

# The GP-TCM Research Association Newsletter

## The 2018 Lantern Festival Special Edition



### Special Features

**1. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association will be held in London, United Kingdom, 4th-6th July 2018.** The conference will take place at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (4th & 5th July 2018) and at London South Bank University (6th July 2018). The conference will bring together scientists, clinicians, regulators and business people involved in different aspects of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). The conference takes place in the year that celebrates the birth 500 years ago of Li Shizhen. He was the author of the famous Compendium of Materia Medica and considered by many to be the greatest scientific naturalist of China. The aim of the conference is to address the current challenges and opportunities that face the development of TCM as a global resource in modern day medicine.



To reflect our commitments to good practices in TCM research and development, speakers will include representatives from industry that are bringing new medicines to market based on traditional Chinese medicines as well as those studying different aspects of quality control. This will include the need to embrace new techniques and monographs for monitoring the control of granules entering the trade. Other speakers will provide a summary of the increased knowledge about the chemistry, pharmacology and safety of TCM plants and fungi. The first two days of the conference (4th and 5th July) will be at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew just outside London. Clinical Studies (herbal) and Acupuncture sessions will be held at London South Bank University (6th July) and will include methodology, evidence, effectiveness, policy and health care provision. The conference will be restricted to about 200 people and there will be no parallel sessions. The conference aims to bring together a multi-disciplinary audience to hear talks from an international group of speakers that will address key questions associated with TCM.



We hope you will be able to attend the conference and share your views as to what needs to be done to optimise

the benefits that TCM could contribute to our wellbeing. We will be accepting posters and hope that young scientists will take this opportunity to showcase their findings.

Who should attend the conference?

- Pharmacologists, natural product chemists and those interested in drug development
- Those involved in the conservation and sustainable supply of medicinal plants and fungi
- Companies interested in developing products based on TCM
- Clinicians and acupuncturists involved in TCM

For meeting registration, abstract submission and accommodation, please visit:

<http://www.gp-tcm.org/events/upcoming/>

**2. Warmest congratulations to Academician Professor Zhu Chen for winning The Sjöberg Prize 2018, together with French researchers Anne Dejean and Hugues de The, for the unique treatment that cures a once fatal cancer, announced the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences on Monday 5th Fe. 2018**  
[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-02/06/c\\_136951631.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-02/06/c_136951631.htm)  
<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/0ggSA439V1z67R2h5gcSig> (中文)



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### Editorial

#### Innovative Platforms for Globalization of Chinese Medicine



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As stated by the World Health Organization (WHO), though Chinese medicine has been increasingly authorised and practised around the world, the lack of platform to provide research data, education and training could be hindering the global development of Chinese medicine.

The 'WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023' [1], which had surveyed the adoption of Chinese medicine and other traditional medicine among WHO member states, stated that Chinese medicine has now been widely recognized. Taking acupuncture as an example, the demand for acupuncture in countries such as Australia and the United States has increased by 30% and 35% respectively in 5 to 10 years. In Switzerland, Chinese medicine has been integrated into the coverage of its health insurance system for citizens. However, as pointed out by the report, most countries are facing difficulties in finding research data for the evaluation of safety, quality and efficacy of Chinese medicine, as well as the lack of resources in personnel education and training.

In response to the international needs, the Faculty of Medicine of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) has spent two years in developing an English-taught Chinese medicine online course, and Asia's first Chinese medicine clinical evidence online portal which gathers research data of Chinese and integrative medicine around the world. The two innovative platforms have been launched in the third quarter of 2017, with the aim to promote basic knowledge and research of traditional Chinese medicine globally.

For the past two years, we have been collaborating with Coursera, an internationally renowned Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform, to create its first English-taught Chinese medicine course named 'Everyday Chinese Medicine' [2]. The course introduces basic theories of Chinese medicine such as 'Yin-Yang', and 'Zang-Fu', causes of illness, and diagnostic methods tailored to the needs of English speakers in an interactive fashion. Animation and graphics are used to help learners, who might be unfamiliar with Chinese medicine, to understand the unique concepts of it.

While the MOOC course satisfies the needs of the public, we have also established the 'Integrative Medicine Clinical Evidence Portal' for healthcare professionals [3], the first of its kind in Asia.

As wading through research papers on Chinese medicine and integrative medicine treatment is often considered as difficult and time consuming, the online portal allows healthcare professionals to have an easy access to scientific research evidence in this field. With a simple keyword search via treatment or condition, healthcare professionals may access the synopses of over 200 clinical trials and systematic reviews at ease. We also tailor-made a system to rank the credibility of a study from several key factors such as study background and results. In all, we wish to provide a simple tool for anyone who is interested in the subject to learn its scientific proof and so to support the application and regulation of traditional and complementary medicine.

The online platforms are designed to work as a 'twin-track system' which advocates both the traditional Chinese medicine concept and modern scientific research evidence, so as to enhance Chinese medicine's global development and benefit patients. The two platforms can also foster the interflow between Chinese and Western healthcare professionals and drive the development of integrated treatment in the future.

#### References:

Archives (2008-2018): [www.gp-tcm.org/news-list/](http://www.gp-tcm.org/news-list/)

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[1] World Health Organization. WHO traditional medicine strategy 2014-2023. Available from [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/92455/1/9789241506090\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/92455/1/9789241506090_eng.pdf)

[2] Coursera. Everyday Chinese Medicine. Available from <https://www.coursera.org/learn/everyday-chinese-medicine>

[3] Hong Kong Institute of Integrative Medicine. Integrative Medicine Clinical Evidence Portal. Available from <http://www.hkiim.cuhk.edu.hk/ceim/en>

### European Reports

**1. New booklet shows how EU research and innovation funding impacts your daily life.**

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/new-booklet-shows-how-eu-research-and-innovation-funding-impacts-your-daily-life?utm>

**2. H2020 proposals, success rates, funded projects & participants per country**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/projectresults/index.html>

**3. EU Coordination Action call: Strategic collaboration in health research and innovation between EU and China.** Compared to its size and increasing weight on the R&I international scene, China's participation and cooperation to the Horizon 2020 SC1 programmes is low. This is a lost opportunity because most of the major health challenges are global, and cooperation with China on specific strategic health challenges can contribute to provide more evidence-based solutions and to avoid duplication. The objective of this action is to support networking between European and Chinese policy makers, programme owners and funders, with the following goals:

- To develop a sustainable platform between EU and China that will facilitate a constant dialogue on addressing common health R&I challenges.
- To identify health challenges, whose solution may benefit from closer bi-lateral and/or multi-lateral cooperation between EU and China, to facilitate and develop collaborative research initiatives between EU and Chinese stakeholders.

The Commission considers that a proposal requesting an EU contribution between EUR 0.8 and 1 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately.

Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and

selection of proposals requesting other amounts. **Deadline for submission is 18 April 2018 17:00:00.**

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/sc1-hco-11-2018.html>



### Reports on China and Chinese-European Cooperation

**1. Europe-China Joint Call – JPI Urban Europe Webinars.** The Joint Programming Initiative Urban Europe (JPIUE), in collaboration with the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC), has launched a pilot Joint Europe-China call entitled 'Sustainable and Liveable Cities and Urban Areas'. The registration deadline is on 12 April 2018 and the deadline for submitting full proposals on 20 June 2018. The total funding available in this programme is approximately €9.35 million on the European side. NSFC will fund the Chinese part of all projects. Funding agencies from nine European countries will participate in the call, including the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) from the UK. The call targets international consortia with Chinese and European universities, research institutes, research and technology organisations, cities and city planning departments, as well as European companies. The four call topics are:

- Climate change and new urban economies;
- Transformation of energy systems and strengthen urban circular economies;
- Urban public administration and services innovation; and
- Urban data management.

Two free information webinars will be organised for applicants on **13 February** and **6 March 2018**.

Archives (2008-2018): [www.gp-tcm.org/news-list/](http://www.gp-tcm.org/news-list/)

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<https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/calls/sustainable-urbanisation-china-europe/>

**2. BMJ Special Issue: Medical Research in China.** After several decades focusing on economic development, China recently broadened its national development agenda and included health as a major priority. This *BMJ* collection analyses progress in the evolution of Chinese medical research in four important areas—evidence informed policy, guidelines development, real world evidence, and big data. These are issues that demonstrate the vast challenge facing China, but also provide an opportunity for transformative change.

- Wu Y, et al. **China's medical research revolution** *BMJ* 2018;360:k547
- Fu W, et al. **Research in health policy making in China: out-of-pocket payments in Healthy China 2030.** *BMJ* 2018;360:k234.
- Chen Y, et al. **Clinical practice guidelines in China.** *BMJ* 2018;360:j5158
- Sun X, et al. **Real world evidence: experience and lessons from China.** *BMJ* 2018;360:j5262
- Zhang L, et al. **Big data and medical research in China.** *BMJ* 2018;360:j5910.

<http://www.bmj.com/medical-research-china>

[http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/DJiU\\_yNCIV42f4SiXqcNQ](http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/DJiU_yNCIV42f4SiXqcNQ) (中文)

**3. Guo H. Steps to the digital Silk Road.** *Nature* 2018;554, 25-27. Sharing big data from satellite imagery and other Earth observations across Asia, the Middle East and east Africa is key to sustainability, urges Guo Huadong.

[https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-01303-y?WT.ec\\_id](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-01303-y?WT.ec_id)

**4. Service RF. China's planned exascale computer threatens Summit's position at the top.** *Science* 2018;359:618. China's rise to the top of the supercomputing world has been swift. It's only been in this decade that the country first claimed bragging rights to the world's most powerful supercomputer. It has held a tight grip on those rights the last few years. The United States is expected to reclaim the top spot later this year, as it is nearing completion of Summit, a supercomputer that is expected to be twice as powerful as its closest rival. Nevertheless, China is widely expected to produce the first supercomputer capable of carrying out 1 billion billion calculations per second, or 1 exaflop. If this exascale supercomputer comes online in 2020 as promised, that could put it a year or more ahead of similar exascale systems now being developed in the United States, Japan, and the European Union. <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6376/618?utm>

**5. Larson C. China's AI imperative.** *Science* 2018;359:628-30. China is investing massively in artificial intelligence (AI), from chips to algorithms. Last summer, China's State Council issued an ambitious policy blueprint calling for the nation to become "the world's primary AI innovation center" by 2030, by which time, it forecast, the country's AI industry could be worth \$150 billion. In one of the government's latest moves to catch up with the United States, China plans to build a \$2.1 billion AI technology park in Beijing's western suburbs. But China's advantages in AI go beyond government commitment. Because of its sheer size, vibrant online commerce and social networks, and scant privacy protections, the country is awash in data, the lifeblood of AI's deep learning systems. The fierce global competition has an insidious downside: China and other nations are seeking to harness AI advances for enhanced surveillance and censorship, and for military purposes.

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6376/628?utm>



**6. The historic UK-China Joint Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation Cooperation** was launched in December during the UK-China People to People Dialogue. Witnessed

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by His Royal Highness Prince Andrew, Duke of York and China's Vice-Premier, Liu Yandong, this is the first joint strategy of its kind that China has signed with another country. The strategy outlines a commitment for both nations to take science and innovation collaboration to a new level, bringing coherence and cementing the UK's position as a key partner, especially important in the post EU referendum context. The strategy contains an important IP annex detailing the IP principles that apply to UK-China joint projects. The launch was accompanied by a 'Festival of Science' showcasing 21 UK-China science collaborations at the Royal Society.

UK China Science and Innovation collaboration got a real boost during Prime Minister Theresa May's recent visit. The PM referenced the significance of the Joint Strategy and its 2018 "Flagship Challenge" agri-tech focus in her speech in Shanghai on 2nd February. She also visited the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Beijing to learn about UK China agri-tech collaboration.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/665199/uk-china-strategy-science-technology-innovation-cooperation.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/665199/uk-china-strategy-science-technology-innovation-cooperation.pdf)

**7. China's breathtaking transformation into a scientific superpower**, *Washington Post* reports. China has become the second-largest R&D spender, accounting for 21 percent of the world total of nearly \$2 trillion in 2015. Only the United States, at 26 percent, ranks higher, but if present growth rates continue, China will soon become the biggest spender. From 2000 to 2015, Chinese R&D outlays grew an average of 18 percent annually, more than four times faster than the U.S. rate of 4 percent. There has been an explosion of technical papers by Chinese teams. Although the United States and the European Union each produce more studies on biomedical subjects, China leads in engineering studies. American papers tend to be cited more often than the Chinese papers, suggesting that they involve more fundamental research questions, but China is catching up. China has dramatically expanded its technical workforce. From 2000 to 2014, the annual number of science and engineering bachelor's degree graduates went from about 359,000 to 1.65 million. Over the same period, the comparable number of U.S. graduates went from about 483,000 to 742,000.



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/chinas-breathtaking-transformation-into-a-scientific-superpower/2018/01/21/03f883e6-fd44-11e7-8f66-2df0b94bb98a\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/chinas-breathtaking-transformation-into-a-scientific-superpower/2018/01/21/03f883e6-fd44-11e7-8f66-2df0b94bb98a_story.html)

**8. China's labour force participation rate, for both men and women tops the world.**

[http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/LRAoDY1i\\_FsZmJeVkf-rmA](http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/LRAoDY1i_FsZmJeVkf-rmA) (中文)

### TCM, Acupuncture and Other Traditional Medicine

**1. Schultz H. US-China research partnership on ginseng sign of growing backing for TCM, sources say.** *nutraingredients-usa.com*, 05-Feb-2018. The funding of a US-China research partnership focusing on ginseng in healthy aging and immunity is a sign of the growing investment behind — and evidence for — TCM ingredients, sources say.

<HTTPS://WWW.NUTRAINGREDIENTS-USA.COM/ARTICLE/2018/02/05/US-CHINA-RESEARCH-PARTNERSHIP-ON-GINSENG-SIGN-OF-GROWING-BACKING-FOR-TCM-SOURCES-SAY>

**2. TCM and Artificial Intelligence**

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/SNCG6WAEdYF-AXpx7FIx-A> (中文)

**3. Wang T, et al. An integrated anti-arrhythmic target network of a Chinese medicine compound, Wenxin Keli, revealed by combined machine learning and molecular pathway analysis.** *Mol Biosyst.* 2017;13:1018-1030. Wenxin Keli (WK), a Chinese patent medicine, is known to be effective against cardiac arrhythmias and heart failure. Although a number of electrophysiological findings regarding its therapeutic effect have been reported, the active components and system-level characterizations of the component-target interactions of WK have yet to be elucidated. In the current study, we present the first report of a new protective effect of WK on

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suppressing anti-arrhythmic-agent-induced arrhythmias. In a model of isolated guinea pig hearts, rapid perfusion of quinidine altered the heart rate and prolonged the Q-T interval. Pretreatment with WK significantly prevented quinidine-induced arrhythmias. To explain the therapeutic and protective effects of WK, we constructed an integrated multi-target pharmacological mechanism prediction workflow in combination with machine learning and molecular pathway analysis. This workflow had the ability to predict and rank the probability of each compound interacting with 1715 target proteins simultaneously. The ROC value statistics showed that 97.786% of the values for target prediction were larger than 0.8. We applied this model to carry out target prediction and network analysis for the identified components of 5 herbs in WK. Using the 124 potential anti-arrhythmic components and the 30 corresponding protein targets obtained, an integrative anti-arrhythmic molecular mechanism of WK was proposed. Emerging drug/target networks suggested ion channel and intracellular calcium and autonomic nervous and hormonal regulation had critical roles in WK-mediated anti-arrhythmic activity. A validation of the proposed mechanisms was achieved by demonstrating that calaxin, one of the WK components from Gansong, dose-dependently blocked its predicted target CaV1.2 channel in an electrophysiological assay. [http://cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(17\)31448-4](http://cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(17)31448-4)

**4. Ma Y, et al. Investigation of the active antiarrhythmic components of the multi-herbal medicine xin su ning.** Proceedings of the British Pharmacological Society, 2017. **Introduction:** A previous study showed that Xin Su Ning (XSN), a multi-herbal antiarrhythmic Chinese medicine prolongs action potential duration (APD) of isolated cardiac myocytes; i.e. displaying class III antiarrhythmic characteristics<sup>1</sup>. In this study we aim to identify the main active components that are responsible for the action potential prolongation of XSN. Several isolated components from XSN were studied. Among the components tested liensinine, from Lianzixin (*Plumula nelumbinis*), one of the 11 herbs in XSN, showed APD prolongation action with a different repolarisation profile compared with XSN. **Methods:** Single ventricular myocytes were obtained from the hearts of adult Wistar rats (~300g) by enzymatic dispersion as described previously<sup>2</sup>. The myocytes were continuously superfused with physiological extracellular solution at room temperature (~22-24°C). Action potentials were recorded using the whole-cell patch-clamp techniques with an AxonPatch200B amplifier and Pclamp software. XSN or its isolated component were perfused over the myocytes, and then washed out after a maximal effect of the medicine had been reached. The difference between control and the changes caused by the medicines was statistically tested using Student's t-test. **Results:** XSN at 0.4mg/ml and liensinine at 10µM both significantly prolonged APD<sub>90</sub> as shown in Table1 and Figure1. However liensinine did not prolong APD<sub>50</sub> compared with XSN's significant prolongation of both APD<sub>50</sub> and APD<sub>90</sub>. The effects of XSN and liensinine were reversible upon the washout. **Discussion:** XSN, a patented multi-herbal Chinese medicine, has been sold in China for more than 10 years to treat ventricular arrhythmia without adverse reactions being reported. The medicine was designed to protect the myocardium and regulate cardiac rhythm through its multi-component actions. Liensinine, one of the hundreds components in XSN induced APD prolongation with a different feature compared with XSN; this result opens up a wide range of research of XSN. It is well known there is a lack of antiarrhythmic drugs clinically, which are effective and safe. Studying the antiarrhythmic mechanism of XSN may enrich our knowledge of multi-component antiarrhythmic actions of drugs.

<http://www.pA2online.org/abstracts/Vol16Issue1abst093P.pdf>

**5. Li G, et al. Report on Scientific and Technological Competitiveness of Big Brand TCM Drugs (2017 Edition).** *Modern Chinese Medicine*; 2018;20(1):6-13. **Objective:** At present, with the deepening of China's medical reform, the core of science and technology innovation driven by clinical value and scientific value has become the core driving force for the development of Chinese medicine industry. In order to scientifically and reasonably evaluate the clinical value and scientific value of the big brand traditional Chinese medicine, and display the direction of propagating Chinese traditional medicine's scientific and technological innovation and guiding the cultivation of big brand traditional Chinese medicine, the Chinese Academy of traditional Chinese Medicine released the report on the scientific and technological competitiveness of big brand traditional Chinese medicine 2017 Edition. **Methods:** Based on the open data and fully condensing of the industry consensus,

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we made clear the principles of product selection and the shortlisted products, identified the evaluation index and index weight, constructed the evaluation model system of the competitiveness of Chinese traditional medicine, and obtained the score of each technology factor. **Results:** The list of all kinds of top 100, the list of each provinces or regions and the scientific and technological competitiveness list of Chinese traditional medicine varieties were established. **Conclusion:** The reported big brands traditional Chinese medicine represent the mainstream of technological innovation of traditional Chinese medicine products. The report shows that the competitiveness of Chinese traditional medicine industry displays a significant imbalance in regional development. Technological innovation has become the urgent need for the development of Chinese patent medicine.

[http://www.zgxdzy.net/ch/reader/view\\_abstract.aspx?file\\_no=20180102&flag=1](http://www.zgxdzy.net/ch/reader/view_abstract.aspx?file_no=20180102&flag=1) (中文)

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/40tEXPiAx5vYtb7UzgYyQ> (中文)

**6. Next-generation sequencing based DNA Metabarcoding for Traditional Chinese Medicine quality control.** BaseClear BV, Leiden: <http://www.baseclear.com> Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) has been in use for over 2,000 years and has many potential benefits for its consumers. Today, TCM is viewed as being the complement to Western pharmaceutical medicine, in the sense that Western medicine provides targeted treatment options for specific diseases, whilst TCM provide comfort for general ailments and other types of indiscretions. Due to advances in technology, an increasing amount of methods have become available that allow for testing the constituency and quality of TCM's. Next to research into the active pharmaceutical ingredients in TCM, testing for contaminants, adulterations and potential CITES-listed species (i.e. protected or endangered species), is necessitated from a TCM consumer perspective. From a biological point of view, the different plant- and animal-species are traditionally tested for using either microscopy or chromatography. Today, the technique of DNA barcoding has become increasingly popular to this end, stemming from the efforts going into projects such as the International Barcode of (Wild)life project (see <http://ibol.org>). DNA barcoding allows for the identification of species based on species-specific genes (i.e. 'barcodes'), a technique that was originally discovered by Paul Hebert of the University of Guelph. BaseClear, along with several partners, developed an improved type of DNA barcoding during the EU FP7 Decathlon project (see <http://decathlon-project.eu>), specific for the identification of multiple CITES-species in complex substances such as TCM. This novel process is termed metabarcoding, and utilizes a combination of different DNA barcodes to provide resolution over the entire plant- and animal-kingdom. These barcodes can then be scanned for using DNA sequencing equipment, which is planned to being performed at a standard-service at BaseClear in the near future. Additionally, bacterial, fungal and other micro-organism specific DNA barcodes, accumulated in metagenomics species-reference databases can be added to this method to provide indications of contamination of TCM with, for example, mycotoxins. Moreover, a dedicated bioinformatics pipeline was developed during the Decathlon project that allows for user-friendly data output in a web-interface regarding species-content in mixtures such as TCM. Combined with other types of TCM testing methods, metabarcoding holds great potential in the development of the general TCM market in Europe, be it with regards to the detection of CITES-species in TCM, or in the area of quality assurance. <http://www.baseclear.com>



**7. FDA regulation of botanical drugs: An update by Dr Jing hui Luo and his thoughts on further R&D of classical TCM formulae.**

[http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/fMXedHj7cQ\\_tNO14muesQg](http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/fMXedHj7cQ_tNO14muesQg) (中文)

**8. What's new in Chinese Pharmacopoeia 2020?**

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/ZjxaFPdli9nDN1lhik3KsA> (中文)

**9. TCM non-drug treatment of insomnia**

Archives (2008-2018): [www.gp-tcm.org/news-list/](http://www.gp-tcm.org/news-list/)

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<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/IVfoH1u1xK64VCA9zqcc5g> (中文)

**10. Who was the first to discover tea?**

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/w-VnXav9FTXrZiglyKZZGw> (中文)

**11. TCM Clinical Metabolomics opens the door of TCM Zheng studies**

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/2Dwfx9m5aeLhShjOijDMJA> (中文)

**12. A Documentary on *Huang Di Nei Jing: Huangdi Neijing*** (黄帝内经,

literally the *Inner Canon of the Yellow Emperor* or *Esoteric Scripture of the Yellow Emperor*, is an ancient Chinese medical text that has been treated as the

fundamental doctrinal source for Chinese medicine for more than two millennia. The work is composed of two texts—each of eighty-one chapters or treatises in a question-and-answer format between the mythical Yellow Emperor and six of his equally legendary ministers. The first text, the *Suwen* (素问), also known as *Basic Questions*, covers the theoretical foundation of Chinese Medicine and its diagnostic methods. The

second and generally less referred-to text, the *Lingshu* (灵枢 *Spiritual Pivot*), discusses acupuncture therapy in great detail. Collectively, these two texts are known as the *Neijing* or *Huangdi Neijing*. In practice, however, the title *Neijing* often refers only to the more influential *Suwen*.

[http://873813619.scene.eqh5.cn/s/l4fglwbP?share\\_level=2&from\\_user=ed05255f-c82c-4ea2-b25c-6530b2b4b7ab&from\\_id=40efc20a-48ca-4a69-9679-2469a75d753c&share\\_time=1516839669791&from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0](http://873813619.scene.eqh5.cn/s/l4fglwbP?share_level=2&from_user=ed05255f-c82c-4ea2-b25c-6530b2b4b7ab&from_id=40efc20a-48ca-4a69-9679-2469a75d753c&share_time=1516839669791&from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0)

(中文)

**13. New anti-asthma drug inspired by acupuncture research.** Chinese and American researchers have found a new drug treatment for asthma by studying acupuncture, potentially opening the door to more applications of the traditional Chinese medicine in modern medical research. The drug therapy is more effective than existing asthma medication, according to a paper published in the *Science Translational Medicine* journal on 7th Feb. 2018...

Acupuncture was central to the discovery since earlier findings of its effectiveness in treating asthma prompted the study. Twenty scientists from five institutes looked at compounds found in asthma patients' blood before and after acupuncture treatment, according to Yang Yongqing, the paper's lead researcher and a professor at the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Scientists from the university led the study along with researchers from Rutgers New Jersey Medical School in the United States. They found that the amount of a certain protein – metallothionein-2 (MT-2) – in a patient's blood serum increased after acupuncture treatment but decreased following asthma attacks. This suggested that the protein, which smooths muscle cells, helps to prevent or treat attacks.

Over the course of four years, the team sifted through more than 6,000 compounds before identifying a drug, TSG12, that could activate the protein in humans. By activating the protein, the drug relaxes throat muscles and opens airways, effectively stopping an asthma attack.

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/society/article/2132784/how-acupuncture-helped-chinese-and-us-researchers-pinpoint-new> (English)

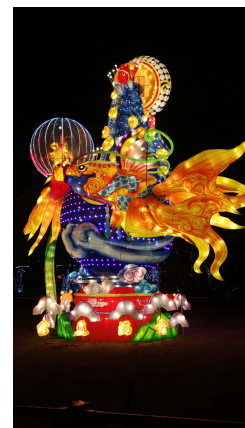
[http://sh.people.com.cn/n2/2018/0208/c134768-](http://sh.people.com.cn/n2/2018/0208/c134768-31235853.html?from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0)

[31235853.html?from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0](http://sh.people.com.cn/n2/2018/0208/c134768-31235853.html?from=groupmessage&isappinstalled=0) (中文)

The paper is as follows:

Yin LM, et al. **Transgelin-2 as a therapeutic target for asthmatic pulmonary resistance.** *Sci Transl Med.* 2018 Feb 7;10(427). pii: eaam8604. There is a clinical need for new bronchodilator drugs in asthma, because more than half of asthmatic patients do not receive adequate control with current available treatments. We report that inhibition of metallothionein-2 protein expression in lung tissues causes the increase of pulmonary resistance. Conversely, metallothionein-2 protein is more effective than  $\beta_2$ -agonists in reducing pulmonary resistance in rodent asthma models, alleviating tension in tracheal spirals, and relaxing airway smooth muscle cells (ASMCs). Metallothionein-2 relaxes ASMCs via transgelin-2 (TG2) and induces dephosphorylation of myosin phosphatase target subunit 1 (MYPT1). We identify TSG12 as a nontoxic, specific TG2-agonist that relaxes ASMCs and reduces asthmatic pulmonary resistance. In vivo, TSG12 reduces pulmonary resistance in both ovalbumin-

Archives (2008-2018): [www.gp-tcm.org/news-list/](http://www.gp-tcm.org/news-list/)





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and house dust mite-induced asthma in mice. TSG12 induces RhoA phosphorylation, thereby inactivating the RhoA-ROCK-MYPT1-MLC pathway and causing ASMCs relaxation. TSG12 is more effective than  $\beta$ 2-agonists in relaxing human ASMCs and pulmonary resistance with potential clinical advantages. These results suggest that TSG12 could be a promising therapeutic approach for treating asthma.

<http://stm.sciencemag.org/content/10/427/eaam8604.short>



**14. TCM facial diagnosis.** Experts say that in China, good doctors can identify 70% of a person's health problems by examining the patient's face. The most wonderful aspect of this diagnostic philosophy is that it can be used to prevent illness. Experts say the health conditions indicated by face readings aren't set in stone. They're simply warning signs. You can heed these signs and make adjustments to protect your long-term health. According to Chinese face reading principles, different parts of your face mirror the health of different organ systems,...

<http://undergroundhealthreporter.com/chinese-face-reading-reveals-your-health/>

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/0lh3ltvKD4Btxmb8tonKxA> (中文)

**15. TCM pulse diagnosis.** Pulse diagnosis is one method of determining the internal conditions of patients with the aim of deciding upon a therapeutic regimen. In order to make use of this diagnostic, the practitioner must learn the proper method of taking the pulse, the factors that influence the pulse, and the categories into which each patient's unique pulse form can be fit. Practitioners must remain especially alert to new factors that influence the pulse readings so as to assure that the results of pulse taking are meaningful. Most authorities agree that in the modern era one must be able to detect a relatively limited basic group of pulse forms in order to utilize the information for devising a therapy (i.e., acupuncture, herbs). These requisite forms determine whether the focus of the pathological process is at the body's surface or interior, is of a hot or cold nature, or is of an excess or deficiency type. The fundamental pulse categories that practitioners are to learn correlate directly with the well-known "eight methods of therapy" (see: Enumerating the methods of therapy). There have been recent attempts to broaden the scope of pulse diagnosis; for example, feeling the pulses immediately after insertion of acupuncture needles has been suggested recently as a means of determining whether the "qi has arrived" as a result of correct point selection and needle manipulation. There have also been attempts to more clearly define the pulse forms; for example, by developing medical equipment that can detect and record the pulse forms, and to develop statistical analysis of pulse types by disease. Pulse diagnosis remains an important part of the practice of traditional Chinese medicine that is still being explored and developed.

<http://www.itmonline.org/arts/pulse.htm>

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/84QF-DxdW3gzU4GSSHOJAA> (中文)

**16. Xu J, et al. Understanding the Molecular Mechanisms of the Interplay Between Herbal Medicines and Gut Microbiota.** *Med Res Rev.* 2017;37:1140-1185. Herbal medicines (HMs) are much appreciated for their significant contribution to human survival and reproduction by remedial and prophylactic management of diseases. Defining the scientific basis of HMs will substantiate their value and promote their modernization. Ever-increasing evidence suggests that gut microbiota plays a crucial role in HM therapy by complicated interplay with HM components. This interplay includes such activities as: gut microbiota biotransforming HM chemicals into metabolites that harbor different bioavailability and bioactivity/toxicity from their precursors; HM chemicals improving the composition of gut microbiota, consequently ameliorating its dysfunction as well as associated pathological conditions; and gut microbiota mediating the interactions (synergistic and antagonistic) between the multiple chemicals in HMs. More advanced experimental designs are recommended for future study, such as overall chemical characterization of gut microbiota-metabolized HMs, direct microbial analysis of HM-targeted gut microbiota, and precise gut microbiota research model development. The outcomes of such research can further elucidate the interactions between HMs and gut microbiota,

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thereby opening a new window for defining the scientific basis of HMs and for guiding HM-based drug discovery. <http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/obMiQj88WSv69K6UqpBzmg> (中文)

**17. Must Listen! Zhongzhen Zhao talk series on Materia Medica is free-access at Himalaya FM.** <http://m.ximalaya.com/33178188/album/8710711/> (中文)

**18. Eivind Falk, ed. Traditional Medicine: a great new book for free download online!** The Editor-in-chief of this new book wrote: “#HeritageAlive has been publishing articles on a variety of themes concerning intangible cultural heritage (ICH) safeguarding since 2012. After remaining relatively steady in the past, public interest in the online journal has increased after a call for papers in relation to traditional medicine was issued. As a result the editorial board decided to publish a book dedicated to traditional medicine. Luckily ICHCAP, as a consistent producer and distributor of high-quality publications, was willing to be our partner publishing Traditional Medicine, sharing experiences from the field...”

<http://www.ichngoforum.org/traditional-medicine/>

**19. Chen Q, et al. The association of herbal/botanical supplement use with quality of life, recurrence and survival in newly diagnosed stage II colon cancer patients: a two-year follow-up study. Nutrition 2018;** <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nut.2018.02.002>

- Stage II colon cancer patients using herbal/botanical supplements were more likely to have a healthier lifestyle than supplement non-users.
- They had no improvement in their quality of life, and no difference in odds of colon cancer recurrence and all-cause mortality over 2 years post-diagnosis compared to those who did not use herbs/botanicals.
- Further research should focus on specific herbal/botanical supplement with relatively longer follow-up to confirm our findings.

**20. Elsevier Collaborates with Beijing University of Chinese Medicine to Enable Deeper Research into TCM.** As global interest in traditional and alternative medicine grows, Elsevier, the global information analytics business specializing in science and health, today announced that it is working with BUCM to create a new taxonomy for TCM in Embase, the world's most comprehensive biomedical literature database. During the six-month collaboration, BUCM, one of the first institutions of higher learning on TCM, will review terms and help build a detailed, robust taxonomy to encompass all TCM data in Embase. The taxonomy will enrich and enhance the existing content in Embase; making it easily discoverable to users seeking knowledge from clinical practices for modern biomedical sciences. On completion, Embase will contain the most comprehensive taxonomy for TCM available. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/elsevier-collaborates-with-beijing-university-of-chinese-medicine-to-enable-deeper-research-into-traditional-chinese-medicine-675142683.html>

**21. Huang J, Li X. The way the body defends. WeChat 中医思维+;** 8 November 2017. In a blog by Jian Huang, TCM doctor Xin Li's understanding of how body defends against injury is interpreted in an integrative Chinese Medicine manner.

[http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/OkYw2eP8mgQz\\_NopnGrxkQ](http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/OkYw2eP8mgQz_NopnGrxkQ) (中文)

**22. Chao MT and Adler SR. Integrative Medicine and the Imperative for Health Justice.** The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine. February 2018, 24(2): 101103. In the first of a new JACM column partnership with the Osher Collaborative for Integrative Medicine two members at the founding Osher Center, at the University of California, San Francisco, explore the integrative health-public health intersection. <https://doi.org/10.1089/acm.2017.29042.mtc>

**23. The Chinese herbal cough syrup that has taken New York by storm,** as reported by *Wall Street Journal* and *The Telegraph*. However, the remedy, which is reportedly sold for \$7.80 (£5.60) at Chinese markets in New York, only works for some colds, a TCM expert told *The Telegraph*. "People commonly have a misunderstanding about it," said Dr Zhao, a retired doctor from Heilongjiang provincial TCM hospital, in China's north-east.

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<https://www.wsj.com/articles/herbal-supplement-has-some-new-yorkers-talking-instead-of-coughing-1519316304>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/02/27/chinese-herbal-cough-syrup-has-taken-new-york-storm/>

### Omics in Progress

**1. Guirro M, et al. Multi-omics approach to elucidate the gut microbiota activity. Metaproteomics and metagenomics connection. *Electrophoresis*. 2018 Feb 10. doi: 10.1002/elps.201700476. [Epub ahead of print].** Over the last few years, the application of high-throughput meta-omics methods has provided great progress in improving the knowledge of the gut ecosystem and linking its biodiversity to host health conditions, offering complementary support to classical microbiology. Gut microbiota plays a crucial role in relevant diseases such as obesity or cardiovascular disease, and its regulation be closely influenced by several factors, such as dietary composition. In fact, polyphenol-rich diets are the most palatable treatment to prevent hypertension associated with cardiovascular disease, although the polyphenol–microbiota interactions have not been completely elucidated. For this reason, the aim of this study was to evaluate microbiota effect in obese rats supplemented by, after being fed with cafeteria or standard diet, using a multi meta-omics approaches combining strategy of metagenomics and metaproteomics analysis. We reported that cafeteria diet induces obesity, resulting in changes in the microbiota composition, which are related to functional alterations at proteome level. In addition, hesperidin supplementation alters microbiota diversity and also proteins involved in important metabolic pathways. Overall, going deeper into strategies to integrate omics sciences is necessary to understand the complex relationships between the host, gut microbiota and diet.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/elps.201700476/abstract>



**2. Bao X, et al. Capturing the interactome of newly transcribed RNA. *Nat Methods*. 2018 Feb 12. doi: 10.1038/nmeth.4595. [Epub ahead of print].** We combine the labeling of newly transcribed RNAs with 5-ethynyluridine with the characterization of bound proteins. This approach, named capture of the newly transcribed RNA interactome using click chemistry (RICK), systematically captures proteins bound to a wide range of RNAs, including nascent RNAs and traditionally neglected nonpolyadenylated RNAs. RICK has identified mitotic regulators amongst other novel RNA-binding proteins with preferential affinity for nonpolyadenylated RNAs, revealed a link between metabolic enzymes/factors and nascent RNAs, and expanded the known RNA-bound proteome of mouse embryonic stem cells. RICK will facilitate an in-depth interrogation of the total RNA-bound proteome in different cells and systems. <https://www.nature.com/articles/nmeth.4595>

**3. Meyer MJ, et al. Interactome INSIDER: a structural interactome browser for genomic studies. *Nat Methods*. 2018 Jan 1. doi: 10.1038/nmeth.4540. [Epub ahead of print].** We present Interactome INSIDER, a tool to link genomic variant information with structural protein-protein interactomes. Underlying this tool is the application of machine learning to predict protein interaction interfaces for 185,957 protein interactions with previously unresolved interfaces in human and seven model organisms, including the entire experimentally determined human binary interactome. Predicted interfaces exhibit functional properties similar to those of known interfaces, including enrichment for disease mutations and recurrent cancer mutations. Through 2,164 de novo mutagenesis experiments, we show that mutations of predicted and known interface residues disrupt interactions at a similar rate and much more frequently than mutations outside of predicted interfaces. To spur functional genomic studies, Interactome INSIDER (<http://interactomeinsider.yulab.org>)

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enables users to identify whether variants or disease mutations are enriched in known and predicted interaction interfaces at various resolutions. Users may explore known population variants, disease mutations, and somatic cancer mutations, or they may upload their own set of mutations for this purpose. <https://www.nature.com/articles/nmeth.4540>

**4. Layer RM, et al. GIGGLE: a search engine for large-scale integrated genome analysis.** *Nat Methods*. 2018;15:123-126. GIGGLE is a genomics search engine that identifies and ranks the significance of genomic loci shared between query features and thousands of genome interval files. GIGGLE (<https://github.com/ryanlayer/giggle>) scales to billions of intervals and is over three orders of magnitude faster than existing methods. Its speed extends the accessibility and utility of resources such as ENCODE, Roadmap Epigenomics, and GTEx by facilitating data integration and hypothesis generation. <https://www.nature.com/articles/nmeth.4556>

**5. Cohen J. Genome editor gets more versatile and precise.** *Science* 2018;359:967. CRISPR, the genome editing tool, makes it easier to target and cut DNA than ever before, but one of its shortcomings is that it can't cut just anywhere. New research has discovered a way to improve the tool and make it more versatile. The human genome has 3.2 billion bases of DNA. The most common form of CRISPR relies on a stretch of RNA to guide its molecular scissors—an enzyme called Cas9 in shorthand—to cut a specific one of those 3.2 billion bases. But Cas9 can't latch onto the genome unless there is a specific sequence flanking the cut site, which amounts to something of a landing pad. Harvard University chemist David Liu and colleagues, as they report online in the 28 February issue of *Nature*, have engineered a new version of Cas9 that has a more commonly found DNA sequence and can land in four times as many places. Dubbed xCas9, it has only been tested on a few dozen sites so far, but it holds the promise of making the remarkably powerful CRISPR even more muscular. And, to the astonishment of Liu, the more promiscuous xCas9 in his lab's experiments also had fewer off-target cuts than Cas9, which means it was less likely to introduce mistakes that could be dangerous when CRISPR is used for medicine.

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6379/967?utm>  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-02540-x>

### Other Recommended Readings

**1. Shen X. The Yin-Yang Theory: A Popular Scientific Concept in Modern Medicine.** *Guiding Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Pharmacy*. 2018,24(4):1-6  
<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/TLMjTwk9rD4RRWzHUXDFGQ> (中文)



**2. Allemani C, et al; CONCORD Working Group. Global surveillance of trends in cancer survival 2000-14 (CONCORD-3): analysis of individual records for 37 513 025 patients diagnosed with one of 18 cancers from 322 population-based registries in 71 countries.** *Lancet*. 2018 Jan 30. pii: S0140-6736(17)33326-3.

**FINDINGS:** For most cancers, 5-year net survival remains among the highest in the world in the USA and Canada, in Australia and New Zealand, and in Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden. For many cancers, Denmark is closing the survival gap with the other Nordic countries. Survival trends are generally increasing, even for some of the more lethal cancers: in some countries, survival has increased by up to 5% for cancers of the liver, pancreas, and lung. For women diagnosed during 2010-14, 5-year survival for breast cancer is now 89.5% in Australia and 90.2% in the USA, but international differences remain very wide, with levels as low as 66.1% in India. For gastrointestinal cancers, the highest levels of 5-year survival are seen in southeast Asia: in South Korea for cancers of the stomach (68.9%), colon (71.8%), and rectum (71.1%); in Japan for oesophageal cancer (36.0%); and in Taiwan for liver cancer (27.9%). By contrast, in the same world region, survival is generally lower than elsewhere for melanoma of the skin (59.9% in South Korea, 52.1% in Taiwan, and 49.6% in China), and for both lymphoid malignancies (52.5%, 50.5%, and 38.3%) and myeloid malignancies (45.9%, 33.4%, and 24.8%). For children diagnosed during 2010-14, 5-year survival for acute lymphoblastic leukaemia ranged from 49.8% in Ecuador to 95.2% in Finland. 5-year survival

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from brain tumours in children is higher than for adults but the global range is very wide (from 28·9% in Brazil to nearly 80% in Sweden and Denmark).

INTERPRETATION: The CONCORD programme enables timely comparisons of the overall effectiveness of health systems in providing care for 18 cancers that collectively represent 75% of all cancers diagnosed worldwide every year.

It contributes to the evidence base for global policy on cancer control. Since 2017, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has used findings from the CONCORD programme as the official benchmark of cancer survival, among their indicators of the quality of health care in 48 countries worldwide. Governments must recognise population-based cancer registries as key policy tools that can be used to evaluate both the impact of cancer prevention strategies and the effectiveness of health systems for all patients diagnosed with cancer.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0140673617333263>

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/gzXxhQrlm5QnI5Qjoe6p0w> (中文)

**3. Uusitupa M. Remission of type 2 diabetes: mission not impossible.** *Lancet* 2018;391:515-6. In *The Lancet*, Michael Lean and colleagues report 1 year results from their cluster-randomised DiRECT trial investigating the effect of primary care-based weight management on diabetes remission in patients with type 2 diabetes of up to 6 years in duration. With the primary care general practice as the unit of randomisation, 298 patients (aged 20–65 years) with hyperglycaemia were allocated to receive a weight management programme delivered by practice dietitians or trained nurses (n=149) or best practice care by guidelines (control group; n=149). The weight management programme began with a diet replacement phase, consisting of a low calorie formula diet, followed by structured food reintroduction and weight loss maintenance phases. Antidiabetic and antihypertensive medicines were discontinued in the intervention group at the onset of the study. The co-primary outcomes were weight loss of 15 kg or more and remission of diabetes, defined as glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c) of less than 6·5% (<48 mmol/mol) at 12 months. 36 (24%) patients in the intervention group achieved weight loss of 15 kg or more, compared with no patients in the control group (p<0·0001). Diabetes remission (off antidiabetic drugs) was achieved in 68 (46%) patients in the intervention group and six (4%) patients in the control group (odds ratio 19·7, 95% CI 7·8–49·8; p<0·0001). Remission was closely associated with degree of weight loss and occurred in 31 (86%) of the 36 patients who lost 15 kg or more. These results are impressive and strongly support the view that type 2 diabetes is tightly associated with excessive fat mass in the body.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)33100-8/fulltext?elsca1=etoc](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)33100-8/fulltext?elsca1=etoc)

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(17\)33102-1/fulltext?elsca1=etoc](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(17)33102-1/fulltext?elsca1=etoc)

**4. Götz M. Revising concepts about adult stem cells.** *Science* 2018; 359:639-640. The term “stem cells” is one of the most disputed terms in science. The general definition that stem cells are at the origin of a lineage, self-renewing and multipotent—generating all cell types of a given tissue or even organism (if totipotent)—is agreed upon. But how many cell divisions are required to be called a stem cell? Among the adult stem cells, hematopoietic stem cells are the champions because they can repopulate the immune systems of five generations of mice, living beyond the life of the organism from which they originated. But what about neural stem cells (NSCs), the founder cells of all cells in the central nervous system? Are a few cell cycles of self-renewal, such as nine in embryonic neurogenesis of the neocortex (1), sufficient to call them stem cells? And how many different cell types need to be generated by a stem cell? Do cells making only neurons, as occurs in embryonic neurogenesis, qualify as stem cells (2)? However, when cultured in vitro, they generate neurons and several other glial cell types, which qualifies them as multipotent (2). This is also the case for adult NSCs, but their behavior in vivo is even less well understood. On page 658 of this issue, Pilz *et al.* (3) track, for the first time, adult NSCs live in the mammalian brain, gaining exciting new insights that prompt revision of how we define stem cells.

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/359/6376/639?utm>

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**4. Bosch G. Train PhD students to be thinkers not just specialists.** *Nature* 2018554:277. Many doctoral curricula aim to produce narrowly focused researchers rather than critical thinkers. That can and must change, says Gundula Bosch... [https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-01853-1?WT.ec\\_id](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-01853-1?WT.ec_id)

**5. Kwon D. New Automated Tool Monitors Clinical Trial Reporting.** *The Scientist* 22 Feb. 2018. The watchdog website FDA's TrialsTracker names and shames human studies that breach the FDA's requirements for reporting results...

<https://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/51869/title/New-Automated-Tool-Monitors-Clinical-Trial-Reporting/>



### Future Meetings & Events

**1. The 6th Annual Meeting of the GP-TCM Research Association will be held at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK on 4-6 July 2018.** Please refer to the front-page special feature.

**2. TROPHARM seminar Pharmaceutical opportunities in DR Congo / BE: an interdisciplinary approach,** Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Campus Heymans, Ottergemsesteenweg 460, 9000 Ghent, THURSDAY 17 MAY 2018 | 13:30-16:30, followed by Reception and network event, 16:30.

- Experience and management in the domain of sickle cell disease or sickle cell anemia
- Traditional foods as putative nutraceuticals in Konzo
- Use of traditional drugs in obstetrics
- Quality and safety of food consumed in DR Congo

Introductory talks by deans Prof. José Lami and Prof. Jan Van Bocxlaer. Notes by professors of University of Kinshasa, DRC: Prof. Christophe Masiala, Prof. Dr. Roger Mbungu, Prof. Pius Mpiana and Prof. Nadege Ngombe.

MORE INFORMATION: [ciska.deruyver@ugent.be](mailto:ciska.deruyver@ugent.be)

REGISTER BEFORE 15th MAY 2018 at

<https://webappsx.ugent.be/eventManager/events/TROPHARMseminar>

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

**4. The 17th Meeting of Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine (CGCM) will be held in Kuching-Sarawak, Malaysia on August 8 - 10, 2018.** This year's meeting is going to be organized by the Malaysian Institute of Pharmaceuticals and Nutraceuticals, National Institutes of Biotechnology Malaysia. 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. Preliminary programme and more details will soon be announced on our website. Should you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact the CGCM Central Office: Email: [centraloffice@tcmedicine.org](mailto:centraloffice@tcmedicine.org); Website: [www.tcmedicine.org](http://www.tcmedicine.org)

**5. The 15th World Congress of Chinese Medicine and Belt and Road TCM Culture Week to be held in Rome, Italy, 16-20 November 2018.**

[http://c.eqxiu.com/s/O8xACe2w?eqrcode=1&share\\_level=4&from\\_user=a294a700-73b5-4d95-9d8b-dc428813e7cd&from\\_id](http://c.eqxiu.com/s/O8xACe2w?eqrcode=1&share_level=4&from_user=a294a700-73b5-4d95-9d8b-dc428813e7cd&from_id) (中文)

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/R5Ao3tYI7Q2UwzaP94ikTw> (中文)

**6. Xuetao Cao, Helena Hui Wang, Limin Li, William Summerskill, Richard Horton. The Lancet-CAMS Health Summit 2018: a call for abstracts.** *Lancet* 2018;391:188-9. Please submit your abstract as a Word document through The Lancet's online submission system **no later than May 31,**

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2018, stating in your covering letter that the submission is in response to this call for abstracts from China. Please note, abstracts submitted later than May 31 will not be considered.

<https://ees.elsevier.com/thelancet/default.asp?pg=login.asp>

### Invitation from WJTCM

**1. World Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine: Lantern Festival greetings, publication of the 4th issue of 2017 and sincere invitation for submissions.** World Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ISSN 2311-8571, CN10-1395/R) is sponsored by WFCMS, and is the official journal of GP-TCM RA. WJTCM dedicates to report the research progress in clinical efficacy and action mechanism of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Chinese materia medica, acupuncture and moxibustion to doctors and biomedical researchers around the world, so as to provide new thoughts and methods for solving complex diseases and knotty diseases. To submit your manuscripts, or to read articles in the latest 4<sup>th</sup> issue 2017 and past issues, please visit: <http://www.wjtcn.net>

### 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](mailto:qihe.xu@kcl.ac.uk)), Prof. Pierre Duez ([pierre.duez@umons.ac.be](mailto:pierre.duez@umons.ac.be)) and Prof. Yuan Shiun Chang ([yschang0404@gmail.com](mailto:yschang0404@gmail.com)).

### Acknowledgements

Contributions from Prof **Rudolf Bauer** (Graz), Dr **Vincent Chi-ho Chung** (Hong Kong), the **CGCM Central Office** (Hong Kong), Prof **Pierre Duez** (Mons), Dr **Tai-Ping Fan** (Cambridge), Dr **Clara Lau** (Hong Kong), Prof **Jianping Liu** (Beijing), Prof **Monique Simmonds** (London), Prof **Rob Verpoorte** (Leiden), Ms **Hui Xu** (Beijing), Dr **Qihe Xu** (London) and Prof **Zhongzhen Zhao** (Hong Kong) are gratefully acknowledged. We thank Mr **Yang Zhang** (Kaifeng) for his beautiful photos of lanterns and lights in Kaifeng, China. Paper-cut arts of the Chinese character 福 (happiness & fortune) are selected from:

<http://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/1kvDX8LiTziBun87m8jpxQ> (中文)

**Today is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, the Lantern Festival. We Wish You All a Happy Holiday!**

