

February-March 2013 Newsletter (Easter Edition) of The GP-TCM Research Association

GP-TCM RA Membership of FP7 GP-TCM Consortium Members:

FP7 GP-TCM Consortium Members are cordially invited to become members of GP-TCM RA.

The Executive Council of the GP-TCM RA have decided that, to acknowledge the contribution of the FP7 GP-TCM Consortium in founding the Association, FP7 GP-TCM Consortium Members will be automatically approved as GP-TCM RA Members if they e-mail the following statement to membership@gp-tcm.org and qihe.xu@kcl.ac.uk:

“As a FP7 GP-TCM member, I, xxx (your full name), YYY (your institution name), confirm that I have read and agree to uphold the bylaws of the GP-TCM Research Association (GP-TCM RA) and to become a member of the GP-TCM RA. Please transfer my FP7 GP-TCM documents e.g. CV and contact details to the GP-TCM RA. Thanks!”

Please note that GP-TCM consortium members who have signed the GP-TCM RA signature collection forms or the GP-TCM RA brochure at previous GP-TCM/GP-TCM RA events DO NOT need to e-mail again. However, should you have any doubt on whether you have done so before, please e-mail the above statement to ensure that you are on the safe side.

You can find the GP-TCM RA bylaws at:

<http://www.gp-tcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/GP-TCM-RA-Rules-V4.pdf>.

The milestones and future activities of the GP-TCM RA can be found at:

<http://www.gp-tcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Jan-Feb-2013-issue-of-GP-TCM-RA-Newsletter-1.pdf>

Important deadline - 31st March 2013: *GP-TCM Consortium Members who have not signed up yet are requested to submit the above statement by this deadline. Those who fail to do so would risk being disconnected from the GP-TCM RA community, and unable to access Members Only Sections of our website. Note this will be the last GP-TCM RA Newsletter that they will receive.*

News from GP-TCM RA members:

1. Professor De-an Guo, President-elect of the GP-TCM RA to receive the Norman R. Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award: (AUSTIN, Texas, Feb. 18, 2013) The American Botanical Council (ABC) recognizes this year's ABC Norman R. Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award recipient, Professor De-an Guo.



The Excellence in Botanical Research Award's namesake is ABC's co-founding Board of Trustees member, the late Professor Norman R. Farnsworth, PhD, a research professor of pharmacognosy and senior university scholar in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Illinois – Chicago. When Professor Farnsworth died in 2011 at the age of 81, the medicinal plant community lost one of its greatest champions. ABC will continue to present this award each year to a person or

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institution that has made significant contributions to ethnobotanical and/or pharmacognostic research (i.e., research on drugs of natural origin, usually from plants).

"We are most pleased to be able to recognize and honor Professor Guo for his outstanding achievements in the chemistry and pharmacology of many traditional Chinese medicinal plants," said ABC Founder and Executive Director Mark Blumenthal. "He is clearly one of the leading figures in scientific medicinal plant research in China, a country with a vast spectrum of traditionally used medicinal plants that are undergoing modern scientific research and validation."

"I am very pleased and honored to receive the high distinction of ABC's Norman R. Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award. I would like to thank ABC and the nominating committee who selected me for this award in 2013," said Professor Guo. "This reflects the world-wide coverage of ABC's Farnsworth Award," he continued.

Professor De-an Guo will receive the ABC Norman R. Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award at the 8th Annual ABC Botanical Celebration and Awards Ceremony in March in Anaheim, California.

Previous recipients of ABC's Norman R. Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award include Professor Rudolf Bauer, President of the GP-TCM RA (2010).

The GP-TCM RA sincerely congratulate De-an for such an excellent news and have no doubt that this excellent news will bring, once again, much needed light and hope for the entire field and will encourage new-blood members and invigorate old ones to work together in our cause!

For more details of this news, please visit: <http://www.gp-tcm.org/2013/02/professor-de-an-guo-to-receive-abcs-norman-r-farnsworth-excellence-in-botanical-research-award/>

2. The Executive Council of the GP-TCM RA held a teleconference on 26th Feb. 2013.

Strategies, membership issues and external relationship were discussed and it also served as a preparatory meeting for the full Board of Directors teleconference on the 13th March. It has been agreed that, in addition to the existing bimonthly Board of Directors teleconferences, the Council will meet online monthly. All Executive Council members attended the t/c. They are Professor Rudolf Bauer, Professor De-an Guo, Dr. Qihe Xu, Professor Peter Hylands and Dr. Tai-Ping Fan. A full list of the Board of Directors can be found at: <http://www.gp-tcm.org/about/bod-members/>

3. GP-TCM RA members Pierre Duez and Caroline Stévigny have been awarded 2 research projects in collaboration with University of Mons, Belgium, University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, and University of Lubumbashi, DR Congo, including 2 former GP-TCM members. These projects, funded by the Walloon Region and the Belgian CUD (Academic Development Cooperation), aim to develop a new technology to diagnose malaria at low cost in developing countries. Current diagnostic approaches are either difficult to implement (microscopy, PCR) or too costly for generalized use (Rapid Diagnostic Tests); this results in systematic presumptive treatments in endemic countries, in a massive overconsumption of drugs and in a selective pressure on parasites. The method in development will also be applicable to the discovery of new antimalarial drugs from traditionally used herbal medicines.

4. Alan Koo, the GP-TCM RA Newsletters Executive Editor, has been invited by the British Council to share his River Cam International business story, upon opening of his 3rd TCM clinic in Hong Kong on 5th March 2013:

http://www.educationuk.org.hk/alumni/experience_sharing_and_networking_evening_28feb.htm

5. Tai-Ping Fan, Andreas Bender and their collaborators' paper "Chemogenomics Approaches to Rationalizing the Mode-of-Action of Traditional Chinese and Ayurvedic Medicines" has been selected for the cover picture of the March 2013 issue of *Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling*.

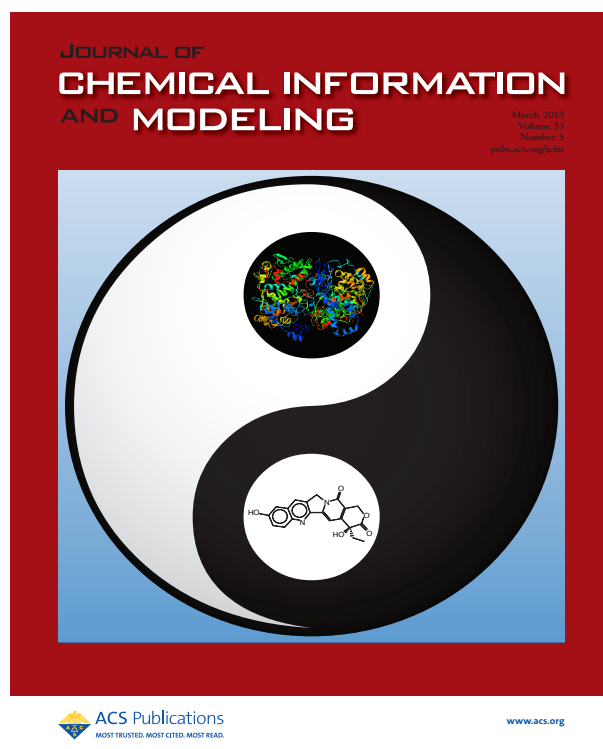
Abstract

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and Ayurveda have been used in humans for thousands of years. While the link to a particular indication has been established in man, the mode-of-action

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(MOA) of the formulations often remains unknown. In this study, we aim to understand the MOA of formulations used in traditional medicine using an *in silico* target prediction algorithm, which aims to predict protein targets (and hence MOAs), given the chemical structure of a compound. Following this approach we were able to establish several links between suggested MOAs and experimental evidence. In particular, compounds from the 'tonifying and replenishing medicinal' class from TCM exhibit a hypoglycemic effect which can be related to activity of the ingredients against the Sodium-Glucose Transporters (SGLT) 1 and 2 as well as Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase (PTP). Similar results were obtained for Ayurvedic anticancer drugs. Here, both primary anticancer targets (those directly involved in cancer pathogenesis) such as steroid-5-alpha-reductase 1 and 2 were predicted as well as targets which act synergistically with the primary target, such as the efflux pump P-glycoprotein (P-gp). In addition, we were able to elucidate some targets which may point us to novel MOAs as well as explain side effects. Most notably, GPBAR1, which was predicted as a target for both 'tonifying and replenishing medicinal' and anticancer classes, suggests an influence of the compounds on metabolism. Understanding the MOA of these compounds is beneficial as it provides a resource for NMEs with possibly higher efficacy in the clinic than those identified by single-target biochemical assays.

The full paper can be found at <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/ci3005513>. This work was also featured on the BBC (as well as several other news stations, e.g. BBC Mundo: http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/noticias/2013/03/130318_salud_medicina_asia_acupuntura_gtg.shtm |



Meeting Invitations

1. 6th International Workshop Metabolomics - Basics and Applications to Plant Sciences, Leiden, The Netherlands. 15-19 April, 2013. For further information, email: plantsandmetabolomics@gmail.com; www.plantsandmetabolomics.nl

Metabolomics has become an important tool in life sciences, including studies of plant interaction with its environment and studies on the activity of medicinal plants. Organized by the Institute of Biology, Leiden University, this Workshop is particularly aimed at researchers experienced with the isolation and identification of natural products but do not have experience yet with metabolomics.

Topics • Primary and Secondary Metabolism in Plants • Analytical Techniques: Chromatography, MS, NMR • Basics of Multivariate Data Analysis • Applications in Plant Sciences

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2. 6th Industrial Workshop on Microencapsulation: Fundamentals, Market Update and Applications in Food, Dietary Supplement and Pharmaceuticals (16 – 17 May, 2013), in Geneva, Switzerland. <http://www.smartshortcourses.com/microencapsulation3.html>

3. AFERP & STOLON International Symposium, Brussels, 22-24 May 2013. This will be the first joint symposium of two scientific associations in the field of natural products: "*The French Association for the Study and Research in Pharmacognosy - AFERP*" and "*The Fungal - Plant Science Association Teacher-Researchers of Pharmacy Faculties in French – STOLON*". Among the local organisers of this symposium, there are two GP-TCM RA members: Pierre DUEZ (pduez@ulb.ac.be) and Caroline STEVIGNY (caroline.stevigny@ulb.ac.be). The symposium programme includes lectures that cover various aspects of the identification of new pharmacologically active natural prototypes: the botanical identification of plants and harvesting, their uses in ethnopharmacology, the isolation and structural identification of active principles, the *in vitro* and *in vivo* pharmacokinetic and toxicological studies and suitable analytical methods for quality control and rapid identification of known compounds. Among the invited speakers, three are GP-TCM members: Christine Leon, Rob Verpoorte and Qihe Xu. The goal of this workshop is to bring together researchers in this multidisciplinary field of natural substances of biological interest, including members of the AFERP and STOLON associations, but this event will be open to other national and international researchers in this interdisciplinary field. This is a chance to meet French researchers in the field; if you remember, France was absent from GP-TCM activities so far. More details about this event is available on the website of the AFERP association (early registration before March 1): www.aferp.univ-rennes1.fr

4. International Conference of Traditional and Complementary Medicine on Health 2013 (ICTCMH 2013) will be held in Taiwan in 24-26 May 2013. It aims to convene world experts in traditional medicine, herbal remedy, and dietary therapy to share the recent scientific evidences and to enhance international collaboration in globalising traditional medicine. Venue: National Research Institute of Chinese Medicine, No. 155-1, Sec. 2, Linong St., Beitou District, Taipei 11221, Taiwan. Official Language: English. Website: <http://ictcmh2013.aonetek.com> or <http://ictcmh2013.nricm.edu.tw>
Free registration: <http://ictcmh2013.aonetek.com/regist>; <http://ictcmh2013.nricm.edu.tw/registration>

5. At the invitation of Professor De-an Guo, you are welcome to attend the 4th Annual Meeting of The Specialty Committee of TCM Pharmaceutical Analysis of WFCMS & International Conference on Phytopharmaceutical Analysis (21-23 June 2013) in Tianjin, China. The scientific topics include: (1) Current quality standards of different pharmacopeia and harmonization, (2) New technologies, methods and trends of TCM quality control, (3) Quality control in processing of Chinese crude drugs, decoction slices, and (4) New technologies, methods and progress of *in vivo* analysis of TCM. For more information, please contact Xingyun Hou: Telephone: +886 021-81886192 Fax: +886 021-81886191; E-mail: hxy0122@163.com.

6. The 54th Natural Products Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy (ASP) will be held in July 2013 in St Louis MO, USA. Over 500 international attendees are expected. The ASP 2013 website is now live: www.asp2013.org

7. The Annual Meeting of the Consortium of the Globalization of Chinese Medicine (27-29 August 2013) and the 2nd Annual Meeting of TCM Research Association (on 30 August 2013) in Graz, Austria. Please reserve these dates. Detailed information will follow.

Invitations from Journals:

1. Invitation from the *European Journal of Integrative Medicine*: Ensuring and Improving patients safety in Integrative health care: Keeping patients safe is a vital part of all healthcare. Improving patient safety involves assessing how patients could be harmed, preventing or managing risks, reporting and analyzing incidents. For details, please visit: <http://www.gp-tcm.org/2013/01/call-for-papers-ensuring-and-improving-patients%C2%92-safety-in-integrative-health-care-the-european-journal-of-integrative-medicine/>

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The European Journal of Integrative Medicine invites authors to contribute to this special issue planned for 2013. Please submit your articles to www.elsevier.com/eujim

2. Invitation from *Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine (eCAM)*: eCAM would like to inform GP-TCM RA members about an upcoming Special Issue on "Efficacy and Safety of Medicinal Plants used in the Management of Diabetes Mellitus," which will be published in November 2013. You can find the Call for Papers for this Special Issue at:

<http://www.hindawi.com/journals/ecam/si/681090/cfp/> The deadline for submission is 5 July 2013. The Special Issue is open to both original research articles as well as review articles.

Recommended Readings

1. The MIBBI project promotes extant efforts developing minimum information guidelines for the reporting of biological and biomedical science to the wider community.

<http://www.biosharing.org/mibbi>

They have developed guidelines for reporting RT-qPCR, microarray, proteomics and metabolomics studies:

<http://www.rdml.org/miqe.php>

<http://msi-workgroups.sourceforge.net>

<http://mibbi.sourceforge.net/projects/MIAME.shtml>

<http://mibbi.sourceforge.net/projects/MIAPe.shtml>

<http://mibbi.sourceforge.net/projects/MIAPepAE.shtml>

<http://mibbi.sourceforge.net/projects/MIARE.shtml>

2. Acupuncture in patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis: a randomized trial. By Brinkhaus B, Ortiz M, Witt CM, Roll S, Linde K, Pfab F, Niggemann B, Hummelsberger J, Treszl A, Ring J, Zuberbier T, Wegscheider K, Willich SN. *Ann Intern Med.* 2013 Feb 19;158(4):225-34. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23420231>

3. Acupuncture Research in the Era of Comparative Effectiveness Research. Editorial by Coeytaux RR, Park JJ. Published in *Ann Intern Med.* 2013 Feb 19;158(4):287-8. <http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=1584085>

4. Acupuncture Intervention in Ischemic Stroke: A Randomized Controlled Prospective Study. Shen PF, Kong L, Ni LW, Guo HL, Yang S, Zhang LL, Zhang ZL, Guo JK, Xiong J, Zhen Z, Shi XM. (2012) *American Journal of Chinese Medicine*, 40(04), 685-693. DOI: 10.1142/S0192415X12500516

<http://www.worldscientific.com/doi/pdf/10.1142/S0192415X12500516>

5. Acupuncture for Chronic Low Back Pain in Long-Term Follow-Up: A Meta-Analysis of 13 Randomized Controlled Trials. Xu M, Yan S, Yin X, Li X, Gao S, Han R, Wei L, Luo W, Lei G. (2013) *American Journal of Chinese Medicine*, 41(01), 1-19. DOI: 10.1142/S0192415X13500018. <http://www.worldscientific.com/doi/pdf/10.1142/S0192415X13500018>

6. National Program to Keep TCM Healthy

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/life/2013-03/22/content_16335224.htm

China's top traditional Chinese medicine authority has announced a nationwide training program. Under the initiative, the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SATCM) has appointed 734 leading TCM specialists to instruct 1,465 students in clinical practice and academic research. "The model of master-disciple TCM education is an indispensable part of the overall efforts to train high-quality TCM talent in China," said Wang Lian, a spokesman for the SATCM.

Since 1990, the SATCM has carried out a series of programs to pass down the time-honored Oriental medical science and help churn out more qualified practitioners. To date, more than 2,000 disciples have studied with TCM masters.

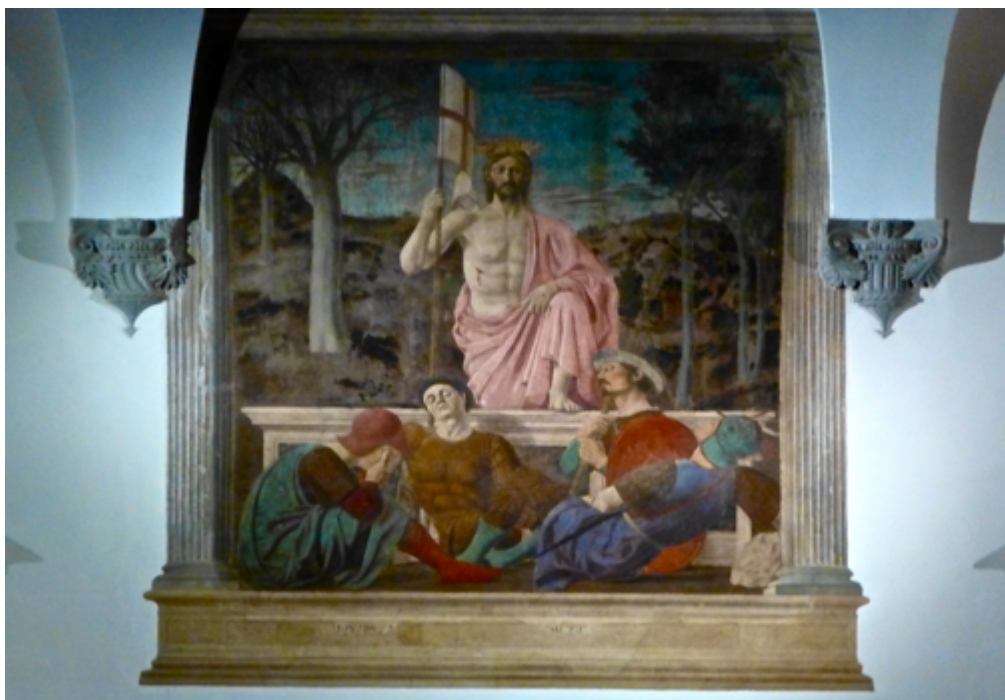
TCM practitioners can apply for programs through the local TCM authority or be recommended by their hospitals. The final decision is made by the administration, Hong said. Programs usually last three years, and disciples are required to shadow and learn from their masters during their routine

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work of clinical practice or research at least one and a half days a week, Wang said. Meanwhile, disciples have to hand in regular reports on their clinical experiences and studies of classic TCM texts for the masters to comment on. Huang Jianyin, deputy secretary-general of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies, said the model helps students transform paper knowledge into clinical practice. "That fits best in the education of TCM, which is a medical science based on clinical practice and experience," he said.

Other interests:

Celebrating Easter Sunday 31 March 2013 with Piero della Francesca's *Resurrection* !



The *Resurrection* is a fresco by the Italian Renaissance master Piero della Francesca, painted around 1463-65. This photo was taken by Tai-Ping Fan at 10:28 PM of 18 March 2013, through the glass entrance of Museo Civico of Sansepolcro in Tuscany, Italy.



****For horse-riding enthusiasts and fans, here is a special treat: *La Caledonia Polo – Fanta***
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b-pedHgHCpA&feature=player_embedded

Acknowledgements:

Contributions from Prof. **Rudolf Bauer** (Austria), Dr. **Ray Cooper** (USA), Prof. **Pierre Duez** (Belgium), Dr. **Tai-Ping Fan** (UK), Prof. **De-an Guo** (China), Mr. **Alan Koo** (China), Prof. **Nicola Robinson** (UK), Prof. **Lee-Yan Sheen** (Taiwan), Prof. **Rob Verpoorte** (The Netherlands) and Dr. **Qihe Xu** (UK) are gratefully acknowledged.