

GP-TCM Monthly Newsletter May-June 2011 Issue

Special Feature:

As a group member of the Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine (CGCM), we would like to highlight the 10th Annual CGCM Meeting and encourage you to make every effort to attend this important event in Shanghai (26th – 28th August 2011). The meeting is jointly organised by Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Tongji University. It provides a platform for regulatory-industrial-academic exchanges and potential research collaborations on various frontiers of Traditional Chinese Medicine among worldwide CGCM members and guests.

The following themes will be addressed:

- Acupuncture
- Bioinformatics and Database (Classification diseases & herbal database and application of "Omics" in TCM research)
- Biological Activities and Mechanism Study (Cancer, immunomodulation, mechanism & drug interaction and metabolic, neural diseases & aging process)
- Clinical Trial (Cancer & liver inflammation and safety & other diseases)
- Education
- Herbal Resources (Cultivation & herbal quality, identification & manufacturing and natural products & biological activities)
- Industry and Academic Collaborations
- International Collaborations
- Objective and Standard Assessments of Diagnosis in TCM
- Quality Control
- Regulatory Affairs

New deadline for abstract submission: 5th July 2011.
Registration deadline: 16th July 2011

As a special concession to GP-TCM members, CGCM Headquarters welcome us to submit/register even if the abstract/registration has to be a few days late. Please indicate clearly "This late submission has been approved by Prof. Yung-Chi Cheng" on your form.

* **Abstract submission form** can be requested from centraloffice@tcmedicine.org and abstracts should be submitted to centraloffice@tcmedicine.org on or before the deadline.

* **Travel Grant:** To support postgraduates to attend the 10th CGCM Meeting, up to 25 Travel Grants are now open for application. Awardees will receive up to USD 600 and free accommodation.

GP-TCM Activities:

1. The 2nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the GP-TCM consortium will be held in Braga, Portugal (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Braga>), on 21st - 24th July 2011.

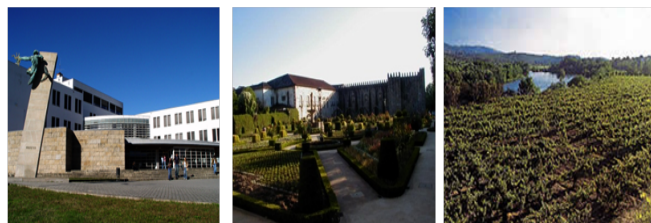
As part of the 2nd AGM, the Consortium will organise a scientific satellite Symposium, coupled with the Annual Meeting, which will be an excellent opportunity for our

members and their co-workers to present their work as posters and lectures as well as discuss topics related to the evaluation of TCM in terms of efficacy, toxicology and pharmacology aspects, etc. This satellite meeting intends to provide a platform for discussion forums and sharing knowledge devoted to a wider audience than just the GP-TCM meeting attendees.

The meeting will be held at the University of Minho, and the participants will stay at Meliá Braga Hotel & Spa (<http://www.meliabraga.com/en>; 5 min walking distance to the University). For meeting programme, contact Dr. Halil Uzuner (halil.uzuner@kcl.ac.uk) or Prof. Alberto Dias (d1508@bio.uminho.pt).

Braga is located in North West Portugal, and is the oldest Portuguese city and one of the oldest Christian cities in the world, founded during the times of Roman Emperor Augustus (around the year 20 BC).

How to reach Braga? The best airport to reach Braga is the Porto airport (approx. 40 km from Braga); it is served by several low cost flight companies. As a good way to find flights, we suggest the following website: <http://www.momondo.com/>. From the Porto airport to Braga, you can take a taxi (around 70 Euros) or you can take the Metro (from the airport) to Campanhã Train Station (in Porto) and then take a train to Braga. For those arriving by car, take the A3 Highway to Braga. You can also take a flight to Lisbon airport and then take a train to Braga (Alfa-train, ~3.5 hours) or a bus (~4.5h). Be aware that the schedules of the direct trains are scarce (4 times a day).



<http://www.meliabraga.com/en>

2. GP-TCM Coordinator's tour in China to mark the final year of the Coordination Action: To disseminate GP-TCM outcomes, recruit members from central and remote areas of China, and to receive feedback and advice from existing members and

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advisors, Dr. Qihe Xu visited Beijing, Henan, Hubei, Hainan and Fujian in May/June 2011. He introduced GP-TCM to the staff and students at Hainan Medical College (Hainan) and Xinxiang Medical University (Henan) and interacted face to face with WP3 and WP8 Co-Coordinator Prof. Xinmin Liu (Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Beijing), Prof. Xiaomin Wang (China Capital Medical University, Beijing), senior consortium member Prof. Yanjiang Qiao (Vice President, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine) and their team members. Discussions were especially focused on GP-TCM deliverables, the J Ethnopharmacol GP-TCM Special Issue, the New Society, the Braga meeting, the EU legislation on herbal medicines and the perspectives of TCM research in an international context. Furthermore, Qihe visited Zhengzhou University (Henan), Wuhan University (Hubei), Xiamen University (Fujian) and China-Japan Friendship Hospital (Beijing). New members were recruited during the visit and official appointments will be announced in GP-TCM newsletters. By the end of the visit, Qihe enjoyed a highly productive meeting with Dr. Jijun Xing, a member of the GP-TCM Advisory Board and the Director of the European Section of the International Department, Ministry of Science & Technology (MOST). Dr. Xing highly ranked our efforts and achievements in the past 2 years and encouraged consortium members to carry on the good work, aiming to bring modernisation of TCM research into the international collaborative programmes of Framework Programme 8 (FP8), which will start in 2014. Dr. Xing restated the continuous support from MOST and himself to GP-TCM in promoting EU-China collaboration in TCM research.



Dr. Xu lecturing at Xinxiang Medical University on GP-TCM and his research on anti- and pro-fibrotic herbal entities

Preliminary results of the TEST-GP Marie Curie ITN re-submission: The TEST-GP applicants have received an evaluation report from the review panel. Congratulations go to all those who are involved in this GP-TCM group exercise in one way or another: The resubmitted application passed all thresholds and received a highly respectable score of 84.8 (out of 100), a significant improvement comparing to the outcome of the first bid, which missed 3 thresholds with a final

score of 69.2. As Prof. Michael Heinrich said: “This is a very good outcome. Congratulations for this outcome based on all (y)our hard work! I have no clue what the threshold (cut-off score for funding) will be and if we are in or on some sort of a reserve list. Let's see, but clearly there are diverse factors coming into place now (number of applicants, overall ranking of these, etc). Key is that this is a very, very positive assessment.”

4. GP-TCM nominates Professor Yung-Chi Cheng for the First Cheung On Tak International Award for Outstanding Contribution to Chinese Medicine (<http://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/cm-award/intro/index.html>):

The Award is conferred once every two years to scientists and scholars who have made groundbreaking achievements in advancing the internationalisation of Chinese medicine and in the field of Chinese medicine research. GP-TCM nominated Prof. Cheng, Co-Chair of the GP-TCM Advisory Board, to be considered by the Award Committee because of Prof. Cheng's preeminent leadership roles in (i) disseminating the science and culture of TCM, (ii) developing new concepts, technologies and platforms for truly translational research of TCM, (iii) organising international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary dialogues and collaborations and (iv) bringing TCM research to mainstream academic research and industrial R & D. These are in addition to his numerous achievements in Western medicine research leading to 4 drugs in clinical use, hundreds of original papers in high impact journals including *Nature* and *Science*, as well as the Cheng-Prusoff equation (1973), which is still used by pharmacologists worldwide today. We sincerely wish Prof. Cheng be awarded this prestigious award as a recognition to his generous support to colleagues worldwide, especially his support and inspiration to GP-TCM!

5. The WP3 survey: GP-TCM WP3 (Functional genomics in toxicology study of Chinese herbal medicines) is currently conducting an electronic survey using SurveyMonkey website, which will help us assess the perception of stakeholders towards the use of Chinese herbs. The study will lead to define the different factors that influence the perceptions of quality and safety of herbal medicines, notably Traditional Chinese Medicine.

In order to achieve this, we would like to invite health professionals, distributors and health authorities, as well as patients (users and non-users of herbal products) to complete the electronic survey with customised questions to suit their involvement via the links given below (in Chinese, English, and French):

Chinese: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T77DHZQ>

English: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T7M8BHS>

French: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T7QV7G2>

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Furthermore, if you are the representative of a health organisation, or TCM-related institution/body, please encourage your members to complete the questionnaire. We welcome your comments to help us to identify any appropriate links to be contacted from main Chinese/European professional TCM bodies for questionnaire dissemination (please contact Prof. Pierre Duez pduez@ulb.ac.be).

6. Free resources exclusive for GP-TCM members - The East Linden World Traditional Medicine Patent Database (WTMPD): In kind return to our support to a grant application led by East Linden, the company provided the GP-TCM consortium free access to WTMPD: <http://www.wtmpd.com/>. The database covers all patent literature related to natural medicines issued by 22 countries and 2 international organisations since 1985. All patents, both in Chinese and English, totalling 150,000 (more than 400,000 family patents), are high-quality manually processed, deeply indexed and translated. WTMPD has several auxiliary databases, such as natural medicine database, chemical substance database, Chinese medicine formula database. Based on the above rich resources, professional searching functions are provided to facilitate the efficient utilizing of patent information, including quick search, form search, advanced search, IPC search, chemical structure search, natural medicine search, Chinese medicine formula search, as well as Chinese medicine formula similarity search have been designed. In addition, this database provides over 30 search entries and supports multi-language search, synonym expansion search and cross-database search. Please contact Dr. Halil Uzuner (halil.uzuner@kcl.ac.uk) for further information.

7. The 4th and 5th WP Website Representatives/Editorial Board Teleconferences were held on 23rd and 25th March 2011, respectively. GP-TCM project manager Halil Uzuner organised and hosted these project website discussion teleconferences with the WP website representatives to demonstrate the latest developments at the project website as well as to discuss updating the information provided at the WP homepages. As agreed during the teleconferences, the WP homepages will be updated by the website representatives of each WP with support from the management team.



GP-TCM Announcements, Appointments and Labour Division:

1. Appointment of new Finance Manager for the GP-TCM project: We are pleased to inform you that Mr. Daniel Walker (Head of EU Research Funding Office, King's College London, UK) has been appointed as the new Finance Manager/Advisor of the consortium.

Daniel Walker joined King's College London in 2006 working exclusively on projects funded by the European Commission. Having worked on over 150 projects across the four pillars of FP7; Cooperation, Ideas, People and Capacities, as well as Frameworks 5 & 6 and other non-Framework programmes, he possesses a wealth of experience.

Daniel began his career in academic publishing, first at Palgrave MacMillan and later at Research, the publisher of Research Fortnight & Research Europe. Moving into research management in 2003, Daniel joined the world-renowned London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as an Assistant Research Contracts Officer where he was responsible for obtaining funding from sponsors including the Department for International Development, The Gates Foundation, UK Department of Health, as well as the European Commission.

A fluent Spanish speaker, Daniel is a keen advocate of Traditional Chinese Medicine having benefitted personally from its practice and hopes to contribute to the successful completion of GP-TCM. Daniel can be contacted at daniel.walker@kcl.ac.uk. Alternatively, please contact the Project Manager for full contact details (halil.uzuner@kcl.ac.uk). **Warmest congratulations Daniel!**

2. Appointment of Prof. Yun Wang (School of Chinese Pharmacy, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine) to GP-TCM as a full member devoted to WP1 (Quality control of Chinese herbal medicines), WP2 (Extraction and component analysis of Chinese herbal medicines), and WP3 (Functional Genomics in Toxicology Study of Chinese Herbal Medicines). Prof. Yun Wang's (Ph.D., Professor in Science of Chinese Materia Medica) research interests mainly focus on information fusion for Chinese pharmacy and application of systems biology in Chinese pharmacy. He proposed a new complex system modeling method called Entity Grammar Systems (EGS), which is flexible enough to modeling the hierarchal structures in biology and Chinese pharmacy. In the April-May issue of our Newsletter, we featured Prof. Wang's work [doi:10.1016/j.jep.2011.04.057]. Based on EGS, he established a comprehensive platform including TCM formula database, TCM natural products database, TCM natural product targeting database and the biochemistry reactions database. The platform can be used to extract the possible molecular network

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influenced by Chinese herbal medicine. In recent years, he has been involved in more than 20 projects on TCM research and has published more than 80 papers. Now, he serves as editor board member of two international journals. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Yun!**

3. Appointment of Prof. Kahumba Byanga (University of Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic Of Congo) to GP-TCM as a non-beneficiary member devoted to WP3 (Functional Genomics in Toxicology Study of Chinese Herbal Medicines). Prof. Kahumba received his Ph.D. degree in pharmacognosy in 2005 from University of Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo. He was appointed as Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2006, and in 2010 he was promoted as Professor. As a member of the research team of University of Lubumbashi, which deals with traditional African medicine, he has participated to several surveys related to traditional medicine. His research is essentially focused on pharmacological, toxicological and chemical studies of medicinal plants and insects used in African traditional medicine. Currently, he is undergoing assays in animal models for antidiabetic and hepatoprotective action of medicinal plants extracts. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Kahumba!**

4. Appointment of Dr. Liliana Vargas-Murga (Biothani Europe S.L., Spain) to GP-TCM as a non-beneficiary member devoted to WP5 (Functional Genomics in Animal Studies of Chinese Herbal Medicines). Liliana is a researcher, as botanical expert, in PlantLIBRA consortium, at the Nutrition Research Foundation and Associate Professor of Phytotherapy at the University School of Nursing "Sant Joan de Déu". She is a founder Director of, and a Consultant to, Biothani Europe S.L. She obtained her bachelor degree in Pharmacy from San Marcos University; undergraduate degree in Food Science and Technology and Ph.D. in Pharmacy from the University of Barcelona, and postdoctoral training at the University Complutense of Madrid. She joined Aplicaciones y Desarrollos Naturales S.L. as Pharmacist consultant giving advice about different aspects of plants and their preparations. She has managed several projects at Labiana Plant Sciences S.L. as a Research, Development & Innovation Manager. She rejoined Aplicaciones y Desarrollos Naturales S.L. as a Senior Consultant where she has provided scientific, technical and regulatory advice to plant-based products companies. Liliana has given lectures at San Marcos University, La Molina University, Autonomous University of Barcelona and University of Barcelona. Moreover she taught food toxicology at the University International Study Center (IUSC), phytotherapy and functional foods at the University School of Nursing "Sant Joan de Déu", and plant-drug interactions at the

University of Barcelona. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Liliana!**

5. Appointment of Dr. Ava Lorenc (London South Bank University, UK) to GP-TCM as a full member devoted to WP6 (Functional genomics in clinical studies of Chinese herbal medicines) and WP8 (Functional genomics in studies of acupuncture-moxibustion and meridians). Ava is involved in a number of research projects using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies on a variety of complementary and integrative healthcare approaches. Current projects include children's use of traditional and complementary medicine, patient and public engagement in sexual health and a systematic review of Shiatsu. She is also editorial assistant for the *European Journal of Integrative Medicine*, published by Elsevier. Ava has extensive experience of writing proposals, seeking funding, obtaining ethical approval, recruitment, data collection and analysis, writing reports and papers, time management and presenting at national and international events and conferences. In particular, she has conducted numerous qualitative interviews and focus groups, as well as survey research, qualitative data analysis using Framework Analysis and Atlas.ti, systematic reviews and statistical analysis using SPSS. Previous topics of research include prevalence studies of complementary medicine use; a survey of acupuncture practice regarding fertility; an evaluation of stress management for schoolchildren; effectiveness studies of autogenic training and spiritual healing; and parents' healthcare decision making. Ava also provides assistance to the Research Council for Complementary Medicine (RCCM) in the UK and volunteers for a learning disability charity. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Ava!**

6. Appointment of Prof. Lei Wang (China Capital Medical University, China) to GP-TCM as a full member devoted to WP6 (Functional genomics in clinical studies of Chinese herbal medicines). Lei is Professor of TCM at China Capital Medical University (CCMU). She has been working with CCMU since she graduated from Beijing University of TCM with a Ph.D. in formula of TCM science in 1996. From 2001 to 2003, she worked at Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Sciences in Japan as a postdoctoral fellow. She focused on preventing and treating cerebral oxidative stress by TCM formulas such as Shengmai San. Since 2003, she has been interested in treating neurodegenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis by TCM formulas. The scientific research projects are supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Beijing Nature Science Foundation, Scientific Research Common Program of Beijing Municipal Education Commission, etc. She wrote 5 books, and as the second chief editor of 2 of them, as subeditor of 3 of them, and published over 40 papers in Chinese or international journals. As a graduate tutor, she has

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supervised 2 postgraduates. She is a member of Chinese Association of Chinese Medicine Formula Committee and general secretary of Beijing Association of Chinese Medicine Brain Diseases Committee. In 2010, she obtained the title Backbone Teachers in Academic Human Resources Development in Institutions of Higher Learning under the Jurisdiction of Beijing Municipality. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Lei!**

7. Appointment of Dr. Karen Pilkington (University of Westminster, UK) to GP-TCM as a non-beneficiary member devoted to WP6 (Functional genomics in clinical studies of Chinese herbal medicines) and WP8 (Functional genomics in studies of acupuncture-moxibustion and meridians). Karen is Senior Research Fellow at the University of Westminster. She gained her first degree in at the University of London (B Pharm) and then worked in the UK National Health Service as a clinical pharmacist. She subsequently qualified as an information scientist and established a specialist information centre advising on medicines in children. She was then recruited to an innovative post developing training and advising health care organisations on evidence based practice. In 2003, she joined the university to manage a 4-year Department of Health funded project reviewing the evidence on complementary therapies. The findings were subsequently published in a series of systematic reviews and in an online database. She was awarded a PhD by publication and continues to work on evaluating evidence on complementary therapies and developing systematic reviews methodology. Her current research projects include a Department of Health funded project on self-care and the development of international standards for reporting safety. Karen was involved in the development of NHS Evidence – complementary and alternative medicine and a European CAM information centre (EICCAM). In 2010, she was invited to join a project assessing the impact of traditional Chinese medicine on pharmaceutical care in Europe by the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and HealthCare. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Karen!**

8. Appointment of Dr. Kah-Tong Seow (WEI Medicine, Germany) to GP-TCM as a non-beneficiary member devoted to WP8 (Functional genomics in studies of acupuncture-moxibustion and meridians). Kah-Tong (Ph.D. in molecular neurobiology and M.Eng in knowledge engineering) has accumulated industry functional genomics experience from his time at Merck KGaA. He was responsible for acquisition and implementation of cutting-edge technologies for preclinical R&D, supporting target identification and validation (oncology and metabolic diseases), and drug discovery network with partners from Asia (the Marco Polo

project 2009, 93-110, SpringerLink). He is the industry scientific coordinator for the “First systems biology symposium/workshop” organised by EBI, UK. After his time at Merck KGaA, he took an internship at the oncology department in Zhejiang provincial TCM hospital to study the west-east TCM integrated approach to cancer before starting projects that aim to integrate the personalised and preventive medicine concepts from TCM into computational systems biology. He has developed a series of computational tools (computational TCM) for TCM research with the aims that they could eventually “talk directly” to the western computational biology/bioinformatics tools to facilitate the bridging of TCM to systems biology. To share his experience in developing these computational TCM tools to bioinformatics scientists currently supporting TCM research projects, he will be organising workshops and the information will be available through the GP-TCM newsletters. **Warmest welcome and congratulations, Kah-Tong!**

Conferences and Events:

1. The 8th World Congress of Chinese Medicine (WCCM 2011) will be held in the magnificent Central Hall Westminster, London, UK, 2nd – 3rd September 2011, followed by post-congress academic tours to University of Oxford, University of Cambridge and Middlesex University. To register, please visit <http://www.2011wccm.com/>



Organised by the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS), the World Congress of Chinese Medicine as a global event of TCM is convened annually since 2004 in different countries in the world. The WFCMS, established in 2003 with its head office based in Beijing, China, is the highest academic platform for Chinese medicine societies in the world. With its 195 member societies from 57 countries worldwide, WFCMS gathers thousands of TCM master scholars and scientists in TCM research and represents the highest TCM academic level in the world. It has successfully organised seven congresses since 2004 in Beijing, Paris, Toronto, Singapore, Macau, Melbourne and The Hague. The World Congress of Chinese Medicine is the highest international academic platform

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for exchanging clinical experiences, broadening academic horizons and inspiring further development in the field of traditional Chinese medicine.

The theme of WCCM 2011 is "Traditional Chinese Medicine Benefits Human Health". The topics of presentations and workshops range from the study of TCM fundamental theory, clinical reports and experiences, scientific research of herbal medicine, acupuncture, moxibustion, tuina therapy and medical qigong, to the setting of standards for higher education and scientific study, the development of a global strategy of Chinese medicine, and legislation of Chinese medicine, etc. The treatment of pain-related diseases, TCM dermatology, and cancer management will be the focal points. **More details can be obtained from Dr. Huijun Shen (hshen@lincoln.ac.uk)**

2. 1st Forum on Sino-Europe Cooperation and Development of TCM - Prevention and Treatment on Metabolic Syndrome in TCM, in Bad Kötzing, Germany, 21st – 24th July 2011

<http://www.wfcms.org/english/>

3. Bioscience for the 21st Century: Emerging Frontiers and Evolving Concepts – 13th International Symposium of the Society of Chinese Bioscientists in America, Guangzhou, China, 25th – 29th July 2011:

<http://www.scbameeting2011.org/>

4. The 59th International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA) to be held in Turkey, 4th – 9th September 2011: <http://www.ga2011.org/>

5. "Towards Toxicity Assessment Without Animals" - The 28th Workshop of SSCT and the FINCOPA Seminar to be held in Scandic Rosendahl, Tampere, Finland, 21st – 23rd September 2011: www.ficam.fi

6. The 3rd International Conference of Bioinformatics, Natural Products and Traditional Medicine with the theme "Search the Alternative Strategy to Combat Major Diseases from Traditional Medicine" to be held in Xi'an, China, on 14th – 16th October 2011: <http://www.icbnptm.org/>

Funding opportunities

1. GP-TCM encourages members to apply for various prestigious and but less competitive grants, such as the Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPPs): The European Commission has published the evaluation results for the 2011 IAPPs Call. The results show that, of the 165 proposals submitted in total, 51 have been short-listed in list A (proposals recommended for funding). Some 22 proposals have been placed on the reserve list (list B). No proposals are in list C (proposals which are above the threshold but not retained for funding nor on the reserve list due to lack of available budget). Therefore, all proposals which scored over the threshold

are either recommended for funding (list A) or on the reserve list (list B). This is in a stark contrast with Marie Curie ITN, although more than half applications passed all thresholds, only approximately 9% applications are likely to be funded.

1. The Innovative Medicines Initiative JU (IMI) will launch its 4th Call for Proposals mid-June 2011. Details of the 7 indicative topics for the 4th Call for proposals are now available.

<http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/4th-call-2011>

Recommended further reading:

1. A fresh take on Traditional Medicine - University of Sydney

<http://www.nutraceuticalsworld.com/contents/view/32801>

2. Following Norman Bethune's Footsteps: Boom in Canada-China research collaborations

<http://www.cmaj.ca/cgi/content/full/182/1/E31>

3. An update report on WHO classification of traditional medicines:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3033939/>

4. Metabolomics and its applications

<http://www.nutraceuticalsworld.com/contents/view/32539>

<http://www.nutraceuticalsworld.com/contents/view/32614>

<http://www.nutraceuticalsworld.com/contents/view/32621>

5. Most updated publications from PredTox, a FP6 project on toxicology

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=PredTox>

For connoisseurs of Chinese calligraphy and paintings, here is another treat for you.



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