

The October-November 2013 Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association



Congratulations, GP-TCM!!

Chinese medicine research programme a success says Brussels (15 Oct 2013)

A European Commission report has welcomed the outcome of a €1.1m European Union (EU) research project examining Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research in the Post-Genomic Era – or GP-TCM. Brussels said the project helped develop a European-Chinese network for collaborating on functional genomics research; reviewed current research practice; proposed standard methodological protocols; identified priority areas for future research; and developed online resources to support best practices.

Dr Qihe Xu from King's College London, the project coordinator, said the project's founding of a permanent GP-TCM Research Association was 'a critical step towards sustainable development of traditional Chinese medicine research worldwide'. It would have the task of 'continuing the guidance and coordination of EU-China collaboration in this field', said the Brussels note.

The project involved 200 scientists, clinicians and practitioners from 112 institutions in 24 countries. Researchers emphasised the importance of omics and systems biology approaches, and developed a comprehensive document comparing different Chinese medicine regulatory practice.

http://www.manufacturingchemist.com/news/article_page/Chinese_medicine_research_programme_a_success_says_Brussels/92322

Reports from the President:

1. Guangzhou visit: From 22th-25th September 2013, Prof. Rudolf Bauer visited Prof. Xin-sheng Yao, at Institute of Chinese Medicine and Natural Medicine, Jinan University, Guangzhou, to discuss future collaboration and joint projects. He gave a lecture at the College of Pharmacy on "Aspects and goals of medicinal plant research at TCM Research Center Graz" and introduced the ideas and goals of GP-TCM RA.

2. Meeting in Chengdu: From 26th-27th September 2013, Prof. Bauer attended 4th International Conference on Modernization of TCM in Chengdu. He gave a lecture in Session 5 on "Challenges in Modern Formulations and Quality Control of Chinese Herbal Medicine" at the conference" and promoted the missions and activities of the GP-TCM RA.



Prof. Bauer with Academician Kaixian Chen 陈凯先院士 (Left) and other conference attendees (Right) in Chengdu

3. New Committee in Beijing: On 16th October 2013, GP-TCM RA and GP-TCM members Rudolf Bauer, Peter Hylands, Nicola Robinson, Debbie Shaw and Elizabeth Williamson were invited to attend the Inauguration Meeting of the Specialty Committee for Post-Marketing Surveillance of Chinese Medicine of World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS) in Beijing, and were appointed Vice Presidents of the Committee. On 17th-18th October 2013, they lectured at the 2013 International Conference "Key Technology Research on Re-evaluation of Chinese Medicine

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Injection Post-Marketed Clinical Safety Survey”, organised by Prof. Yanming Xie, Institute of Basic Research in Clinical Medicine, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences. More coverage on pp. 6-8.



Rudolf Bauer, Peter Hylands, Nicola Robinson, Debbie Shaw and Elizabeth Williamson
at the Inauguration Meeting of the CSPMCM, WFCMS in Beijing

Meeting Reports

1. The 2nd GP-TCM RA Annual Meeting was held in Graz, Austria on the 30th August 2013. The meeting was attended by ~100 delegates from around the world. The opening ceremony was chaired by Prof. Rudolf Bauer, President of the GP-TCM RA and Chairman of the Organizing and Scientific Committees. The ceremony was highlighted by the official announcements of the five GP-TCM RA Honorary Membership Awards and was followed by invited speeches by four Honorary Members and other invited speakers, as well as selected short lectures. Between the lunch break and the afternoon session, there were a poster session and a Members' Assembly.



Four Honorary Members of the GP-TCM RA (Prof. Jan van der Greef, Academician Xinsheng Yao, Prof. Geoffrey Burstock FRS, and Academician Yung-Chi Cheng) with nine attending BoD members

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The meeting was concluded by the announcements of two best poster awards to Prof. Yan Ma (Austria) and Prof. Clara Lau (Hong Kong, China) and five travel grants to PhD student attendees Amandine Nachtergaele (Belgium), Valerian Bunel (Belgium), Fazlin Mohd Fauzi (UK), Limei Wang (Austria), Zhixiang Yan (Macau, China; his supervisor Dr. Yan Lu collected the prize on his behalf).



Programme: <http://cgcm2013.cats-host.com/gp-tcm/images/stories/documents/GP-TCM%20Final%20Program.pdf>

Gallery: <http://www.gp-tcm.org/2013/10/the-2nd-gp-tcm-ra-annual-meeting-gallery/>

2. The 12th Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine (CGCM) Annual Meeting was held in Graz, Austria on 26th-29th August 2013. The meeting was attended by ~230 participants. The opening ceremony was chaired by Prof. Yong-zheng Hui 惠永正, Chairman of Shanghai Innovative Research Center of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Shanghai, China, and Paul Kwong-hang Tam 譚廣亨, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Vice-President, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China. Welcome speeches were given by Ms. Mag. Elisabeth Grossmann, Member of the Austrian Parliament (on behalf of the Governor of Styria, Franz Voves), Thomas Rajakovics, Member of the City Council of Graz (on behalf of the Mayor of Graz, Sigfried Nagl), Prof. Dr. Peter Scherrer, Vice-Rector of Research at Karl-Franzens-University Graz (on behalf of the Rector Christa Neuper), Univ.-Prof. Dr. Karl Crailsheim, Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Karl-Franzens-University Graz, Dr. Paul Coates, Director, Office of Dietary Supplements, National Institutes of Health, USA, and Prof. Tommy Yung-Chi Cheng, Chairman, CGCM, Chairman / Henry Bronson Professor of Pharmacology, Yale University, USA. In total, 271 abstracts for poster presentations were submitted. They were discussed during 15 scientific sessions, and were wrapped up in a summary report session.

Programme: http://www.tcmedicine.org/upload_file/624/CGCM%20Final%20Program.pdf

Gallery of the 12th CGCM Meeting will be highlighted in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Selected photos from the meeting:

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Snapshots of the meeting organisers, CGCM senior officers and meeting attendees



CGCM reception and gala dinner. A reception by the Governor of Styria and the Mayor of Graz was held on 27th August 2013 in the historic auditorium of the Old University of Graz. It was hosted by Mag. Ursula Lackner, President of the Styrian Parliament, and Ms. Sissi Potzinger, Member of the City Council of Graz (**Left**); a gala dinner was organized on 28th August as a Styrian evening at Brauhaus Puntigam with folklore singing and dancing (**Middle**); Prof. Jacqueline Whang-Peng, Prof. Yao Tong, Prof. Yung-Chi Cheng (CGCM Chairman), Mrs. Inan Ma Feng with Professor Rudolf Bauer (Chairman of the Organizing Committee) and his family (**Right**).

3. The 61st International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA) was held in Münster, Germany, from 1st-5th September 2013. The local organizers, represented by the conference chairs Prof. Andreas Hensel and Prof. Thomas J. Schmidt received over 700 registrations from scientists from 58 countries all over the world. The main meeting programme mirrored the huge diversity of medicinal plant and natural product research and officially began on the evening of Sunday, Sept. 1st, with an enlightening opening lecture by Prof. Alan H. Fairlamb (Dundee, U.K.) on “Natural products and drug discovery for tropical diseases”. The conference was officially opened on Monday morning, 2nd Sept. by GA President Prof. Wolfgang Blaschek (University of Kiel, Germany). During the opening ceremony, eight travel grant awards to congress participants from various countries as well as two important scientific awards were presented by GA. The Egon-Stahl-Award in silver went to Prof. Dr. Sandra Apers (Antwerp, Belgium) for her research in the areas of isolation, structure elucidation and biological activity of natural products as well as the development of innovative methods for the analysis and quality control of herbal medicinal preparations. The Bionorica Phytoneering Award 2013 was given to Prof. Dr. Robert Fürst (Frankfurt, Germany) for his outstanding investigations of the molecular mechanisms of plant metabolites and extracts to influence inflammatory processes, angiogenesis and endothelial interactions. Both awardees then presented their results in outstanding lectures. After the opening ceremony, a special “birthday ceremony” acknowledged the 60th anniversary of the journal *Planta Medica*, GA’s official scientific publishing organ. This opportunity was taken to give an overview on *Planta Medica*’s history as well as to acknowledge the most innovative *Planta Medica* publication of the year 2012 by an award presented by Thieme Publishers and GA. Awardee Prof. Susan Murch (University of British Columbia, Canada) summarised her publication in a short presentation (see *Planta Medica* 2012; 78: 630-640). The programme, made up of 12 main topic sections, comprised nine plenary lectures

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held by distinguished leading scientists, 79 excellent short lecture contributions and 25 oral presentations during 4 workshops, as well as about 600 poster presentations. Furthermore, a number of workshops related to important aspects of medicinal plant and natural product research were attended by many interested visitors. On Sunday afternoon GA's Young Researchers Workshop attracted a large audience of younger colleagues who were inspired by three excellent impulse lectures held by Ulrike Grienke (Innsbruck, Austria), Muriel Cundet (Lausanne, Switzerland) and Gudrun Abel (Neumarkt, Germany) followed by six short lectures of young colleagues. Workshops of GA's Permanent Committees on Regulatory Affairs and on Manufacturing of Herbal Medicinal Preparations gave important insights into the current situation of phytopharmaceuticals. For the first time, GA also hosted a workshop related to an EU / COST programme on metabolic pathway engineering of secondary natural products. Quite successful was also a workshop entitled "Industry meets academia" where perspectives for interactions, networking and cooperations between university researchers and pharmaceutical manufacturers were highlighted and discussed, as well as a workshop on a research network Natural Products against Neglected Diseases. The successful congress was summarised by W. Blaschek and A. Hensel during the closing ceremony in the late afternoon of Wednesday, 4th Sept. During this ceremony, six GA awards were presented to participants of the "Young Researcher Workshop" along with six awards for outstanding posters. The annual congress of next year could be announced to take place from 31 August to 4 September, 2014, in the north of Portugal, at the University Minho in Guimarães, where it will be organised by Alberto Dias. Programme of the conference can be found at: <http://www.ga2013.org/index.php/program.html>

An exciting collection of photos of the meeting can be found at:
<http://www.ga2013.org/index.php/impressions.html>



Impressions of the 61th Congress

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Please use the above links to visit the above meeting programme and gallery

4. From Hierarchy of Evidence to Good Practice, London, 25th September 2013

The Research Council for Complementary Medicine (RCCM; <http://www.rccm.org.uk/>) is a UK Registered Charity founded in 1983 to develop and promote good quality research into complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) and enhance evidence based medicine in this area.

The RCCM celebrated its 30th year on 25th September 2013 with a conference held at the Royal Society entitled "From Hierarchy of Evidence to Good Practice - Celebrating 30 years of the

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Research Council for Complementary Medicine". Speakers included Prof. Sarah Stewart-Brown (University of Warwick); Prof. George Lewith (University of Southampton); Dr. Karen Pilkington (University of Westminster); Nick Hudson (CAP ASA); and Roger Newman Turner (Founder member of the RCCM).

Presentations not only outlined the milestones achieved by the RCCM in its 30 year history but its challenges and opportunities. The role of evidence in healthcare and what counts as evidence were discussed and why, and the key developments and organizations involved in efforts to compile an evidence base for complementary and alternative medicine. The pros and cons of RCTs were presented and why their results may be misleading with regard to Complementary Medicine and the key issues for future research in CAM. Specific aspects of the Advertising Standards Agency regulations and the standards that are applied to evidence for advertising claims and where to go for help were also covered. The conference explored how the RCCM has helped progress this evidence debate. Individual care does not always 'square' with RCT evidence. The importance is to balance evidence from various sources and understand how to use it. A major challenge to practitioners has been the evidence challenge in being able to advertise their practice by providing appropriate 'evidence based' patient care.



The evening concluded with a drinks reception and concluding remarks from David Tredinnick MP on the vision of to widen the availability of and access to safe and effective complementary therapies for patients within the National Health Service and across the UK, in order to help in preventing disease and improve patients' health and quality of life.

4. The inaugural meeting to establish Specialty Committee of the Evaluation of Post-marketing Chinese Medicines [Editor's note: *Post-marketing Evaluation of Chinese Medicine*] of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS) was held 16th - 19th October at the Beijing Conference Centre. The Institute of Basic Research in Clinical Medicine, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences under the leadership of Prof Yan-Ming Xie 谢雁鸣 were the main organisers. GP-TCM RA BoD member Prof. Nicola Robinson was involved in the Organising Committee as she is also a post-doctoral supervisor in the Institute together with the Academician Professor Yong-Yan Wang 王永炎. The Conference was sponsored by WFCMS and the China Association of Chinese Medicine, and supported and funded by the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.



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The Committee for this important area of TCM was elected. Prof. Nicola Robinson and Prof. Rudi Bauer were elected a Vice Chairs and Prof. Elizabeth Williamson, Prof. Peter Hylands and Dr. Debbie Shaw elected as Executive Members. All 5 GP-TCM RA members presented their papers.



The aim of the Specialty Committee is to develop an International research platform and promote academic exchanges. A variety of tasks lie ahead including: promoting and developing guidelines on post-marketing Chinese medicine, pharmaco-epidemiology, exploration of new and current methods on PMS evaluation, establish the body of evidence on safety strategy and policy and to develop a wide international network of experts which promotes clinical rational drug use and provides the public with safety of drug use. The inauguration of the Specialty Committee was followed by the 2013 International Conference on the Evaluation of Post-marketing of Chinese Medicines and all 5 members of the GP-TCM RA delegation spoke on their specialty areas. This was a very important conference for GP-TCM RA to be recognised as having a range of expert members who are able to contribute to this critical area of safety.

Thanks to Dr Li Zhang 张力, Center for Drug Reevaluation (National Center for ADR monitoring), China Food and Drug Administration, a Chinese version of the report on this meeting follows:

2013 中药上市后再评价国际大会在京召开

10月17-18日, 2013 中药上市后再评价国际大会、世界中医药学会联合会中药上市后再评价专业委员会成立大会暨中华中医药学会中药临床药理分会年会在北京召开。中药上市后再评价专业委员会是国家中医药管理局批准、民政部登记在案的专业学术团体, 宗旨是增进中药上市后再评价与世界各国的药品上市后再评价之间的学术交流, 构建国际交流平台, 开展国际合作, 整合国内外优势资源联合攻关, 解决制约中药上市后再评价瓶颈问题。具有制定、发布和推广中药上市后再评价国际标准, 在国内外开展中药上市后再评价咨询、培训、认证等服务, 出版学术刊物和举办学术会议的职能。中药上市后再评价专业委员会由王永炎院士、张伯礼院士、陈可冀院士、陈凯先院士、李连达院士任名誉会长, 翁维良首席研究员任首届理事会会长, 谢雁鸣研究员任秘书长。专业委员会下设循证医学、临床药理、风险管理、药物警戒等多个工作组。

本次大会由世界中医药学会联合会、中华中医药学会共同主办, 中国中医科学院中医临床基础医学研究所、中华中医药学会中药临床药理分会、中国医师协会循证医学专业委员会、中国中西医结合学会循证医学专业委员会承办。国家中医药管理局、国家食品药品监督管理总局药品评价中心、中国中医科学院、世界中医药学会联合会、中华中医药学会、北京市中医管理局等领导及来自美国、英国、荷兰、奥地利、香港、澳门、台湾等国家和地区的 10 余位业内专家和国内 30 余家中医药大学、医疗机构专家及 50 余家中药企业人士共 400 余人出席了会议。开幕式后, 11 位中外学者

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包括 CGCM 主席郑永奇院士、GP-TCM RA 会长 Rodolf Bauer 教授及 GP-TCM RA 成员 Peter Hylands 教授, Nicola Robinson 教授、Elizabeth Williamson 教授、Debbie Shaw 博士等应邀发表了题为“中药安全性研究的现代化”、“当前国际植物药基因组学分析前沿方法介绍”、“大规模中药注射剂上市后药物的警戒计划”、“中医药临床应用安全性之欧洲概况”、“自发呈报系统在药物警戒中的研究进展”、“中药安全性评价与风险管理控制”等 11 篇精彩的主题报告。翌日, 国内外专家分为两个会场, 围绕“中药上市后再评价政策法规”、“药物流行病学前沿方法和技术”、“临床流行病学和循证中医药方法学”、“临床合理用药和中药不良反应机理研究”等主题发表了 31 篇精彩演讲, 就当前国内外有关中药上市后再评价方法、技术、路径、模式等展开了深入研讨。此次国际性会议的召开, 对提高我国中药新药研制水平、推进国际交流、保障社会公众用药安全具有非常重要的意义。

大会通过了“中药上市后再评价北京宣言”。宣言提出要在医、产、学、研、资各方力量的共同努力下, 制定标准, 规范临床用药; 国际合作, 培养高层人才; 整合力量, 攻克瓶颈问题, 使中药上市后再评价成为中药为人类健康服务的核心推动力量。大会同时决定, 于明年召开“2014 世界中联中药上市后再评价专业委员会第一次学术年会”。

Reports from GP-TCM RA Members:

1. Prof. De-an Guo's new honour. Heartfelt congratulations to Prof. De-an Guo, President-elect of the GP-TCM RA, for being honoured with a Hong Kong Baptist University Honorary Professorship. Ta Kung Pao reports (18th October 2013).



B15 責任編輯：廖淑華 美術編輯：韓志良

大公报 二〇一三年十月十八日 星期五

浸大邀國醫大師傑出學者指導冀創佳績

香港浸會大學中醫藥學院將於十一月份在校園舉辦兩場講座, 邀請國醫大師及中醫專家來港講學, 促進經驗交流, 提高兩地中醫臨床教學水平。參加講座之註冊中醫師, 可取得進修學分。

其中國醫大師李濟仁教授應邀來港於十一月四日主講「論治癆瘵」, 講座消息發出後報名旋即踴躍。

以下講座歡迎各界人士出席, 費用全免。

浸會大學榮譽博士講座「文明的光輝」講座	
日期	2013年11月26日(星期二)
時間	上午10時30分至中午12時(含茶點及咖啡)
地點	浸會大學逸夫樓閣 永禧樓行政高層大樓
費用	免費
演講語言	粵語
進修學分	1分

嘉賓講者

羅鳳先院士 中國科學院院士、上海中醫藥大學校長
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▲ (左起) 代表陸廣華教授的李海玉主任醫師、譚蔚泓教授、陳鳳先院士、李海鈺先生、葉德安教授, 代表朱良春教授的朱蘭華女士和呂愛平教授一同出席中醫藥學院第五屆榮譽教授頒獎典禮(李濟仁教授沒有派代表出席典禮)

A snapshot of the page of Ta Kung Pao featuring the 6 honoured experts

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2. Prof. Kelvin Chan's lectures in Taiwan Prof. Kelvin Chan visited to China Medical University (Taichung, Taiwan) on 18th Oct and spoke at the Taipei 2013 International Symposium on TCM and 28th Symposium on Natural Product on 19-20 Oct. The titles of lectures were: "The evolution of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Australia through the Joint Chair in TCM Program" and "Translational Approaches in R&D of Traditional Chinese Medicine" respectively. Some key members of the former GP-TCM Consortium were also there in Taipei.



Kelvin with senior staff of China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan. Vice President (Prof. Yang-Chang WU 吴永昌), President (Prof Jong-Tsun HUANG 黄荣村) & Prof. Yuan-Shuin CHANG 张永勳)

3. A new baby for the Kooos! Heartfelt congratulations go to GP-TCM RA Webmaster Alan Koo and his wife Kathy, who are thrilled to announce the arrival of Augustus Tung-Ngok Koo, their first child. Augustus was delivered at Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital in Hong Kong on 1st September 2013. The baby boy weighed 7lbs 6oz. Alan was present at the birth. His Chinese name 东岳 "Tung Ngok" in Cantonese literally means Mount Tai 泰山, a mountain of historical, cultural and Kung-Fu significance in China. Alan has become a Chinese medicine blogger recently (Chinese only at this stage) and he shares his clinical and life experience in health maintenance for pregnancy women and babies using traditional Chinese medicine. Links: www.facebook.com/ecpapa. Below are a few pictures to share with GP-TCM RA Members.



New Arrival of a TCM Family: 3 weeks before Kathy Koo gave birth to the newborn (Left); Augustus Koo sleeping after receiving red packets and gifts from his family (Middle); The whole family was interviewed by the *Hong Kong Economic Journal*, a local newspaper, at River Cam Chinese Medicine Clinic (Right).

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3. Committed to lifelong love! Heartfelt congratulations go to Salvius Amuri Bakari, one of our young Congolese GP-TCM RA Student Members, and his wife Rosalie Mugoli Kalimira. Salvius is thrilled to share his happy news of marriage with Rosalie!



"Time freezes when I am with you!"

Reports from the European Union:

1. European Commission Press Release on GP-TCM and GP-TCM RA [Date: 2013-09-27]: Entitled *Harmonising EU research on traditional Chinese medicines*, the report quoted Prof. Rudolf Bauer, President of GP-TCM RA: "The association believes that the challenges of researching traditional Chinese medicine can only be solved through an interdisciplinary network, using the most advanced methodologies of the post-genomic era." and "The expertise of the GP-TCM consortium and the ideas garnered from new members will enable researchers to develop and implement good practices in an integrated way."

http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=EN_NEWS_FP7&ACTION=D&DOC=10&CAT=NEWS&QUERY=0141c137c470:fa13:255b2fc&RCN=36108

The Mission of China to the European Union also reported this on its official website in Chinese: <http://www.chinamission.be/chn/omdt/t1088013.htm> 中国驻欧盟使团: 欧盟整合有关传统中医药研究

2. HORIZON launched:

HORIZON is designed to reach a wide range of readers interested in the latest developments in EU funded research and innovation and the impact they have on our everyday lives. HORIZON will also feature opinion pieces from leading researchers, innovators and policy makers. The magazine will be regularly refreshed with new articles and multimedia content, which can also be viewed on mobile devices. Links to social media networks will allow readers to express their own views and give feedback on the featured articles. The journalists who write for HORIZON draw on many sources and could even make direct contact with you, if you are a project coordinator; this will provide you a unique opportunity to highlight your successes and the importance and impact of your work. HORIZON replaces the popular monthly research*eu RESULTS MAGAZINE, but being web-based it will be much more responsive and reach a far larger audience. To read the journal online, please visit: <http://horizon-magazine.eu/>. If you have ideas for articles or comments or questions, please send to: RTD-PUBLICATIONS@ec.europa.eu

3. COST Association established: The European Co-operation in Science and Technology (COST) Association incorporates the current governing bodies and administrative functions of COST into a single, integrated structure. The 'COST Association' was established on 19 September 2013, after the adoption of the Resolution by all Representatives of the Governments of the 35 COST Member Countries. This provides a legal entity for the implementation of COST activities in the future.

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4. A foresight study on emerging technologies: State of the art of Omics technologies and potential applications in food and feed safety:
http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/supporting/pub/495e.htm?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=pub&utm_campaign=20131009

Reports from China and Australia:

1. China's top TCM authority has launched a nationwide investigation into the nation's TCM resources, particularly herbs: The State Administration for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) on Thursday announced the first national census on TCM resources in more than two decades. "The last TCM census was more than 20 years ago, and the TCM industry has been since developing rapidly. The demands and applications of TCM materials have expanded in the interval, and the types, distribution, quantity and quality of TCM resources changed greatly," said administration spokesman Wang Lian Thursday at a press briefing. The previous three census started in 1960, 1969 and 1983 respectively and each took three to five years. The administration said that some 9,000 types of TCM materials have already been researched during the preparation and trial census stage that started in 2009. According to the administration, the census will be in full swing by the end of this year with the coverage of more than 800 counties in 31 provincial-level regions across the country. The census will also see the establishment of 11 new seedling incubation bases that will set an example for cultivating precursor plants for TCM materials.

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2013-10/18/content_17041737.htm
http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/818492.shtml#_UmGG7xxZCuQ

2. Zhangshu (樟树市) in Jiangxi Province officially named 'Capital of TCM'. The China Association of TCM announced the decision at the opening ceremony of China's 44th National Traditional Medicine Trade Fair being held in Zhangshu, Xinhua reported. The city is famous for its rich resources of medicinal herbs. Trade in TCM in Zhangshu dates back to 1,800 years and it has continued and flourished since then, according to the association. The first Zhangshu Traditional Medicine Trade Fair was approved by China's State Council and held in 1958. More than 100,000 people, 10,000 pharmaceutical manufacturers and 620 enterprises attended the trade fair this year. About 15,000 kinds of traditional medicine were on display, according to the organisers:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2013-10/16/c_132804452.htm

3. Macau develops Hengqin for innovative technology and TCM is highly featured.
There are series of news from the Government as well industry:

3.1. Hengqin to sell plot for Chinese medicine

<http://macaubusinessdaily.com/Property/Hengqin-sell-plot-Chinese-medicine>

3.2. MIF 2013: Hengqin - Five major projects to benefit local SMEs

<http://www.macaudailytimes.com.mo/macau/47756-mif-2013-hengqin-five-major-projects-to-benefit-local-smes.html>

3.3. The Hengqin "Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation between Guangdong and Macao" – Getting into the Substantive Operation:

http://www.mid.com.mo/en/news_detail.aspx?a_id=3

4. TCM under the microscope – Listening to a radio report from Australia:

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/radio/program/asia-pacific/traditional-chinese-medicine-under-the-microscope/1204898>

Recommended Readings:

1. Liu X, Wu WY, Jiang BH, Yang M, Guo DA. Pharmacological tools for the development of traditional Chinese medicine. Trends in Pharmacological Sciences - 16 October 2013: Pharmacology as a modern science was introduced in China approximately 150 years ago, and has been used since then to study TCM. Pharmacology has experienced its own development over this time and continues to provide new tools for the study of TCM. In the present review, three models for the pharmacological study of TCM are considered: (i) chemistry-focused study; (ii)

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target-directed study; and (iii) systems-biology-based study. These approaches correspond to recent developments in pharmacology, and in particular to new tools available to the field. Representative achievements and the pharmacological tools used to study TCM are reviewed. Pharmacology has played, and will continue to play, an indispensable role in elucidating the chemical basis, biological targets, and mechanisms of action of TCM medicines, and in developing a scientific basis for the theory of TCM.

[http://www.cell.com/trends/pharmacological-sciences/abstract/S0165-6147\(13\)00167-3](http://www.cell.com/trends/pharmacological-sciences/abstract/S0165-6147(13)00167-3)

2. Williamson EM, Lorenc A, Booker A, Robinson N. **The rise of traditional Chinese medicine and its materia medica: a comparison of the frequency and safety of materials and species used in Europe and China.** *J Ethnopharmacol.* 2013;149:453-62. This study represents the first attempt to identify and compare the most important Chinese material medica (CMM) used in both EU and China, to begin the process of assessing the risks to public health and possible future benefits. Data were collected from a convenience sample of TCM practitioners in the EU and mainland China, using a paper/online survey. From a total of 747 useable questionnaires (420 from China, 327 from the EU) of those responding from the EU, TCM was generally more commonly used for obstetric/gynaecological and dermatological conditions, compared to neurological and gastrointestinal diseases in China. Disorders treated by Chinese practitioners were more varied, and often more serious, than those treated by their European counterparts, and the range of materials used in China was wider. The potential for toxicity was not high in either region, but although greater in China due to the use of more potent CMM, the incidence of side effects was perceived to be higher by EU practitioners. **CONCLUSIONS:** Very few of the species used to prepare CMM in the EU in this study give rise to safety concerns from what is known from the scientific and other literature, and in China only a few toxic CMM appear to be commonly used, some of them only after processing and mainly for serious disorders. The main cause for concern is likely to be interaction with prescribed medication, especially in central nervous system and cardiovascular conditions where drug interactions have previously been reported most frequently and which would currently be more applicable in China than Europe.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378874113004832>

3. Andrew Flower, Claudia Witt, Jian Ping Liu, Gudrun Ulrich-Merzenich, Kenneth Muir, He Yu, Martina Prude, George Lewith. **GP-TCM Unabridged guidelines for randomised controlled trials investigating Chinese herbal medicine (CHM).** *European Journal of Integrative Medicine* (in press) doi:10.1016/j.eujim.2013.07.011. As part of the GP-TCM project a team of experienced clinical researchers and Chinese herbal, medicine (CHM) practitioners have developed clinical trial guidelines for CHM that combine an appreciation for traditional methods of practice with detailed and practical advice on rigorous research methodology. This paper presents the full account of this work that has previously only been published, as an executive summary. It introduces the practice of CHM and the key considerations that need to be addressed whilst researching this traditional medical system. These guidelines emphasise the importance of identifying best practice, and then developing and applying appropriate and rigorous, research methodologies to investigate CHM as a whole system. It is hoped that this will encourage a thoughtful and meticulous process of investigation that will clarify the contribution that CHM can make to our future healthcare. Innovative new approaches are considered including the application of the new "omic" technologies and systems biology as a way of enhancing our understanding of traditional practice. [This article belongs to the Special Issue: *Clinical Guidelines for Integrated Practice.*]

Meeting Invitations:

1. Open Info Day - Horizon 2020 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing', 22nd November 2013. Venue: Centre Albert Borschette, rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels, BELGIUM. Horizon 2020, the EU's new programme for investment in research and innovation, is expected to include more than 7 billion EUR for the 'Health, demographic change and wellbeing' challenge. Applying for these funds will be a competitive process. Only the very best project proposals will be

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selected. This event will prepare you for the first funding round, expected for December this year. It will

- give you essential information on how to develop a good project proposal;
- take you through the application process, step by step;
- help you find project partners and get answers to your questions.

Download the draft programme and register your interest to participate on:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/horizon-2020-health-open-info-days_en.html

2. Symposium on Traditional Chinese Medicines, 14th-15th November 2013. Venue: EDQM Premises, 7 allée Kastner, 67081 Strasbourg, FRANCE. For several years now, the demand and promotion of TCMs in Europe has been increasing. The quality of the herbal drugs used in TCM is a critical determinant of safety and efficacy of treatments, but procuring correctly identified and high quality TCM herbal drugs can be challenging. This symposium, which is being jointly organised by the EDQM and the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of the People's Republic of China (SATCM) and its National Key Institute of TCM Quality Control (NKI-TCM), will take a close look at the situation in Europe and how to ensure access to safe and high quality TCM herbal drugs. Key topics on the programme include:

- The situation of the TCM herbal drugs market within Europe
- The regulatory situation regarding the use of TCMs in the EU
- How TCM monographs are elaborated in China (Ch. P.) and Europe (Ph. Eur.)
- The use of European Pharmacopoeia TCM herbal drug monographs

Reduced fees apply to participants from national authorities, university, community pharmacists and TCM practitioners. For more information on the programme, registration fees and how to register, please go to:

<http://www.edqm.eu/en/Traditional-Chinese-Medicines-Symposium-November-2013-1590.html>

3. A “Novel Approaches for IP Management in Biotechnology and Traditional Chinese Medicine” session will be organised at the BIP Asia Forum 2013, 5th-6th December 2013. Venue: Hall 3B & C, Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre, Wanchai, Hong Kong, CHINA. The 21st century advancement in the fields of biotechnology and TCM compels us to notice the importance of effective IP management in their inventions. This session will be chaired by GP-TCM RA BoD member Prof. Vivian Wong and will be graced by eminent speakers who will share best practices for developing and patenting biotechnology IPs, introduce a TCM patent database that facilitates IP generation, as well as offer practical legal tips on the patentability of both biotechnology and TCM IPs.

4. The 3rd GP-TCM RA Annual Meeting will be held in Nanjing on 19th-20th July 2014. Prof. De-an Guo will chair the organising committee and the meeting will be run in parallel to the 5th Annual Meeting of the Specialty Committee of TCM Pharmaceutical Analysis of WFCMS. Please firmly book these dates in your diary. More details will follow.

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