun Chang**, China Medical University. Apart from introducing his passionate work in compilation of the Taiwanese Pharmacopeia, he also shared his great experience in participating the work on various other pharmacopeias, such as the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards program, and his recent involvement in the US Pharmacopeia and the European Pharmacopeia.

Prof. Yi-Tsau Huang presented the English version of Taiwan Pharmacopeia to our invited guests. The English version was completed by Prof. Yuan-Shiun Chang and his team members and was published in October 2016. Each participant also received a copy of a CD version as a reference.



Prof. Yi-Tsau Huang presented the English version of Taiwan Pharmacopeia to Prof. Rudolf Bauer

All four sessions marked a unique opportunity for all the attendees to acquire knowledge about different quality control concepts of traditional herbs, be it Europe, Japan, U.S., Hong Kong or Taiwan. The session offered an important opportunity to approach crucial challenges for the future development of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The consensus camp ended with a short discussion session. Experts from various fields in the development of TCM addressed some topics related to current situations in Taiwan and discussed future development of TCM. Finally, Prof. Yuan-Shiun Chang acknowledged funding from the Ministry of Health and Welfare and thanked everyone for participating, supporting and guiding them for making the consensus camp a grand success.



Group photo of 2017 Consensus Camp of Taiwan Pharmacopeia

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Special Features

1. Hong Kong Baptist University produce Chinese medicine TV series, in collaboration with TVB, to be broadcast from May 2017. To expand the “Compendium of Materia Medica” Cultural Project, the HKBU School of Chinese Medicine and the Art Concept Culture Institute jointly present “The Chinese Materia Medica for us All” TV series. The series uses a popular style to promote the culture of Chinese medicine and disseminates knowledge about high quality herbal medicines to the public. Starting on 29 May, the 120-episode TV series, with each episode two minutes long, will be aired on TVB J5 channel every weekday at 20:30. A premiere event was held on 8 May, officiated by Under Secretary for Home Affairs Ms Florence Hui, President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Roland Chin, Emeritus President Dr Daniel Tse, Dean of the School of Chinese Medicine Professor Lyu Aiping, Associate Dean Professor Zhongzhen Zhao, Honorary President of the Art Concept Culture Institute and alumna Ms Katie Chan, HKBU Century Club President Mr Kent Tsui, Director of the Jao Tsung-I Academy of Sinology Professor Zhi Chen, Chairman of Pecan Foundation Limited Dr Justin Chiu, and former President of HKBU Century Club Ms Mariana Tsang. Professor Zhongzhen Zhao is the consultant for the programme and will jointly host it with the executive producer Ms Katie Chan. Prof. Zhao will discuss contemporary topics related to the origins, natural resources, description, quality, clinical indications, and other aspects of Chinese herbal medicines. To promote Chinese Medicine culture, books and visual materials will be produced based on the TV programme and donated to higher education institutions, primary and secondary schools.
http://hkbunews.hkbu.edu.hk/?t=enews_details/1843&acm=23937_763

香港浸會大學中醫藥學院合作電視節目《世說本草》本月起播放。為致力推動本草文化工程，中醫藥學院與超藝理想文化學會合作拍攝《世說本草》節目，以生動有趣的方式向公眾介紹中醫藥。該節目將於5月29日於香港無線電視J5台首播，共120集，每集兩分鐘，逢週一至週五晚上8:30黃金時段播放。首播試映會於5月8日舉行，主禮嘉賓包括民政事務局副局长許曉暉女士、校長錢大康教授、榮休校長謝志偉博士、中醫藥學院院長呂愛平教授、副院長趙中振教授、浸大校友兼超藝理想文化學會榮譽會長陳復生女士、浸大尚志會會長徐國榆先生、饒宗頤國學院院長陳致教授、眾富基金會主席趙國雄博士及浸大尚志會前會長曾惠珍女士。節目由陳復生校友監製，趙中振教授擔任顧問及共同主持，講解中醫藥的所說、所見、所聞，涵蓋中藥的品種、名稱由來、用途等。該書內容將輯錄成書和影碟作全球發行，並會送給全港各大、中、小學，共同傳承中醫藥文化。



Left panel: Ms Florence Hui (5th from right), President Roland Chin (4th from right), Dr Daniel Tse (5th from left), Ms Katie Chan (4th from left), Prof. Zhongzhen Zhao (third from left) and guests officiate at the premiere event. 許曉暉女士（右五）、錢大康校長（右四）、謝志偉博士（左五）、陳復生校友（左四）、趙中振教授（左三）與嘉賓一起主持首播試映儀式

Right panel: (From left) Mr. Yanfeng Liu, Vice President of Dong E E Jiao Co., Ltd., Dr. Lei Wang, Director of Health Liqueur Technology Dept. of Jing Brand Co., Ltd., Mr. Lipin Zeng, Vice Chairman of Yunnan Notoginseng Technology Co., Ltd., Alumna Katie Chan, Prof Roland T. Chin, Prof Zhongzhen Zhao, Mr. Jiming Huang, Executive Associate General Manager of Zhangzhou Pien Tze Huang Pharmaceutical Company Limited, Mr. Huanping Zhang, Associate General Manager of Beijing Tong Ren Tang Chinese Medicine Co. Ltd., Mr. Calvin L.S. Chan, Executive Director and Vice President of Nong's Clinic Operations and Development. (左起) 東阿阿膠股份有限公司副總裁劉延楓先生、勁牌有限公司保健酒技術部部長王磊先生、雲南三七科技有限公司副董事長曾立品先生、陳復生小姐、錢大康教授、趙中振教授、漳州片仔癀藥業股份有限公司常務副總經理黃進明先生、北京同仁堂國藥有限公司副總經理張煥平先生、培力控股有限公司執行董事及農本方診所營運及發展部副總裁陳隆生先生。

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Report from the GP-TCM RA

NEW 1. *World Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine*, the official journal of WFCMS and GP-TCM RA, has published latest issue, which can be found here: <http://www.wjtcn.org:8080/ch/index.aspx>

- **Identification of Dian Ji Xue Teng (Kadsura interior) with DNA barcodes.** Hao-Jie Guo, Xi-Wen Li, Yao-Dong Qi, Xue-Ping Wei, Ben-Gang Zhang and Hai-Tao Liu.
- **A precise and specific method for quick determination of sulfur fumigation for moutan cortex.** Na Hu, Juan Da, Xin Chen, Shang-Rong Li, Qiu-Rong Wang, Ting-Ting Wu, Lin Yang, Wan-Ying Wu and De-an Guo.
- **Systems response profiles to two Rehmanniae Radix formulae in metabolic syndrome patients.** Jun-Zeng Fu, Herman A. van Wietmarschen, Jan van der Greef, Yan Schroën and Mei Wang.
- **Effect of grouped ST36 or RN12 on gastric motility and sensation.** Guang Sun, Hao Liu, Kun Liu, Hong-Feng Wang, Mu-Jun Zhi, Xin-Yan Gao and Bing Zhu.
- **Comparative analysis of four active compounds of Baikal skullcap and its classical TCM prescriptions according to different clinical curative effects.** Guang-Wei Zhu, Sheng-Jun Ma and Ao-Xue Liu
- **Systems biology of resilience and optimal health: integrating Chinese and Western medicine perspectives.** Herman van Wietmarschen, Bing Zhu, Yan Schroën, Victor Kall, Marvin Steijaert, Albert A. de Graaf, Ben van Ommen and Jan van der Greef.
- **Evidence-based interventions of threatened miscarriage.** Juan Li, Jing-shu Gao, Chi Chiu Wang, Ernest HY Ng and Xiao-ke Wu.

Since 2015, it has successfully published 9 issues. Full-text PDF articles and electronic/online versions are freely available to global readers: www.wjtcn.org

European Reports

- NEW** 1. Éanna Kelly, **The Horizon 2020 half-time score.** Science|Business.
- Participants and member state governments have given their views on the EU's R&D programme Horizon 2020 to date.
 - The verdict: good, but in need of several big mid-course adjustments. Low success rates, lengthy proposals and lack of feedback are common complaints.
 - The 13-14% success rates are “demoralising” and almost “a lottery”.
 - Five countries receive an estimated two thirds of Horizon 2020 grants. Central and Eastern European countries receive just over 4% of total funding.
 - Almost 5% of grant winners under the previous research programme FP7 were from countries outside of the EU, but this has fallen to only 2.2% under Horizon 2020.
 - Several organisations cut to the chase with their demands for the remaining three years of the programme.

<http://sciencebusiness.net/news/80256/The-Horizon-2020-half-time-score#.WQtQ7ZRxFdY.linkedin>

NEW 2. **European Inventor Award:** The European Inventor Award is one of Europe's most prestigious innovation prizes. Launched in 2006, it honours individual inventors and teams of inventors whose pioneering inventions provide answers to some of the biggest challenges of our times. The winners are selected by an independent jury consisting of international authorities in the fields of business, politics, science, academia and research, who examine the proposals in terms of their contribution towards technical progress, social development, economic prosperity and job creation in Europe. The 12th edition of the award ceremony will take place on 15 June 2017 in Venice. Honouring the bright minds behind ground-



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breaking inventions, European Inventor Award 2017 finalists are announced in early May 2017.
<http://www.epo.org/news-issues/press/releases/archive/2017/20170426p.html>

3. ERC Proof of Concept Grant 2017 Second Round Submission Rates Published. The ERC Executive Agency has published information regarding submission rates to the recent second round deadline of the 2017 Proof of Concept Grant Call (PoC 2017). The information shows that in total, 139 proposals were submitted to the second deadline (25 April 2017) of this call. This represents 3.6 % more than the second cut off of the 2016 call, and 10% more than the first cut-off of the 2017 call. The third and final deadline for submission to the PoC 2017 call is 5 September 2017 (17:00 Brussels local time).

4. SME Instrument Impact Report 2017: a must read! The Small-and-Medium-Sized Enterprise (SME) Instrument Impact Report highlights the first insights into the growth trends of European SMEs that were selected for funding, their profile as well as the key features of the SME Instrument scheme that have made its unique selling points. It clearly is one of the most disruptive successes of Horizon 2020, and the report contains cumulative data from 2014 to 2016.

<https://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/news/smart-money-and-business-acceleration-sme-instrument-impact-report-2016-out>

5. Qu L, et al. Value of Herbal Monographs in registration of TCM products in Europe. 2017; 48(9):1916-1920 (中文):

The Community Herbal Monograph (CHM) is an official document which reflects the scientific opinion of European Medicines Agency (EMA) and plays an important role in technical harmonization of the herbal medicinal products. The role of CHM is very similar with the centralized procedure in the EU level as it represents the technical coordination results of the assessment about safety and efficacy of herbal medicine. The monograph and national procedure, decentralized procedure, and mutual recognition procedure together constitute the coexistence characteristic of centralization and decentralization of the EU medical legislation.

The CHM and the traditional herbal medicine registration also constitute the core content of Directive 2004/24/EC in the EU and member state level respectively. And the CHM plays an important role in the registration of traditional herbal medicinal products in the EU member state. However, it has not yet been fully studied by domestic experts and scholars. This paper makes intensive studies on the value of CHM and analyzes the application of monograph in traditional herbal medicine registration. The purpose is to clarify the value and importance of CHM in the registration of traditional Chinese medicine in EU and to provide reference for the Chinese enterprises which are aspiring to open up the EU market.

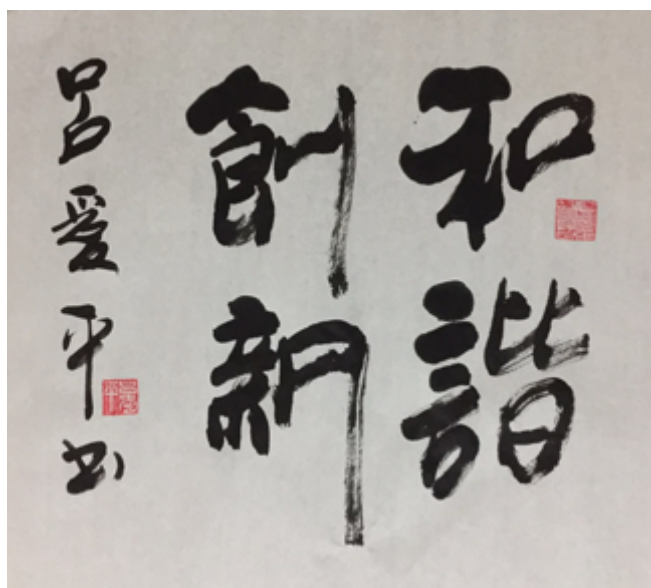
http://www.tiprpress.com/zcy/ch/reader/view_abstract.aspx?file_no=20170932&flag=1

WeChat report on this paper can be found here:

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?biz=MzAwMDUwNjA3MA==&mid=2650625130&idx=1&sn=efe52af04d3f1dde2b47c76be1a47d60&chksm> (中文)

6. The TCM community held meeting in early April 2017 to discuss collaborations in the context of the Belt-Road Initiative. The GP-TCM RA President Tai-Ping Fan attended the meeting.

[http://www.ukjs.net/article/英国中医界召开英国中医发展和团结合作座谈会\(中文\)](http://www.ukjs.net/article/英国中医界召开英国中医发展和团结合作座谈会(中文))



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7. According to a *theGuardian* report on 3rd May and a *Nature* report on 11th May, 110 British universities received over £1 billion from philanthropist donations, a new record.
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2017/may/03/annual-donations-to-uk-universities-passes-1bn-mark-for-first-time>

China and EU-China Cooperation Reports¹

1. Phillips N. A close look at China's rise. *Nature* 2017;545:S39

http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v545/n7655_supp/full/545S39a.html?WT.ec_id

2. China's Embracing Innovation Leads to its Peaceful Rise. By Richard Li-Hua. *Cpianalysis.org*

<https://cpianalysis.org/2017/05/11/chinas-embracing-innovation-leads-to-its-peaceful-rise/?from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0>

3. An comprehensive illustration of the *One-Belt-One-Road Initiative*

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?_biz=MjM5MTQ2ODY0Nw==&mid=2651111385&idx=2&sn=80b56e3ef47ab4890cb5bad50778888a&chksm

4. China: Doctors' Salary Report 2016

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?_biz=MzA4MzUyMTA5NA==&mid=2465522952&idx=1&sn=64ec431371a7adc583862329c6b7dd1a&chksm (中文)

5. Surging number of papers published in Cell Press journals by Chinese scientists

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?_biz=MjM5OTAwMzI4MA==&mid=2651452500&idx=1&sn=f268aea3d20ba496b10ebc059126750d&chksm (中文)

6. Cyranoski D. The secret war against counterfeit science. *Nature* 2017; 545:148-150. China has a lucrative market for fake research reagents. Some scientists are fighting back...

http://www.nature.com/news/the-secret-war-against-counterfeit-science-1.21960?WT.ec_id

Also available in Chinese as a *Nature* WeChat Report

[=80cd0b8ab7ba829c34734709d4047329371199b5ff9e024fa1aea7d2427993a44e70e93fbd94&mpshare=1&scene=5&srcid=0510SzKkaVrHa4upuUHiccVS#rd](http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?_biz=MzA4MzUyMTA5NA==&mid=2651452500&idx=1&sn=f268aea3d20ba496b10ebc059126750d&chksm) (中文)

7. QuintilesIMS overview on China's pharmaceutical market network, 2016

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?_biz=MzA4NTg0NDMzNg==&mid=2651945412&idx=1&sn=892de7329a813494bcf0d164b3a62873&chksm (中文)

8. National Natural Science Foundation of China. The Exploration and Practice of China's Socialist Science Foundation System: Innovative Practice

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?_biz=MzI5NDU2MDc0OA==&mid=2247484124&idx=2&sn=3a433f8c2ce84b2895fbc57f1f6afba8&chksm (中文)

9. CFDA Further Strengthen the Supervision of Health Food: On April 28, 2017, China Food and Drug Administration (“CFDA”) released for public comment a draft Opinion on the Further Strengthening of the Supervision of Health Food (“**Draft Opinion**”). The Draft Opinion leans heavily on principles already set out in the new Food Safety Law and the Administration Measures on

¹ Time and space limiting, the Editorial Board regret for only being able to translate titles of some shared WeChat articles into English. Interested parties please use the English translation functionality of WeChat to read the Chinese contents of WeChat articles. More information on WeChat translation can be found here:

- **On IOS system:** https://thenextweb.com/apps/2014/05/08/can-now-translate-messages-wechat-ios-app/#.tnw_WmhVIf0D
- **Android:** https://thenextweb.com/apps/2014/06/23/wechat-brings-its-nifty-new-message-translation-feature-to-its-android-app/#.tnw_ECJHsLe

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Registration and Filing of Health Food (“**Administration Measures**”) of 26 February 2016 but also does give a hint as to their current thinking in relation to health food registration and filing...

<http://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=e4061f06-a074-492f-9c6b-a993446e6190>

WeChat Report entitled “China Food & Drug Administration – expectable reforms”

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?__biz=MzAwNzMyNzQzNg==&mid=2650610019&idx=1&sn=5e27d63ff2e29a0d6a5187971e543a95&chksm (中文)

10. Cyranoski D. China cracks down on fake data in drug trials. *Nature* 2017; 11 May. doi:10.1038/nature.2017.21977. Researchers and manufacturers face possible jail time — or execution — for fraudulent submissions to nation's drug agency.

<https://www.nature.com/news/china-cracks-down-on-fake-data-in-drug-trials-1.21977#auth-1>

11. China pledges \$124 billion for new Silk Road as champion of globalization.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-silkroad-africa-idUSKBN18A02I>

TCM and Other Traditional Medicines in Spotlight

1. Stanfiner JW, et al. Traditional Medicines and Kidney Disease in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Opportunities and Challenges. *Seminars in Nephrology* 2017; 37:245-259.

Traditional medicines are a principal form of health care for many populations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, and they have gained attention as an important means of health care coverage globally. In the context of kidney diseases, the challenges and opportunities presented by traditional medicine practices are among the most important considerations for developing effective and sustainable public health strategies. However, little is known about the practices of traditional medicines in relation to kidney diseases, especially concerning benefits and harms. Kidney diseases may be caused, treated, prevented, improved, or worsened by traditional medicines depending on the setting, the person, and the types, modes, and frequencies of traditional medicine use. Given the profound knowledge gaps, nephrology practitioners and researchers may be uniquely positioned to facilitate more optimal public health strategies through recognition and careful investigation of traditional medicine practices. Effective implementation of such strategies also will require local partnerships, including engaging practitioners and users of traditional medicines. As such, practitioners and researchers investigating kidney diseases may be uniquely positioned to bridge the cultural, social, historical, and biologic differences between biomedicine and traditional medicine, and they have opportunities to lead efforts in developing public health strategies that are sensitive to these differences. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0270929517300050>

2. Liu-ZJ, et al. An activity-calibrated chemical standardization approach for quality evaluation of *Salvia miltiorrhiza* Bge. *RSC Advances*. 2017;7:5331-5339.

<http://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/articlelanding/2017/ra/c6ra26281c>

3. Zhang D-K, et al. Toxic Constituents Index: A Toxicity-Calibrated Quantitative Evaluation Approach for the Precise Toxicity Prediction of the Hypertoxic Phytomedicine—Aconite. *Front. Pharmacol.* 2016;7:164

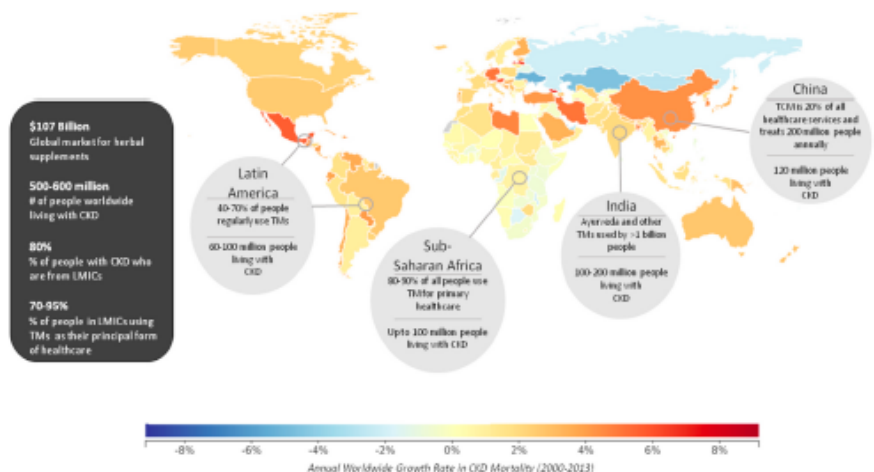


Figure 1. The burden of chronic kidney disease continues to increase worldwide, disproportionately affecting people of low- and middle-income countries where at the same time traditional medicine use is nearly ubiquitous. Adapted from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, University of Washington; open access under the Creative Commons Attribution, Non-Commercial, No Derivatives 4.0 International License (<http://www.healthdata.org/about/terms-and-conditions>).

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<http://journal.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fphar.2016.00164/full>

These 2 reports from Professor Xiao-he Xiao's lab are also featured in the following WeChat articles:

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?_biz=MzI5NDU2MDc0OA==&mid=2247484161&idx=2&sn=636b7ce3ee4e25e85a33551015576aac&chksm (中文)

4. Newly added quality control standards for Chinese materia medica in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia 2015 (2015 年版中国药典新增中药材质量检验标准)

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?_biz=MzA5MDYyNjY5OQ==&mid=2650681216&idx=1&sn=7a83aa8c724e6eb4bedb1c02fcc9f836&chksm (中文)

5. WeChat report entitled "Special Forces in Chinese Materia Medica—Minerals" by Zhijie Zhang, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, 5th May 2017 (张志杰.【科普】中药的特种部队—矿物药。中国中医科学院微信公众号。2017 年 5 月 5 日)

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?_biz=MzA4MDU0NDA1OQ==&mid=2655521698&idx=3&sn=cfcfce96d1850a14f95e3ddbe1e9409&chksm (中文)

6. WeChat report on the evidence published in NEJM and Lancet on the health benefits of Tai chi (《NEJM》《Lancet》重大研究：太极拳的养生保健及医学治疗作用)

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/hRIXjaCZwTG14fgtWJucQ> (中文)

- Li F, et al. **Tai chi and postural stability in patients with Parkinson's disease.** *N Engl J Med.* 2012;366(6):511-9
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22316445>
- Wang C, et al. **A randomized trial of tai chi for fibromyalgia.** *N Engl J Med.* 2010;363(8):743-54
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20818876>
- Chan AW, et al. **Effects of a peer-assisted tai-chi-qigong programme on social isolation and psychological wellbeing in Chinese hidden elders: a pilot randomised controlled trial.** *Lancet.* 2016;388 Suppl 1:S23.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27968836>

7. Beijing and Shanghai Universities of TCM develop TCM centres in the USA(中文):

BUCM: <http://a.eqxiu.com/s/GBEcj89q?eqrcode=1&from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0>

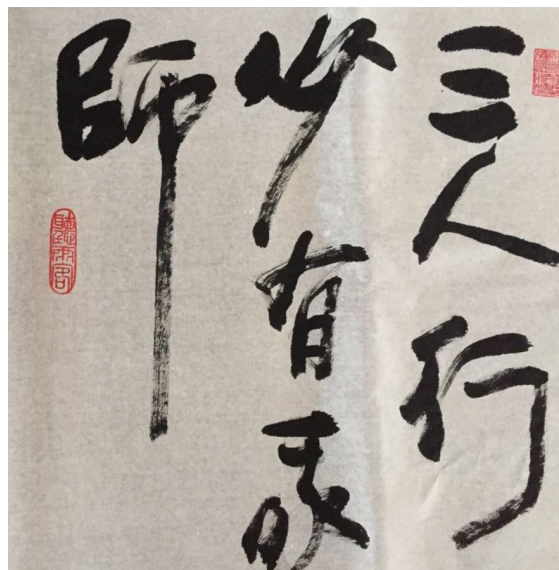
SHUCM: <http://www.worldtcm.org/170525/5V3215330.shtml?from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0>

Omics in Progress

1. Hayward NK et al. Whole-genome landscapes of major melanoma subtypes. *Nature* 2017;545:175-180. The whole-genome mutation landscape of melanoma reveals diverse carcinogenic processes across its subtypes, some unrelated to sun exposure, and extends potential involvement of the non-coding genome in its pathogenesis...

http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature22071.html?WT.ec_id

2. Yin Y, et al. Impact of cytosine methylation on DNA binding specificities of human transcription factors. *Science* 2017;356:eeaj2239. Yin et al. make a striking finding: Many



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homeodomain transcription factors—perhaps the best-characterized developmental regulators in biology—can bind to specific methylated DNA sequences.

http://science.sciencemag.org/content/356/6337/489?utm_campaign

http://science.sciencemag.org/content/356/6337/eaaj2239?utm_campaign

Now 3. Triplett LR, Argueso CT, Trivedi P. **Communication in the Phytobiome.** *Cell* 2017;169:587–596. The phytobiome, a network composed of plants, their environment, and the composite micro- and macro-organisms within, influences plant health and crop productivity through a myriad of complex communication mechanisms...

[http://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(17\)30476-2?elsca1](http://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(17)30476-2?elsca1)

Now 4. **Pharmacometabonomics and Personalised Medication and Precision Treatment**

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?_biz=MzA5MDY3ODExNQ==&mid=2651302133&idx=1&sn=4116266ed5a6192c6b6b90d9f1404d92&chksm (中文)

Now 5. May M. **Big data, big picture: Metabolomics meets systems biology.** *Science* 2017;356, Issue 6338, pp. 646–648. Metabolomics—the study of the collection of an organism’s metabolites—provides a molecular measurement of phenotype, or the characteristics resulting from the genotype’s interaction with the environment. Using a range of analytical tools to scale the mountains of data collected, including molecular detection and bioinformatics, scientists use metabolomics to understand systems biology, which is the complete computational analysis and modeling of an organism and its well-being.

http://science.sciencemag.org/content/356/6338/646?utm_campaign=toc_sci-mag_2017-05-11&et rid=33953672&et cid=1321806

Now 6. Huan T, et al. **Systems biology guided by XCMS Online metabolomics.** *Nature Methods.* 2017;14:461–462. An aim of systems biology is to understand complex interactions between genes, proteins and metabolites by integrating and modeling multiple data sources. This paper reports an 'integrated-omics' approach within XCMS Online that automatically superimposes raw metabolomic data onto metabolic pathways and integrates it with transcriptomic and proteomic data (<http://XCMSOnline.scripps.edu/>).

<http://www.nature.com/nmeth/journal/v14/n5/full/nmeth.4260.html>

Now 7. Kong AT et al. **MSFragger: ultrafast and comprehensive peptide identification in mass spectrometry-based proteomics.** *Nature Methods.* 2017;14:513–520. An ultrafast, fragment-ion indexing-based database search tool, MSFragger, makes open searching practical and enables comprehensive identification of modified peptides in MS-based proteomics data sets...

<http://www.nature.com/nmeth/journal/v14/n5/full/nmeth.4256.html>

Now 8. Smaglik P. **The genetic microscope.** *Nature* 2017;545:S25–S27. This new 'microscope' opened up many basic research and biomedical directions we could not even dream of before...

https://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v545/n7654_supp_spot1/full/545S25a.html

Other Recommended Readings

Now 1. Powell K. **The best-kept secrets to winning grants.** *Nature* 2017;545:399–402. With competition for research funding approaching an all-time high, experts reveal their top tips and tricks. http://www.nature.com/news/the-best-kept-secrets-to-winning-grants-1.22038?WT.ec_id

Now 2. **Change the World, One Article at a Time.** We are living in times of unprecedented scientific, technical and medical advancement, yet we are faced with critical global issues that threaten human welfare and our environment. Springer Nature asked the **Editors-in-Chief** of Springer Nature journals across disciplines to nominate **just one article** published in 2016 that could help humanity and protect and preserve our planet.

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• **Life Sciences and Biomedicine:**

http://www.springernature.com/gp/researchers/campaigns/change-the-world/life-sciences-biomedicine?utm_source

• **Medicine and Public Health:** http://www.springernature.com/gp/researchers/campaigns/change-the-world/medicine-public-health?utm_source=Other&utm_medium

Now 3. GBD 2015 Tobacco Collaborators. **Smoking prevalence and attributable disease burden in 195 countries and territories, 1990–2015: a systematic analysis from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015.** *Lancet* 2017; 389:1885–1906.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)30819-X/fulltext?elsca1=etoc](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)30819-X/fulltext?elsca1=etoc)

Now 4. GBD 2015 Tobacco Collaborators. **Estimates and 25-year trends of the global burden of disease attributable to ambient air pollution: an analysis of data from the Global Burden of Diseases Study 2015 .** *Lancet* 2017; 389:1885–1906.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)30505-6/fulltext?elsca1=etoc](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)30505-6/fulltext?elsca1=etoc)

Now 5. Ramsey BW, et al. **The Changing Face of Clinical Trials: Academic, Foundation and Industry Collaboration in Finding New Therapies.** *N Engl J Med.* 2017 May 4;376(18):1762-1769. In this review, the authors focus on three diseases — cystic fibrosis, multiple myeloma, and type 1 diabetes mellitus — to illustrate how collaborations among academic institutions, foundations, and industry partners have evolved to address the therapeutic challenges of these conditions...

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMra1612575?query=TOC>

Now 6. Fujii K *et al.* **A heart-brain-kidney network controls adaptation to cardiac stress through tissue macrophage activation.** *Nature Medicine* 2017;23:611–622. Heart failure is a complex clinical syndrome characterized by insufficient cardiac function. In addition to abnormalities intrinsic to the heart, dysfunction of other organs and dysregulation of systemic factors greatly affect the development and consequences of heart failure. Here we show that the heart and kidneys function cooperatively in generating an adaptive response to cardiac pressure overload. In mice subjected to pressure overload in the heart, sympathetic nerve activation led to activation of renal collecting-duct (CD) epithelial cells. Cell–cell interactions among activated CD cells, tissue macrophages and endothelial cells within the kidney led to secretion of the cytokine CSF2, which in turn stimulated cardiac-resident Ly6C^{lo} macrophages, which are essential for the myocardial adaptive response to pressure overload. The renal response to cardiac pressure overload was disrupted by renal sympathetic denervation, adrenergic β 2-receptor blockade or CD-cell-specific deficiency of the transcription factor KLF5. Moreover, we identified amphiregulin as an essential cardioprotective mediator produced by cardiac Ly6C^{lo} macrophages. Our results demonstrate a dynamic interplay between the heart, brain and kidneys that is necessary for adaptation to cardiac stress, and they highlight the homeostatic functions of tissue macrophages and the sympathetic nervous system.

http://www.nature.com/nm/journal/v23/n5/full/nm.4326.html?WT.ec_id

Now 7. **Why alternative therapies are covered by health insurance (in Switzerland)?** Switzerland is swimming against the tide with its decision to grant complementary therapies the same status as conventional medicine. Is it a case of the people’s will winning over science? ‘Absurd.’ ‘Unacceptable.’ ‘Startling.’ ‘Squandering taxpayers’ money...’ These were some of the comments on Facebook when swissinfo.ch published the news at the end of March that the government would recognise alternative treatments. But authoritative Swiss medical organisations don’t agree. At the end of a consultation process involving political parties and experts, the Swiss Society of General Internal Medicine and the Swiss Medical Association, along with the major parties, backed the interior ministry’s decision...

https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/homeopathy-in-switzerland_why-alternative-therapies-are-covered-by-health-insurance/42392158

Now 8. Grillo AS, et al. **Restored iron transport by a small molecule promotes absorption and hemoglobinization in animals.** *Science* 2017;356(6338):608-616. Multiple human diseases ensue from a hereditary or acquired deficiency of iron-transporting protein function that diminishes

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transmembrane iron flux in distinct sites and directions. Because other iron-transport proteins remain active, labile iron gradients build up across the corresponding protein-deficient membranes. Here it is reported that a small molecule isolated from *Chamaecyparis taiwanensis*, can harness such gradients to restore iron transport into, within, and/or out of cells...
<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/356/6338/608>

WeChat report 《科学》：难以置信！美国三所高校联合发现神奇小分子，开启疾病治疗新方向：

[http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s? biz=MzA4MjA2MDI5OQ==&mid=2659473464&idx=1&sn=6153899961b94fd002b9ae2368d2e14d&chksm](http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?biz=MzA4MjA2MDI5OQ==&mid=2659473464&idx=1&sn=6153899961b94fd002b9ae2368d2e14d&chksm) (中文)

9. Tianzhou 1, China's unmanned cargo spacecraft launched on the April 20, carries experiments designed by Dr Ge Zhang and Prof Aiping Lu, Baptist University of Hong Kong.

<http://paper.wenweipo.com/2017/05/17/HS1705170001.htm?from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0>

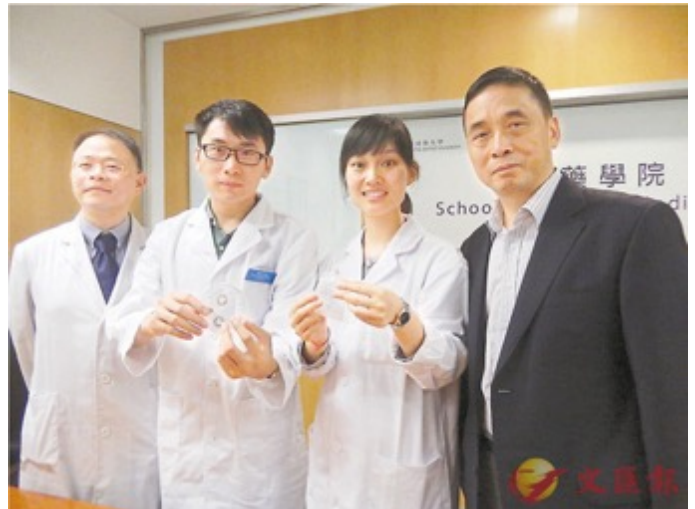
(中文)

10. The National Institute of Complementary Medicine, Western Sydney University, welcomes philanthropic gifts of 10m Australian dollars– the largest in the University's history.

http://www.nicm.edu.au/news/%2410m_philanthropic_gift_boosts_research_and_innovation_at_western_sydney

11. Crow D. Silicon Valley Meets Biomedical Research in the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. *Cell* 2017; 169: 767-769 The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, the philanthropy launched by Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan, drew attention with its stated goal of helping to “cure, manage, or treat all diseases” by the end of the century. They intend to do it through funding basic research and addressing gaps in biomedical technology...

[http://www.cell.com/cell/abstract/S0092-8674\(17\)30544-5](http://www.cell.com/cell/abstract/S0092-8674(17)30544-5)



12. Is US science in decline?

- *Scientific American* blog by Gary Stix (2012):

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/talking-back/is-american-science-in-decline/>

- Xie, Yu. “Is U.S. Science in Decline?”. *ISSUES IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY* Spring (2014).

<http://scholar.princeton.edu/yuxie/publications/us-science-decline>

- WeChat introduction of a new book by Xie and Killewald entitled “Is American Science in Decline?” (2017): http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/aTO8D5swAbb2Q_ocOgtOiw (中文)

13. New WHO Director-General: A *Lancet* World Report and an Off-line Editorial by the *Lancet* Editor-in-chief discuss Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' election success—the former minister of health and foreign affairs of Ethiopia is the first African to head the global agency. The would-be DG promised “delivering universal health coverage, protecting countries from health emergencies, strengthening the front-line work of WHO, transforming WHO into a world-class institution, and putting accountability at the heart of the agency's culture”. Yet, as he acknowledged: “It's going to be tough.”

[http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)31457-5.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(17)31457-5.pdf)

<http://www.thelancet.com/pb/assets/raw/Lancet/pdfs/S0140673617315039.pdf>

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NEW 14. Petit C, et al. **Passive Intestinal Absorption of Representative Plant Secondary Metabolites: A Physicochemical Study.** *Planta Med.* 2017;83:718-726. A systematic study was carried out in order to highlight the physicochemical parameters that mainly influence the passive intestinal absorption of natural products. For this, a representative set of natural products including alkaloids, coumarins, flavonoid aglycones and glycosides, and carboxylic acids was selected and their physicochemical properties were predicted using relevant Volsurf+ descriptors...

NEW 15. EFSA Panel on Animal Health and Welfare. **Vector-borne diseases.** *EFSA Journal.* 2017; 15:4793. An interesting series of maps of vector-borne diseases throughout the world...
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4793/epdf>

NEW 16. Kuhnert N. **Polyphenols: Contributors to Good Health – Part 1.** *Chemviews Magazine.* 2 May 2017; DOI: 10.1002/chemv.201700022. What are polyphenols and why do plants make them?
http://www.chemistryviews.org/details/ezone/10513509/Polyphenols_Contributors_to_Good_Health_Part_1.html?elq_mid=17520&elq_cid=2846600

Meeting Reports

NEW **WeChat report on the 2017 Chinese Congress of Integrative Medicine (万人共享中国整合医学思想“盛宴”——2017 中国整合医学大会隆重召开)**
http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?__biz=MjM5NTE4NTc3NA==&mid=2653057302&idx=1&sn=668999c5caed6f300c19e4ac2ce572da&chksm (中文)

Future Meetings & Events

NEW 1. **The 291st Chapter Eastern Forum of Science and Technology – A Summit on Modernisation of TCM and R&D of Innovative Medicines will be hosted by Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 12-14 June 2017.**
<http://r.xiumi.us/stage/v5/2uZdh/43351029?from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0#/>

NEW 2. **Invitation to the 8th Annual Conference of TCM Pharmaceutical Analysis Specialty Committee of WFCMS, which will be held in June 16-18 in Beijing.** Any GP-TCM RA members who are interested in attending this meeting are advised to get in touch with President of the Committee, Past President of the GP-TCM RA, Professor De-an Guo: daguo@simm.ac.cn
<http://www.rabbitpre.com/m/BfiaEjn?lc=1&sui=VNVTDal6&from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0#from=share> (中文)

NEW 3. **Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine - what can we learn from each other? June 20, 2017, Joseph B. Martin Conference Center, Harvard Medical School, jointly organised by Harvard Medical School and Hong Kong Baptist University.**
<http://tcmsymposium.hms.harvard.edu>

NEW 4. **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 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

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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/>

5. The 21st International Congress "Phytopharm 2017" and celebration of 10th Anniversary of the TCM Research Center Graz, July 2-5, 2017, Graz, Austria: Deadline for abstracts 31st May 2017
www.doclinika.ru/phyto2017.html

Major Topics:

- Medicinal plant products: challenges, safety and efficacy;
- Quality control of natural medicinal preparations;
- Best practices in traditional medicines research;
- TCM herbal medicine research;
- TCM acupuncture research;
- Systems biology based medicinal plant research;
- Technology of natural medicinal products;
- Advances in clinical studies of phytotherapeutics;
- Regulation of herbal medicinal products and food supplements in Russia, EU, China and the USA.

Organisers:

- Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Center, Graz, Austria;
- Karl Franzens University of Graz, Austria;
- Medical University of Graz, Austria;
- St.Petersburg Institute of Pharmacy, Russia;
- State Chemical Pharmaceutical Academy, St.Petersburg;
- Institute of Nutrition of the Russian Academy of Medical Science, Russia;
- Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA).

6. WeChat invitation to the International Conference on Quality and Efficacy of Chinese Medicine, Shiyang, Hubei, 3rd-6th August 2017.

<http://i.eqxiu.com/s/t0CZ7maU?from=singlemessage&isappinstalled> (中文)

7. The 16th 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. Programme and more details are available on the CGCM website www.tcmedicine.org. Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact: centraloffice@tcmedicine.org. **Early-bird registration deadline for abstracts: 31st May 2017; extended abstract submission deadline: June 16, 2017 (Friday).**

8. Illuminating Biological Systems from a Network Perspective: International Interdisciplinary Round Table on Biological Networks, September 8th, 2017, University of Namur-Belgium: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=ibisnet1>

9. 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)

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10. **WeChat report on international celebration of the 500 anniversary of Li Shizhen's birth to be held in Li's hometown Jichun County, Hubei Province, China, on 26th May, 2018.**

http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s?__biz=MzAxMjMyMTEwNA==&mid=2660692447&idx=1&sn=3895e03e994d2f1c98befd9f4beb8eca&chksm= (中文)

Invitation from Journals

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

- WJTCM includes reviews and original articles focused on four aspects:
- Modern Research on Chinese Materia Medica: theories of processing, property, and compatibility of Chinese materia medica; safety of Chinese materia medica; active principles and mechanism and efficacy of crude drugs and Chinese compound formulas
- Research on TCM Theory: scientific connotation and biological foundation of TCM basic theories
- TCM clinical Research: disease and syndrome, TCM safety, efficacy evaluation, evidence-based and systematic evaluation
- Acupuncture and Moxibustion: effect mechanism of acupuncture and moxibustion, specificity of acupoint effect, 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. All WJTCM articles will be published online via WJTCM website (www.wjtcn.org). PDF articles and electronic/online versions are freely available to global readers.

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.

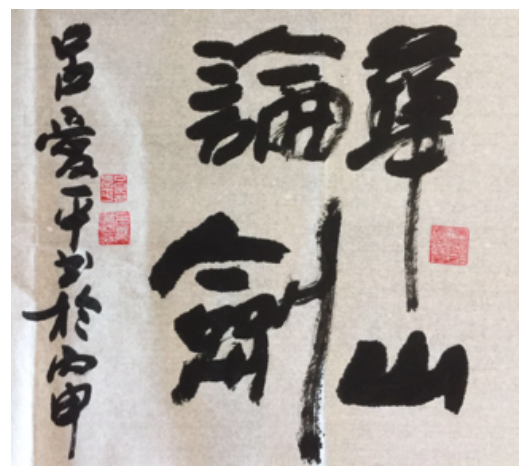
[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)32584-3/fulltext?elsca1=etoc](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)32584-3/fulltext?elsca1=etoc)

Sounding Board.

This column is reserved for comments, personal views, proposals for collaborations or any other features from our readers across the world. We look forward to hearing from you! Please get in touch with your editors: Dr Qihe Xu (qihe.xu@kcl.ac.uk), Prof. Pierre Duez (pierre.duez@umons.ac.be) and Prof. Yuan Shiun Chang (yschang0404@gmail.com)

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Contributions from Prof. **Rudolf Bauer** (Graz), Prof. **Yuan Shiun Chang** (Taichung), Prof. **Pierre Duez** (Mons), Prof. **Thomas Efferth** (Mainz), Prof. **De-an Guo** (Shanghai), Prof. **Aiping Lu** (Hong Kong), Prof. **Bo-Ying Ma** (London), Prof. **Xuanbin Wang** (Shiyao), Prof. **Hongxi Xu** (Shanghai), Ms **Hui Xu** (Beijing), Dr. **Qihe Xu** (London) and Prof. **Zhongzhen Zhao** (Hong Kong) are gratefully acknowledged. We particularly thank our President-Elect Prof. **Aiping Lu** (Hong Kong) for sharing his calligraphic arts, which read: "Harmony & Innovation" (p5), "If three walk together, at least one of them can teach me something" (Confucius) (p8) and "Kong Fu contest at Mount Hua" (This page, on the right).



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United we stand. Heart-felt thoughts of the Editorial Board of the GP-TCM RA Newsletters are with those young beautiful lives who were killed or injured in the terrorist attack in Manchester, England, on 23rd April 2017, and with their families and friends
(Picture from the internet)



Dragon Boat Festival: Known in China as the **Duanwu Festival** or the **Double Fifth Festival**, the festival occurs on the 5th day of the 5th month in the Chinese lunar calendar and falls on May 30 in 2017. The story best known in China holds that the festival is in honour of the patriotic poet Mr Qu Yuan (c. 340–278 BC) and commemorates fealty and filial piety (Picture from the internet)