# Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association

# 中医药规范研究学会

## March-April 2025 Newsletter


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# The 13th GP-TCM RA Annual Meeting, Kew Garden, London

The 13th Annual Meeting of GP-TCM RA will be held on 24-27 July 2025 at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom. We would like to sincerely invite you all to join this 3.5-days meeting and to take this opportunity to meet old and new friends. Please see the meeting flyer and useful links below:

**The 13th GP-TCM RA Annual Meeting**
**(in association with FTCMP and CCMUK)**

**Topic: One health**
**- potential for the integration of Chinese Medicine**
**at**
**Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK (24-27 July 2025)**
**For details and schedule visit the GP-TCM RA website: www.gp-tcm.org**

中医药规范研究学会第13届年会
英国伦敦皇家植物园邱园
2025年7月24-27日
详情见学会官网：www.gp-tcm.org

**Tickets available now**
**The 13th GP-TCM RA Annual Meeting 2025 Tickets**


## Event website and tentative timetable:

https://www.gp-tcm.org/index.php/event/the-13th-gp-tcm-ra-annual-meeting/

## Registration website:

https://kewgardens.seetickets.com/tour/the-13th-gp-tcm-ra-annual-meeting-with-ftcmp-

## *New members of GP-TCM RA (March-April 2025)*

| Life Member | |
|---|---|
| **Wendy WONG** | Yat Hei Medical Centre, Hong Kong SAR, China |
| **Ordinary Members** | |
| **Nathalie BEIJERSBERGEN** | Con Curae BV, The Netherlands |
| **Yiqing CAI** | Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, China |
| **Huanxian CHEN** | Macau Kiang Wu Nursing College, Macau SAR, China |
| **Xun DING** | Independent lecturer in Kunming, China |
| **Fei WANG** | Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China |
| **Ning WANG** | The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China |
| **Student Members** | |
| **Shuli LI** | University of Macau, Macau SAR, China |
| **Xiaonan LIANG** | University of Macau, Macau SAR, China |
| **Xin NIE** | University of Macau, Macau SAR, China |

## Current Corporate Members

| | |
|---|---|
| Dalian Fusheng Natural Medicine Development Co. Ltd., China | 大连富生天然药物开发有限公司 DALIAN FUSHENG NATURAL MEDICINE DEVELOPEMENT CO., LTD |
| Hutchison Whampoa Guangzhou Baiyunshan Chinese Medicine Co. Ltd., China | 广州白云山和记黄埔中药有限公司 |
| Infinitus (China) Company Ltd., China | INFINITUS 无限极 |
| PuraPharm International (H.K.) Ltd., Hong Kong SAR, China | PuraPharm |
| Shanghai Hutchison Pharmaceuticals, China | Shanghai Hutchison Pharmaceuticals 上海和黄药业 |

## Current Institutional Members

| | |
|---|---|
| Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China | |
| China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan (Department of Chinese Pharmaceutical Sciences and Chinese Medicine Resources) | |
| Heilongjiang University of Chinese Medicine, China | |
| Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong SAR, China (School of Chinese Medicine) | 香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY |
| Shaanxi University of Technology, China | |
| The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China (Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy, LKS Faculty of Medicine) | HKU Med LKS Faculty of Medicine Department of Pharmacology & Pharmacy 香港大學藥理及藥劑學系 |
| Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, China (School of Pharmaceutical Sciences) | |
| Zhengzhou University of Industrial Technology, China | |

## FDA Announces Plan to Phase Out Animal Testing Requirement for Monoclonal Antibodies and Other Drugs

**FDA NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release: April 10, 2025**

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration is taking a groundbreaking step to advance public health by replacing animal testing in the development of monoclonal antibody therapies and other drugs with more effective, human-relevant methods. The new approach is designed to improve drug safety and accelerate the evaluation process, while reducing animal experimentation, lowering research and development (R&D) costs, and ultimately, drug prices.

The FDA's animal testing requirement will be reduced, refined, or potentially replaced using a range of approaches, including AI-based computational models of toxicity and cell lines and organoid toxicity testing in a laboratory setting (so-called New Approach Methodologies or NAMs data). Implementation of the regimen will begin immediately for investigational new drug (IND) applications, where inclusion of NAMs data is encouraged, and is outlined in a roadmap also being released today. To make determinations of efficacy, the agency will also begin use pre-existing, real-world safety data from other countries, with comparable regulatory standards, where the drug has already been studied in humans.

English news and photo adapted from link below:
https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-announces-plan-phase-out-animal-testing-requirement-monoclonal-antibodies-and-other-drugs

While pointing out that this is a latest development of FDA policy on animal testing since its FDA Modernization Act 2.0 in 2023, further reading below.

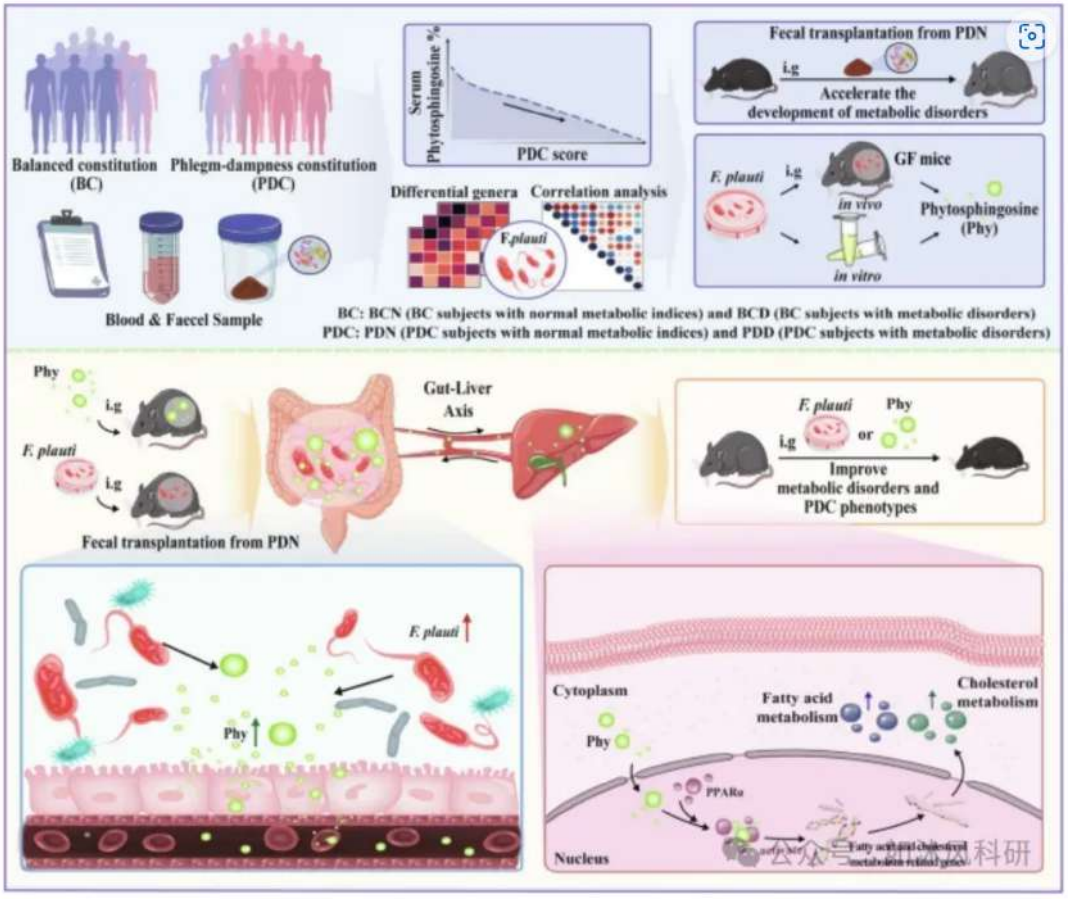
*Wadman M. FDA no longer has to require animal testing for new drugs. Science. 2023 Jan 13;379(6628):127-128.*

*Zushin PH, Mukherjee S, Wu JC. FDA Modernization Act 2.0: transitioning beyond animal models with human cells, organoids, and AI/ML-based approaches. J Clin Invest. 2023 Nov 1;133(21):e175824.*

Chinese news and photo adapted from link below:
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/68JH78wHnTUAn4LOQoxhrw

## ii Chinese Academician Wang Qi's team from Beijing University of Chinese Medicine discovers the key mechanism of metabolic disorders in phlegm-damp constitution'

For more info please see D. Recommended reading and/or recent research highlight


News and photo adapted from link below:
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/g5b6kHrupSG28yVMWd4yHg

## iii Cancer Cell Editor-in-Chief Editorial: Bridging the gap: The future of cancer research and clinical oncology in Cancer Cell

For more info please see D. Recommended reading and/or recent research highlight

原创 Cell Press CellPress细胞科学 2025年04月15日 10:33 河北


生命科学
Life science

**Cell Press 细胞出版社旗下期刊 Cancer Cell 主编 Steve Mao 在最新一期 *Cancer Cell* 发表了题为“Bridging the gap: The future of cancer research and clinical oncology in *Cancer Cell*”的社论文章。**“弥合差距”不仅反映了期刊当前的定位，也为未来指明了方向。Cancer Cell 的目标很明确：**将期刊打造为连接实验室与临床的顶级研究平台。**

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/fyRpbNE1leFHpP_p32mhnA

## iv Professor Han Quanbin Simon from Hong Kong Baptist University clinches gold medal at the 15th International Invention Fair in the Middle East

香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY School of 中醫藥學院 Chinese Medicine

NEWS

### Professor Han Quanbin Simon clinches gold medal at the 15th International Invention Fair in the Middle East

5 March 2025


*Professor Han Quanbin Simon clinches gold medal at the 15th IIFME.*

Professor Han Quanbin Simon from Teaching and Research Divisionmade his debut at the 15th International Invention Fair in the Middle East (IIFME) held in Kuwait from 16 to 19 February. He showcased his research invention to experts and scholars from 42 countries and was honored with a gold medal.

The award-winning project, "M-cell GP2-mediated Lymphatic-targeted Drug Carriers",applies a polysaccharide derived from the Chinese herbal medicine Mongolian Milkvetch Root to strengthen oral vaccine efficacy, offering a new treatment protocol for lymphatic diseases.

The School extends its heartfelt congratulations to Professor Han on this outstanding achievement. This award not only underscores the School's exceptional accomplishments in transdisciplinary research but also exemplifies the innovative fusion of traditional Chinese medicine wisdom with cutting-edge technology. Looking ahead, the School remains committed to advancing the modernisation of Chinese medicine and anticipates further breakthroughs where innovative technologies translate into clinical applications.

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/news-and-events/news/2025/20250305-Professor-Han-Quanbin-Simon-clinches-gold-medal-at-the-15th-International-Invention-Fair-in-the-Middle-East.html

## V Hong Kong Baptist University female scholars share contemporary women's journeys of success and resilience

香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY School of 中醫藥學院 Chinese Medicine

NEWS

### HKBU female scholars share contemporary women's journeys of success and resilience

10 March 2025


*(From left) Professor Liu Jiming, Professor Wang Jun, Professor Chen Li, Professor Christy Cheung, Professor Li Min, Dr. Huang Yajun Wendy, Dr. Zhu Yuner and Professor Lyu Aiping.*

On 6 March, the Research Office at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) celebrated International Women's Day with a "Research Mingle" event, featuring Professor Li Min, Executive Associate Dean of Chinese Medicine, alongside several distinguished female scholars.

Professor Li Min shared for the first time her personal experiences and insights on navigating multiple roles as a senior management executive, educator, scientist, and family pillar, highlighting the importance of effective time management, child education, and personal development. She introduced the concept of 5 Ps: Persistence, Patience, Perseverance, Passion and Practice, encouraging participants to adopt these qualities to break through challenges, nurture next generations, achieve academic excellence, cultivate their professional fields, and continuously improve themselves. Professor Li also emphasised the need for researchers to strike a balance between their careers, families, and personal growth.

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/news-and-events/news/2025/20250306-HKBU-female-scholars-share-contemporary-women-s-journeys-of-success-and-resilience.html

## vi School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University wins the local "Merit Award for Outstanding Exhibit" at Hong Kong Flower Show 2025

香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY School of 中醫藥學院 Chinese Medicine

NEWS

### SCM wins the local "Merit Award for Outstanding Exhibit" at Hong Kong Flower Show 2025

17 March 2025


*The School wins the "Merit Award for Outstanding Exhibit" in the local category at Hong Kong Flower Show 2025.*


*A group of Year 3 BCM students enjoyed the unique outdoor learning experience at Victoria Park.*

The Hong Kong Flower Show 2025 commenced on 14 March at Hong Kong Victoria Park. The School's exhibition, themed "Common Chinese Herbs in Hong Kong", stood out among the numerous participants, winning the "Merit Award for Outstanding Exhibit" in the local category. By blending Chinese herbal medicines with art, the exhibition booth showcased over 50 local Chinese herbs, captivating a large and enthusiastic group of visitors.

At the award ceremony, Professor Chen Hubiao received the award on behalf of the School, accompanied by Dr. Yue Kin-man Kevin, Dr. Guo Ping and Dr. Ku Ping-yui. In a delightful surprise, Professor Zhao Zhongzhen, Professor Emeritus and Professor Zhang Hongqi, former Director of Teaching and Research Division made a special appearance to show support, engaging in lively discussions about the charm of Bencao (Chinese materia medica).

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/news-and-events/news/2025/20250317-SCM-wins-the-local--Merit-Award-for-Outstanding-Exhibit--at-Hong-Kong-Flower-Show-2025.html

## vii Hong Kong Baptist University Marking New Milestone: Our First Female Dean Takes the Helm

香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY School of 中醫藥學院 Chinese Medicine

NEWS

### Marking New Milestone: Our First Female Dean Takes the Helm

1 April 2025


*Professor Li Min officially succeeds Professor LyuAiping as the Dean of Chinese Medicine effective1 April 2025.*

Professor Li Min officially succeeds Professor Lyu Aiping as the Dean of Chinese Medicine effective 1 April 2025.

Joining the School in 2001, Professor Li is now the Chair Professor in Chinese Medicine, Ma Pak Leung Endowed Professor in Innovative Neuromedicine and also serves as the Director of Mr. & Mrs. Ko Chi Ming Centre for Parkinson's Disease Research and Golden Meditech Centre for NeuroRegeneration Sciences. She is an acclaimed scholar and Chinese medicine practitioner, with the expertise in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Professor Li was not only named the First National Outstanding Female Chinese Medicine Practitioner ( 全國首屆傑出女中醫師 ) in 2007 but has also been consistently ranked among the world's top 2% scientists by Stanford University in recent years. With her exceptional leadership, wisdom and visionary insights, extensive clinical experience and passion for Chinese medicine, Professor Li becomes the first female to take the helm at the School.

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/news-and-events/news/2025/20250401-Marking-New-Milestone--Our-First-Female-Dean-Takes-the-Helm.html

## viii Hong Kong Baptist University Strategic guidance: Professor Hon Chan Wing-kwong appointed as Chairman of School of Chinese Medicine Advisory Committee

香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY School of 中醫藥學院 Chinese Medicine

NEWS

### Strategic guidance: Professor Hon Chan Wing-kwong appointed as Chairman of School of Chinese Medicine Advisory Committee

1 April 2025

*Professor Hon Chan Wing-kwong has been appointed as the Chairman of the School Advisory Committee, effective from 1 April 2025.*

The School of Chinese Medicine at Hong Kong Baptist University is pleased to announce that Professor Hon Chan Wing-kwong has been appointed as the Chairman of the School Advisory Committee, effective from 1 April 2025.

As a veteran in the advancement of Chinese medicine in Hong Kong, Professor Hon Chan Wing-kwong is a registered Chinese medicine practitioner and also serves in important roles such as Member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Member of Chinese Medicine Development Committee of the Health Bureau and Chairman of its Chinese Medicine Practice Subcommittee, Chairman of Hong Kong Registered Chinese Medicine Practitioners Association, Chairman of Federation of the Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Practitioners and Chinese Medicines Traders Association, and Vice President of Supervision Board of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies. With extensive knowledge and strong networks, Professor Chan has been committed to promoting Chinese medicine education, enhancing professional standards and internationalisation. As an outstanding alumnus, Professor Chan has actively engaged in supporting and contributing to the School's services and development. He has been a member of the School Advisory Committee since 2020 and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of HKBU Chinese Medicine Hospital Company Limited.

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/news-and-events/news/2025/20250401-Strategic-guidance--Professor-Hon-Chan-Wing-kwong-appointed-as-Chairman-of-School-of-Chinese-Medicine-Advisory-Committee.html

## ix Scientific names need to reflect the values of today

The international journal of science / 24 April 2025

nature

# Scientific names need to reflect the values of today

**A Nature Podcast series explores scientific naming conventions, and talks to researchers looking at how to make them more inclusive.**

GETTY

**A *Hibbertia* flower, named after George Hibbert, who was in favour of slavery.**

When did humans begin to assign names to each other? It's a question that has occupied researchers for decades. What is clear, however, is how important consistent naming is in helping us to make sense not just of people, but of the world around us more generally: for record-keeping, wayfinding and classification. And there are many, many rules and systems for what constitutes a name and how names should be recorded.

*Nature*'s podcast team has been exploring naming conventions in science in a landmark three-part series, the final instalment of which landed this week (Z. Merali *Nature* https://doi.org/ph4g; 2025). The series dives into the systems and approaches that disciplines in the life and physical sciences use to assign names. These range from standardized nomenclature for species and genes to the sometimes-evocative – and potentially deceptive – labels given to some physical phenomena. For example, in what sense is dark energy actually 'dark'? Or in what way do fundamental particles actually 'spin'?

Outside research, people and communities generally name things themselves and have their own naming systems. There are exceptions, under colonialism, for example, when occupying powers often change the languages and the place names in the countries and territories they control.

In science, it is mostly researchers who get to name things. That has mainly meant researchers from the Northern Hemisphere, although, in the past few decades, scientists from countries that are rich in biodiversity have been taking the lead in discovering and naming. The convoluted history of naming leads to a whole separate issue, which the podcast series also explores: how researchers around the world are tackling problematic names that persist in science today.

Core to this is what to do about people who have been recognized, even celebrated, in science, even though they are known to have committed or contributed to harms. As just one example, researchers are discussing what to do about plants that carry the name of George Hibbert (1757–1837). A wealthy politician and trader, Hibbert profited from slavery, and opposed ending it. He was also a patron of botany, which is recognized in the name of the plant genus *Hibbertia* – now containing several hundred species.

Researchers have a spectrum of opinions on what to do, and the costs and benefits of different approaches, on which our colleagues at *Nature Ecology and Evolution* have been reporting. There's an argument, for example, that a system that involves naming things after individuals should have no place in modern science, which is collaborative[1]. This is countered by a view that the existing system enables today's diverse research teams to recognize historically under-represented people, places and cultures[2]. If there are names that live on in hundreds of species, some worry whether names and naming systems can be changed while ensuring continuity in the scholarly record.

> **"There's an argument that a system that involves naming things after individuals should have no place in science."**

Meanwhile, some argue that such debates, although important, should not distract from furthering discovery and invention – especially in the plant sciences, in which so much remains to be discovered and described[3].

Last July, the global scientific body that sets rules for naming plant species voted to eliminate some scientific names that members deemed offensive. The International Botanical Congress (IBC) in Madrid decided that more than 200 plants, fungi and algae species will no longer include a racist slur used against Black people. The word will instead be replaced with derivatives of the letters 'afr', to recognize Africa. In a second rule change, attendees voted to establish a committee to consider how to approach the ethics of names for newly described plants, fungi and algae. Its work will apply to species names given after 2026, not to existing ones.

The IBC has shown that change is possible, albeit incrementally. Other societies that are no doubt watching must also consider what steps they can take. People who have demonstrably caused harm should not be celebrated. How best to ensure that scientific naming conventions reflect that – and how else they might change to reflect the modern, diverse and plural enterprise of science – is a question that the whole research community should engage with. This is difficult but necessary work.

1. Guedes, P. *et al. Nature Ecol. Evol.* **7**, 1157–1160 (2023).
2. Jost, L. *et al. Nature Ecol. Evol.* **7**, 1164–1165 (2023).
3. Antonelli, A. *et al. Nature Ecol. Evol.* **7**, 1161–1162 (2023).



News and photo adapted from link below:
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-01238-1.pdf

# A decrease in Flavonifractor plautii and its product, phytosphingosine, predisposes individuals with phlegm-dampness constitution to metabolic disorders

**Journal:** ***Cell Discovery***

**Detail:** https://www.nature.com/celldisc/

**DOI:** 10.1038/s41421-025-00789-x

Cell Discovery www.nature.com/celldisc

ARTICLE OPEN Check for updates

## A decrease in *Flavonifractor plautii* and its product, phytosphingosine, predisposes individuals with phlegm-dampness constitution to metabolic disorders

Lingru Li[1,6], Tianxing Li[1,2,6], Xue Liang[1,6], Linghui Zhu[1,3,6], Yini Fang[1], Ling Dong[2], Yi Zheng[1], Xiaoxue Xu[2], Mingrui Li[1], Tianqi Cai[2], Fufangyu Zhao[1], Meiling Xin[1,2], Mingyan Shao[1], Yuanyuan Guan[1], Meiyi Liu[1], Fangli Li[4], Chenhong Zhang[5]✉, Qi Wang[1]✉, Wenlong Sun[2]✉ and Yanfei Zheng[1]✉



According to traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) constitutional theory, individuals with phlegm-dampness constitution (PDC) are at increased risk for metabolic disorders. Previous studies have indicated that PDC individuals exhibit gene expression changes associated with metabolic disorders, even individuals with normal metabolic indices. However, the biological mechanisms underlying these changes remain unclear. The gut microbiota has recently emerged as a promising avenue for elucidating TCM principles. Here, we revealed that individuals with PDC have distinct gut microbiota and serum metabolite profiles. A decrease in phytosphingosine was associated with increased PDC scores and metabolic disorder severity. Subsequent experiments demonstrated that *Flavonifractor plautii* can biosynthesize phytosphingosine, which was also negatively correlated with the PDC score. Interestingly, both *F. plautii* and phytosphingosine levels decreased in PDC subjects with normal metabolic indices. Fecal transplantation from these individuals accelerated the development of metabolic disorders in mice. However, supplementation with *F. plautii* and phytosphingosine ameliorated metabolic disorders by increasing phytosphingosine levels in the gut–hepatic axis. Mechanistic investigations confirmed that phytosphingosine can directly bind to hepatic peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor α (PPARα) and activate its nuclear transcription activity, thereby regulating downstream gene expression related to glucose–lipid metabolism. Our research indicates that the decrease in *F. plautii* and its product, phytosphingosine, contributes to gene expression changes related to metabolic disorders in PDC individuals and increases their susceptibility to metabolic disorders. These findings suggest that diagnosing PDC may be beneficial for identifying at-risk populations among apparently healthy individuals, thereby advancing the broader field of metabolic disorder prevention and TCM integration.

*Cell Discovery*; https://doi.org/10.1038/s41421-025-00789-x

### INTRODUCTION

Metabolic disorders represent a group of disorders that include various interrelated pathological conditions, such as overweight/obesity, hyperlipidemia, diabetes, hypertension, and hyperuricemia[1]. Over the last two decades, due to diet and lifestyle changes, the global incidence of these diseases has reached a high level[2–5], which significantly increases the morbidity and mortality rates of cardiovascular diseases. Early diagnosis and prevention of metabolic disorders are important for preventing and blocking disease processes and reducing the public health burden[6–8]. At present, according to the consensus of experts, overweight, prediabetes, and borderline hyperlipidemia are still important primary or secondary prevention indicators[9]. However, abnormal metabolic indices indicate long-lasting changes in the physiological characteristics of the whole body[10]. There is an urgent need for a method that can identify precursor changes before metabolic diseases occur .

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is a type of medicine that originated in China. Holism is its fundamental principle, and the preventive treatment of disease represents one of its advantages. TCM obtains systemic characteristics through four diagnostic methods (sight, hearing, questioning, and pulse) to predict changes in the pathogenesis of the body rather than relying on a single clinical indicator; thus, precursor changes are potentially identified before the clinical indicators change[11]. With the development of TCM, diagnosis is no longer dependent on the characteristics collected using the four diagnostic methods; rather, it has gradually changed to quantification, objectification and standardization. The term "constitution" refers to the unique TCM "type"[12]. On the basis of the literature and an epidemiological study of the Han Chinese population, we have defined nine constitutional groups in the population, namely, a balanced constitution (BC) group and eight unbalanced constitution groups. We have also formulated classification criteria, such as the 1–5

[1]National Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine Constitution and Preventive Treatment of Diseases, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, Beijing, China. [2]School of Life Sciences and Medicine, Shandong University of Technology, Zibo, Shandong, China. [3]Institute of Basic Theory for Chinese Medicine, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, Beijing, China. [4]Beijing University of Chinese Medicine Affiliated Shenzhen Hospital, Shenzhen, Guangdong, China. [5]State Key Laboratory of Microbial Metabolism, School of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai, China. [6]These authors contributed equally: Lingru Li, Tianxing Li, Xue Liang, Linghui Zhu.
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Published online: 17 March 2025

SPRINGER NATURE

## ii Analgesic effects of non-surgical and non-interventional treatments for low back pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis of placebo-controlled randomised trials

**Journal:** ***BMJ Evidence Based Medicine***

**Detail:** https://ebm.bmj.com/content/early/2025/03/02/bmjebm-2024-112974

**DOI:** 10.1136/bmjebm-2024-112974

### Analgesic effects of non-surgical and non-interventional treatments for low back pain: a systematic review and meta-analysis of placebo-controlled randomised trials

Aidan G Cashin [1, 2], Bradley M Furlong [3], Steven J Kamper [4, 5], Diana De Carvalho [6], Luciana AC Machado [7, 8], Simon RE Davidson [9, 10], Krystal K Bursey [3], Christina Abdel Shaheed [11, 12], Amanda M Hall [3]

Correspondence to Dr Aidan G Cashin; a.cashin@neura.edu.au

## Abstract

**Objectives:**

To investigate the efficacy of non-surgical and non-interventional treatments for adults with low back pain compared with placebo.

**Eligibility criteria:**

Randomised controlled trials evaluating non-surgical and non-interventional treatments compared with placebo or sham in adults (≥18 years) reporting non-specific low back pain.

**Information sources:**

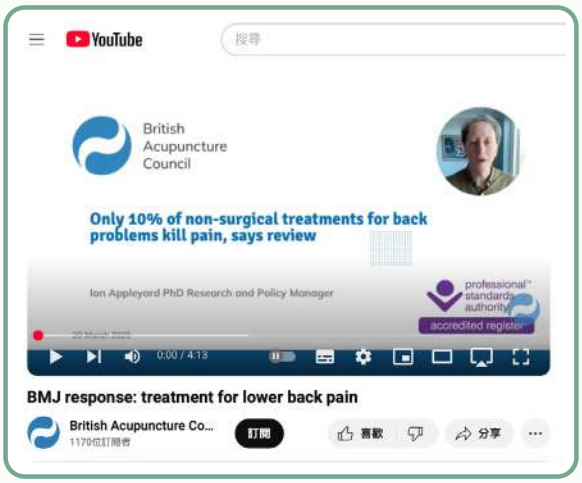
MEDLINE, CINAHL, EMBASE, PsychInfo and Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials were searched from inception to 14 April 2023.

**Risk of bias:**

Risk of bias of included studies was assessed using the 0 to 10 PEDro Scale.

**Synthesis of results:**

Random effects meta-analysis was used to estimate pooled effects and corresponding 95% confidence intervals on outcome pain intensity (0 to 100 scale) at first assessment post-treatment for each treatment type and by duration of low back pain—(sub)acute (<12 weeks) and chronic (≥12 weeks). Certainty of the evidence was assessed using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment (GRADE) approach.




YouTube link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dDIforeGtU

## iii Bridging the gap: The future of cancer research and clinical oncology in Cancer Cell

**Journal:** ***Cancer Cell***

**Detail:** https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1535610825001254

**DOI:** 10.1016/j.ccell.2025.03.02

Cancer Cell

CellPress

Editorial

# Bridging the gap: The future of cancer research and clinical oncology in *Cancer Cell*

Over the past five years, *Cancer Cell* has undergone a transformative evolution, reflecting the increasing multidisciplinary and integrative nature of cancer research. As editor-in-chief, it has been both a privilege and a profound responsibility to guide this journal through a period of significant change and growth, ensuring that it remains at the forefront of cancer research while adapting to the evolving needs of the scientific community. None of this would have been possible without the dedication and expertise of the *Cancer Cell* editorial team, whose tireless efforts have been instrumental in shaping the journal's vision and maintaining its high standards. Today, I am proud to reflect on our progress, celebrate our achievements, and reaffirm our commitment to bridging the gap between foundational cancer biology and clinical oncology—a theme that will continue to define *Cancer Cell* in the years to come.

Five years ago, we set forth a vision to broaden *Cancer Cell*'s scope—not only to publish groundbreaking discoveries in cancer biology but also to serve as a platform for translational and reverse translational research, clinical oncology, and the study of cancer as a systemic disease. This expansion was driven by a growing recognition that cancer is not merely a collection of aberrant cells but a complex, systemic disorder that requires a multidisciplinary approach to understand and treat effectively. By embracing this broader perspective, we aimed to foster deeper collaboration between basic scientists and clinicians, ensuring that discoveries at the bench could be rapidly translated to the bedside and that insights from the clinic could inform new avenues of basic research.

The response from the cancer research community has been nothing short of extraordinary. Over the past five years, *Cancer Cell* has published a diverse array of studies spanning the entire spectrum of cancer research—from uncovering mechanistic insights into signaling pathways to pioneering innovative clinical trials that redefine patient care. Our pages have featured groundbreaking work that explores the tumor microenvironment, antitumor immunity, immune evasion, metabolic reprogramming, and the emerging roles of the microbiome and nervous system in cancer progression. We have also highlighted cutting-edge research on early detection, precision medicine, and novel therapeutic strategies. The integration of transformative technologies such as artificial intelligence, spatial transcriptomics, single-cell sequencing, and multi-omics approaches has enabled unprecedent insights into cancer biology and treatment. This rich diversity of content has strengthened the journal's mission and underscored the critical importance of connecting basic science with clinical practice.

This issue presents a special collection of articles that epitomize our commitment to bridging the gap between foundational cancer research and clinical oncology. Leading experts from across the field share perspectives on the challenges and opportunities inherent in translational research. Through a series of insightful reviews, commentaries, and opinion pieces, our contributors explore how integrating basic and clinical research can deepen our understanding of cancer biology and ultimately improve patient outcomes. The central theme—bridging the gap—is not only a reflection of our current position but also a roadmap for the future of *Cancer Cell*.

As we move forward, our goal is clear: to establish *Cancer Cell* as the premier venue for research that connects the bench to the bedside and everything in between. We envision a journal where basic scientists draw inspirations from clinical findings that inform their research, where clinicians gain new insights from fundamental discoveries that shape their practice, and where translational researchers see their efforts recognized and amplified.

To realize this vision, we will continue prioritizing studies that demonstrate a clear connection between mechanistic discoveries and their clinical implications, as well as clinical trials that offer novel biological insights. We will also maintain our focus on research that addresses cancer as a systemic disease, recognizing the intricate interplay between tumor cells, the stroma, the microbiota, and the broader organism. Furthermore, we are committed to showcasing the transformative role of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, spatial transcriptomics, and single-cell sequencing, in driving innovation, unraveling the complexities of tumor biology, and accelerating progress toward more precise and effective cancer therapies.

Achieving this vision requires more than just a commitment to publishing high-quality science; it demands a collaborative and inclusive approach to peer review. Over the past five years, we have worked tirelessly to make the review process at *Cancer Cell* efficient, transparent, collaborative, and constructive. By engaging with authors and reviewers to ensure that every submission receives the attention and feedback it deserves, implementing policies to promote diversity and dialogue in our editorial practices, and remaining adaptive to the fast-evolving advancements of cancer research, we have strengthened the quality of the research we publish and fostered a sense of community among our contributors and readers. I am deeply grateful to the editorial team for their unwavering commitment to excellence and their ability to adapt to the ever-changing landscapes of the field. We are dedicated to working closely with researchers, providing the best possible service to meet their publishing needs, and supporting the rapid dissemination of groundbreaking discoveries in this dynamic field.

Together with the cancer research community, we are advancing this endeavor. Whether you are a basic scientist uncovering the molecular underpinnings of cancer, a physician testing new therapies in the clinic, or a translational researcher working to bridge these worlds, *Cancer Cell* is your home! We are committed to showcasing your outstanding findings and providing a forum for dialogue and discovery that transcends traditional boundaries. By publishing in *Cancer Cell*, you contribute to a growing body of knowledge that has the power

# The 21st Meeting of CGCM

**2025 Aug. 19-21**

**Location/venue:**
**KING NARESUAN THE GREAT EXHIBITION AND CONVENTION CENTER**
**NARESUAN UNIVERSITY,PHITSANULOK,THAILAND**

**Sponsor: Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine**
**Organizer: Naresuan University,Phitsanulok,THAILAND**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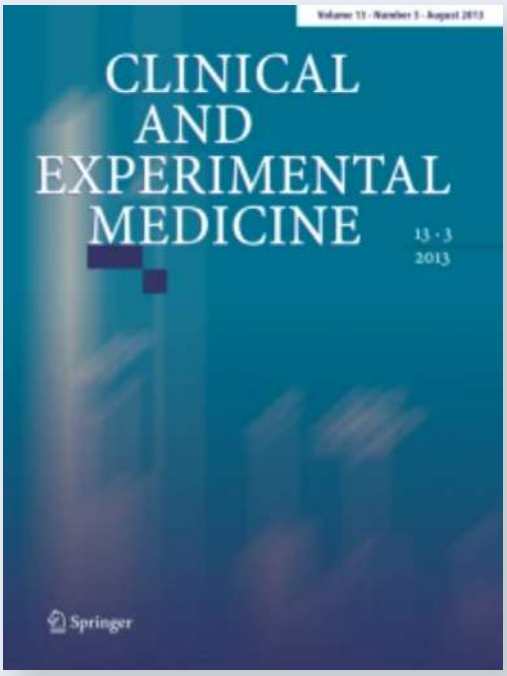
# 2025 Aug. 31 -Sept.3

## 73rd International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research(GA)

## jointly with Società Italiana di Fitochimica (SIF)

## Journal: *Clinical and Experimental Medicine* Springer

| | |
|---|---|
| **Topic** | **Leveraging Big Data Analytics for Advancing Precision Medicine in Inflammatory Diseases** |
| **Deadline** | 31 December 2025 |
| **Details** | https://link.springer.com/collections/jibhfibgeb |
| **Editor(s)** | **Hao Chi,**<br>Clinical Medical College at Southwest Medical University, Luzhou, China<br><br>**Ke Xu,**<br>Chongqing University Affiliated People's Hospital<br><br>**Guanhu Yang,**<br>Beijing University of TCM and Ohio University |



## i Shaanxi University of Chinese Medicine 2025 Recruitment Announcement


**陕西中医药大学 2025 年招聘公告（第二批）**

来源：人事处 作者：人事处 点击数：10954 发表时间：2024-12-17 16:05:35

根据《事业单位人事管理条例》、《陕西省事业单位公开招聘工作人员实施办法》和《陕西中医药大学招聘工作实施办法》有关规定，结合本校发展需要，现面向全社会公开招聘人才，有关事项公告如下：

一、招聘名额

专职教师岗位：博士研究生 4 人；

其他专业技术：博士研究生 7 人；

行政管理岗位：博士研究生 10 人（详见附件）

For more information, please refer to the website below:
http://rsc.sntcm.edu.cn/rczp/qpjg/111958.htm

## ii School of Traditional Chinese Medicine of China Pharmaceutical University is looking for talented people.


**中国药科大学中药学院诚聘英才 -- 守正创新、中西融升，育良才、研良药、共发展**

发布者：刘善军 浏览次数：3787 发布时间：2025-04-02 【print】

中国药科大学坐落于古都南京，始建于 1936 年，是我国历史上第一所由国家创办的药学高等学府。学校为教育部直属、国家“211 工程”和“985 工程优势学科创新平台”建设高校，国家“双一流”建设高校，是一所以药学为特色的多科性、研究型大学，其中以药学、中药学学科为龙头的药学学科群建设始终保持国内领先水平。（详见学校主页 www.cpu.edu.cn）

中国药科大学中药学院是我国最早开展中药和天然药物教学与研究的机构之一，其前身源于 1936 年国立药学专科学校建立的生药学课程，逐步发展成为南京药学院生药系、中药系。1986 年筹建中的南京中药学院与南京药学院合并成立中国药科大学，设立中药学院。

近 90 年来，学院为国家培养了各层次中药专门人才 2 万余人，先后走出两院院士 4 人，国家杰青 14 人，以及一批行业领军人才，人才培养质量在全国同类院校里位居前列，荣获国家级教学成果奖二等奖 2 项、江苏省教学成果奖特等奖 2 项。

学院学科门类齐全，中药学学科入选国家“双一流”建设学科，生药学二级学科为国家重点学科。现有中药学一级学科博士点，10 个二级学科博士点，10 个二级学科硕士点，2 个专业学位硕士点，设有中药学博士后流动站。中药化学、中药分析学、中药生命组学获批国家中医药管理局高水平中医药重点学科建设项目。与浦口区人民政府和江宁区人民政府合作共建附属浦口中医院、附属江宁中医院。

For more information, please refer to the website below:
https://zyxy.cpu.edu.cn/5c/23/c9040a220195/page.htm

# Early Career Corner

## Visiting scholar and Master of Medicine program in Hubei University of Medicine (HBUM)

### About HBUM

Welcome to join Prof. Xuanbin WANG's lab

Hubei University of Medicine, located at Shiyan in central China, is a medical school committed to nurturing healthcare professionals, integrating medicine with the disciplines of science, engineering and administration. Founded in 1965, the University has more than 120,000 alumni around the world. The university offers a wide range of programs across 18 schools covering more than 40 major areas of study. It has 1,027 full-time faculty, of whom 862 are master supervisors, 380 hold senior titles, and 215 hold doctoral degrees. It has an enrollment of 16,878 full-time undergraduate students. 1,665 postgraduate students, and 460 international students. It has the largest number of medical undergraduates in Hubei Province, and ranks Top 1 in undergraduate medical education among Hubei provincial-level universities.

The 6 affiliated hospitals are all Class A Tertiary Hospitals (the highest rating in China), with over 15,000 beds, 10 million out-patients, 0.5 million in-patients annually. Clinical Medicine is the top 3‰ in the global ESI ranking, while Pharmacology and Toxicology is the top 1%. The University has established close ties with over 30 universities and research institutions abroad in over 10 countries and regions, with program of student exchange, visiting scholars, expert lecturing, etc.

Hubei University of Medicine offers visiting research assistant (RA) and Master of Medicine (MM) programs for international students. A successful MM thesis should represent the result of the candidate's research which displays some originality and which demonstrates a sound understanding in the field of study and the appropriate research methods, and worthy of publication.

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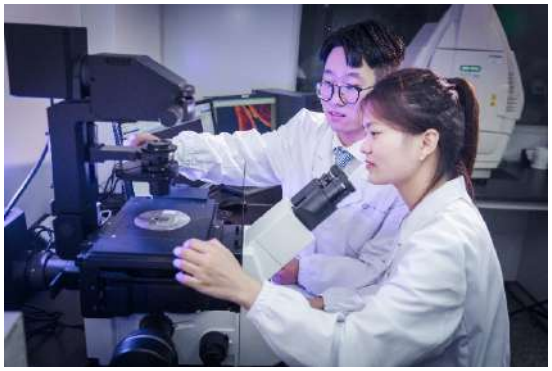
## About Prof. Xuanbin WANG's lab

Prof. Xuanbin WANG's lab, founded in 2007, focuses on Chinese medicines/natural products against diseases, especially cancers. He is also interested in Wudang Taoist folk medicine. Now, he has been granted more than 50 fundings from nation, province and university. He published 152 papers and wrote 12 books including 5 text books, such as Pharmacology of Chinese medicines (Chinese version and English version), Clinical Pharmacology (English version), Pharmacology (Chinese version), and Toxicology of Chinese Medicines (Chinese version).

To push the internationalization and modernization of Chinese medicine as well as Wudang folk medicine, Prof. Wang's group collaborate with experts from Germany, British, Belgium, Netherlands, Russia, Korea, Japan, Span, and Austria.



## Scholarship and allowance

1,000 CNY per month allowance will be provided to RAs and MMs in Prof. WANG's group. RAs have priority opportunity to apply for MM as well as scholarship in the university.

## Admission requirement

Bachelor's degree of Medicine, Surgery, Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Traditional Chinese medicine, and related disciplines. Chinese Language Proficiency Test: HSK3.

## Research fields

Including but not limit in Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Chinese medicines and Wudang Taoist folk medicine.


## Enquiries

School of International Education, HBUM
Address: 30 South Renmin Road, Shiyan, Hubei Province, China.
Website: https://www.hbmu.edu.cn

Tel/Fax: +86-719-8895160
Email: admission@hbmu.edu.cn

## ii Recruitment | Full-time Postdoctoral Recruitment at Fuyang Research Institute, Zhejiang University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China

### 单位简介

浙江中医药大学富阳研究院（以下简称“研究院”）成立于 2023 年 9 月 28 日，是杭州市富阳区人民政府与浙江中医药大学合作共建的独立法人事业单位。研究院致力于现代中医药科技创新和成果转化，旨在推动富阳区经济高质量发展和浙江中医药大学“双一流”学科建设，打造“高能级、全球化、高辨识度”的现代中医药产业创新高能级平台。

浙江中医药大学富阳研究院博士后工作站于 2024 年 7 月批准成立，现面向社会公开招聘全职博士后研究人员，诚邀广大优秀青年人才加盟！

### 团队介绍

- 赵国屏，分子微生物学家，中国科学院院士、发展中国家科学院院士。研究领域涉及分子微生物学、基因组学、系统与合成生物学以及生物信息学等，长期从事微生物生理生化、代谢调控及酶作用机理的研究。组建并领导中国科学院合成生物学重点实验室，在天然化合物人工细胞工厂合成、单染色体酵母构建与 CRISPR-Dx 体系创建方面做出基础性贡献。在 Nature、Science、PNAS、Nature Genetics、Science Bulletin 等杂志发表 SCI 论文 50 余篇。
- Thomas Efferth，博士、教授，欧洲科学院院士、发展中国家科学院院士、香港中文大学名誉教授、香港浸会大学名誉教授、浙江中医药大学名誉教授等。现任德国美因茨大学药学生物学系主任。长期致力于利用药物基因组学和生物信息学方法，揭示天然产物及合成化合物药理毒理以及抑制耐药肿瘤的作用机制研究。在 Trends Mol Med、Blood、Pharmacol Therapeut、Cancer Res 等杂志发表研究论文 660 余篇，总引用率超 30000 余次。曾获中华中医药学会岐黄国际奖等奖项。
- 团队研究聚焦：

（一） 基于中药有效单体或组分配伍的新药研究与开发；

（二） 基于多组学和临床大数据技术的中医病机研究；

（三） 基于大数据与人工智能技术的中药机制研究。

### Enquiries

Please refer to the link below for more information:
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/4ZP25vAeL-SRNey3JQC1lA

# Postgraduate opportunities in Europe

Europe offers a wealth of postgraduate opportunities, known for their high-quality education, diverse research programs, and numerous funding options. Many European countries provide international students with affordable or even free education, along with a multicultural environment that fosters innovation and collaboration.

## 1.PhD in Plant-Based Alternative Protein Sources at Ulster University, UK

- Description: This project focuses on measuring the impact of whole plant-based alternative protein sources on gut health and metabolic function. It involves research on aquatic plants like duckweed as potential sources of alternative proteins.
- Requirements: Bachelor's or Master's degree in a relevant field, strong background in plant sciences, nutrition, or related disciplines.
- Application Deadline: February 24th, 2025.
- Contact Information: Apply by February 24th, 2025. For more details, visit the Ulster University website @ https://www.ulster.ac.uk/doctoralcollege/find-a-phd/3b-biomedical-sciences/

## 2.PhD in Molecular Mechanics of Plant Ion Channels at University of Glasgow, UK

- Description: This project aims to understand the molecular mechanics of clustering and gating in plant ion channels, which are crucial for their activity in eukaryotic membranes.
- Requirements: Bachelor's or Master's degree in a relevant field, strong background in molecular biology, biochemistry, or related disciplines.
- Application Deadline: Open until filled.
- Contact Information: Applications are accepted year-round. For more details, visit the University of Glasgow website @ https://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/plantscience/

# Online tools for finding a PhD program around the world

The following are PhD searching platforms designed to assist prospective PhD students in finding and applying for doctoral programs. These platforms not only list PhD opportunities but also offer valuable tips on the application process, funding options, and life as a PhD student. You can refine your search with filters for country, subject (ex. Herbal medicine, Pharmacology, ...), and institution to find programs that best match your interests. Good luck with your search!

- FindAPhD : https://www.findaphd.com/
- PhD Portal : https://www.phdportal.com/
- Academic Positions : https://academicpositions.com/jobs/position/phd
- ScholarshipDb.net : https://scholarshipdb.net/

*Good luck with your search!*

**Networking** is a crucial aspect for researchers. Here are the top networking sites widely used in the scientific community abroad. Enjoy connecting with new people!

- LinkedIn : https://linkedin.com/

To make the most of LinkedIn, start by creating an engaging profile that showcases your professional/academic achievements. Regularly update your connections with your latest scientific breakthroughs to keep them informed of your progress. If you don't know where to start, follow these pages that repost PhD and post-doctoral position openings.

- jobRxiv
- Jobs4Biotech : Mainly posts research opportunities in France.

- Research Gate : https://www.researchgate.net/
- Academia.edu : https://www.academia.edu/
- ORCID : https://orcid.org/

# Postgraduate Opportunities

## Opportunities in Europe

Europe offers a wealth of postgraduate opportunities, known for their high-quality education, diverse research programs, and numerous funding options. Many European countries provide international students with affordable or even free education, along with a multicultural environment that fosters innovation and collaboration.

### Belgium

PhD Study in Belgium – A Guide for 2024 | FindAPhD.com is a guide to understand the PhD in Belgium and to find one.
https://www.findaphd.com/guides/phd-study-in-belgium

161 PhD jobs in Belgium - Academic Positions is to find PhD opportunities in Belgium.
https://academicpositions.com/jobs/position/phd/country/belgium

University of Mons (UMONS) : Select a PhD/Post-Doc topic - Université de Mons (umons.ac.be) is to find a PhD or a Post-Doc in UMONS.

- The ProtMic Research Group is hiring a full-time post-doc in the field of renewable sources of plant biostimulation and the cyanobacteria

https://web.umons.ac.be/en/recherche/le-doctorat/search-a-thesis-topic/

**Opportunities at the De Duve Institute :** https://www.deduveinstitute.be/fr/jobs

Professor Zhu Jingjing's lab which focuses on pioneering advancements in tumor immunotherapy, including novel targets, improved delivery methods, and uncovering resistance mechanisms is looking for

- 1 PhD student and 1 Post-doctoral student in immunity and cancer (4 years)
- 1 Bioinformatician (3 years)
- Professor Tyteca Donatienne's lab which studies how plasma membrane lipid distribution and biophysical properties control cell deformation in physiology and pathology is looking for
- 1 Post-doctoral student in Mechanobiology in Cancer
- Professor Charles De Smet's lab which studies the consequences and causes of genetic alterations in cancer is looking for
- 1 PhD student and 1 Postdoctoral student in Epigenetics and Proteomics.

### France

PhD in France - Subjects (PhD, Master's & Postdoc training) (campusfrance.org) is to find a PhD in France
https://doctorat.campusfrance.org/en/phd/offers

### Switzerland

52 Postdoc jobs in Switzerland - Academic Positions
https://academicpositions.com/jobs/position/post-doc/country/switzerland

# The ProtMic Research Group at University of Mons is looking for a full-time post-doc in the field of renewable sources of plant biostimulation and the cyanobacteria.

The PostDoc researcher will be part of an academic-research centres-industrial consortium working on a portfolio of PHENIX_Biocontrol projects aimed at developing new biostimulants or control agents. ProtMic's contribution will be to characterise the associated microbiomes using metaproteomic and metagenomic approaches, and to study and develop bioactive combinations between polysaccharides from microalgae and other types of biostimulants.

## Profile and requirements

1. You hold a PhD degree in biology, biochemistry, bioscience engineering, agronomy or agricultural engineering, (bio)chemical engineering, or equivalent applied sciences.
2. You have demonstrable experience in plant biology and microbiology. Having an experience with analytical methods is a plus.
3. You have co-authored papers in which quantitative sustainability assessments have been performed.
4. You have an experience in working on plant biostimulation. Candidates with a background in and focus on technology transitions in sustainable agri-food chains and agrotechnology is appreciated.
5. You are the first author of papers published in journals indexed by Web of Science.
6. You have outstanding oral and written communication skills in English.
7. You have excellent interpersonal skills to collaborate constructively and respectfully with scientific team members and with BSc/MSc students.
8. Your research qualities are in line with the faculty and university research policies.

## We offer

1. A post-doctoral scholarship for a period of one year, with the possibility of renewal (2 times) after positive evaluation.
2. The planned start date is October 1st , 2024, or as soon as possible.
3. You will do most of your work at the sciences campus in a stimulating and flexible working environment, encouraging creativity and independent thinking, in a dynamic, and international setting.
4. The opportunity to build a broad national and international network of industrial and scientific partners, and to develop new personal competencies through professional training moments, courses and workshops;
5. 5.The possibility to tutor and co-supervise BSc, MSc and PhD students working on your research topic, and engage with colleague researchers in joint research and publication efforts.
6. The chance to make a difference, and personally contribute to answer to urgent societal challenges.

Interested in this vacancy ? Please send your motivational letter and your CV at Ruddy.Wattiez@umons.ac.be by August 30.

## Save the dates:

Interviews will take place in two rounds, with a first short interview on 30 August 2024 (morning, CET), ideally in person, but remote attendance can be accommodated, and successful applicants will be invited for an in-depth second interview on 17 September 2024 (morning, CET), on site.

## Spain

# PhD in Pharmacology at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

**Location:** Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

### Application Deadline:

the program applications would open in late 2025 with deadlines around spring 2026. For precise information, please check the website closer to your intended application period.

### Starting Date:

September 2026
(exact date to be confirmed based on availability)

### Project Description:

The PhD program in Pharmacology at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona is focused on advancing the understanding of pharmacological mechanisms, drug development, and therapeutic interventions. Research themes include the study of molecular pharmacology, clinical pharmacology, experimental pharmacology, and toxicology.PhD candidates will work in the university's research groups to contribute to the development of novel drugs and therapies, understanding the pharmacokinetics of drug action, and investigating disease mechanisms at the molecular level.

### Application Requirements

1. A Master's degree in Pharmacology, Medicine, Biology, Biotechnology, or a related field.
2. Strong academic record and research potential.
3. Proficiency in English, both written and spoken, as the program may be conducted in English.
4. A motivation for research in pharmacology and related disciplines.

### Contact Information:

Email: Please contact the admissions office at UAB for more specific details related to the program: info@uab.cat. You may also visit the official website for direct contact.

https://www.topuniversities.com/universities/universitat-autonoma-de-barcelona/phd/phd-pharmacology

## Poland

# Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences EURAXESS

**Location:** Poznań, Poland

**Application Deadline:** February 9, 2025

**Starting Date:** As soon as possible after recruitment

### Project Description:

Cell-based high-throughput screening for small-molecule compounds diminishing molecular markers of pathogenesis in myotonic dystrophy type 2 (DM2) EURAXESS

### Requirements:

1. PhD in a relevant field
2. Experience in high-throughput screening and molecular biology techniques

### Contact Information:

Email: recruitment@ibch.poznan.pl

Website: https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/306618

## China

# DAAD call for Chinese scientists with various projects available

### Objective

The programme allows Chinese scientists to carry out research with German colleagues at universities, universities of applied sciences, and non-university research institutes in Germany.

### Who can apply

Highly qualified Chinese scientists and researchers in natural sciences, mathematics, engineering, agriculture, and medicine.

Funding Duration: 3 to 12 months

### Scholarship Value:

- Monthly scholarship: €2,100.
- Health, accident, and liability insurance provided.
- Compulsory nursing care insurance (~€30/month, depending on age).

### Application Requirements

**Eligibility:**

1. Applicants must be Chinese citizens based in Mainland China.
2. Must hold a teaching or research position.
3. Must have a PhD or equivalent academic qualification.
4. Must hold titles like Professor, Associate Professor, Research Fellow, Associate Research Fellow, or Senior Engineer.

**Language Skills**

1. Good knowledge of either German or English (both written and spoken).
2. Basic knowledge of the other language.

### Application Deadlines

- For visits starting between April and September: 8th October.
- For visits starting between October and March: 3rd April.

### Application Documents:

- Online application form.
- Curriculum vitae (tabular form).
- List of publications.
- Detailed research proposal.
- Schedule of planned research work.
- Confirmation of supervision by a German academic advisor.
- Doctorate certificate.
- Proof of language skills (if available).

### Application Submission:

- Applications are submitted online via the DAAD portal.
- The DAAD portal opens around 6 weeks before the deadline.

## Contact Information:

Contact: Ms. YANG Qi
Phone: +86 (10) 65906656
Email: scholarship.beijing@daad.de
Website: www.daad.org.cn 德国学术交流中心 - DAAD 中国

# Freely Accessible Learning Material

## Interesting articles

An Introduction to Statistics: Choosing the Correct Statistical Test (ijccm.org) :

This article provides a comprehensive overview of the myriad factors that influence the choice of a statistical test and identifies several statistical tests that are commonly utilized in practical application.

- https://www.ijccm.org/doi/pdf/10.5005/jp-journals-10071-23815

Writing a scientific article: A step-by-step guide for beginners - ScienceDirect:
A guide for beginner to write a scientific article

- https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1878764915001606

What every new reviewer should know about peer review: workshop hosted by the SAJS

- https://www.assaf.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/3-What-every-new-reviewer-should-know-about-peer-review.pdf

# Freely Accessible Learning Material

## Online learning Platforms

**Functional Metabolomics Lab - YouTube** : YouTube channel that upload summer schools, seminars and workshops on Metabolomics

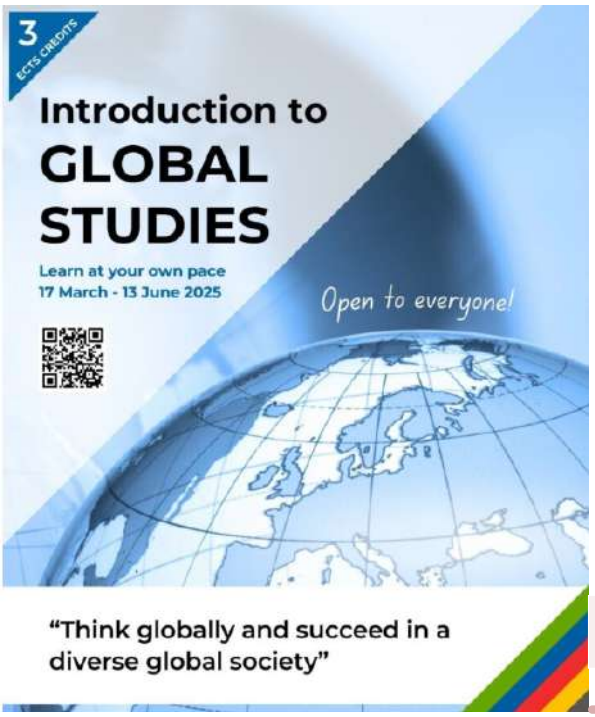
- https://www.youtube.com/@functionalmetabolomics/videos

**(Galaxy Training! (galaxyproject.org))** : A platform designed for on-site education and training in bioinformatics, omics, and other related areas is available.

Link to Galaxy (usegalaxy.eu) which is a scientific workflow, data integration, and persistence and publishing platform for computational biology. It aims to provide research scientists who do not have programming experience with access to computational biology. The platform offers a multi-omics treatment solution.

# Freely Accessible Learning Material

## Global Studies




**Don't miss out on this opportunity! Massive Open Online Course organized by Eunice (Deadline : June 2025)**

- This free online course covers topics such as economics and business, society, culture, health and engineering, from a globalised point of view. One of the key elements of this MOOC is that it is taught by 18 professors from 9 universities, from different countries.
- This MOOC is a self-study course, so participants can start it any time from 17 March 2025 until the deadline in June 2025 and follow it at their own pace.

https://moodle.eunice-university.eu/login/index.php

## Useful tools/databases for natural products datamining

These tools and databases can help researchers in various aspects of natural products research, including identifying active compounds, predicting activities, and visualizing pathways. Here are some primary use cases for each tool:

### SuperNatural 3.0 (bioinf-applied.charite.de/supernatural_3/index.php)

- Predict pharmacological targets of a compound
- Find suppliers of a compound
- Identify the species of origin of a compound
- Predict which compounds will target a metabolic pathway (search by KEGG number)
- Predict the metabolic pathways targeted by a compound
- Predict compounds targeting a specific target (protein or gene), as well as similar compounds
- Predict the taste of compounds (sweet, salty, bitter, etc.)

**Reference:**
Kathleen Gallo, Emanuel Kemmler, Andrean Goede, Finnja Becker, Mathias Dunkel, Robert Preissner, Priyanka Banerjee, SuperNatural 3.0—a database of natural products and natural product-based derivatives, *Nucleic Acids Research, Volume 51, Issue D1,* 6 January 2023, Pages D654–D659

https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkac1008

# Freely Accessible Learning Material

Global Studies

## Useful tools/databases for natural products datamining

### Reactome (https://reactome.org/)

- Visualization of metabolic pathways
- Allows identification of active substances acting on a pathology (with metabolic pathway diagram)
- Easy visualization of protein-protein interactions
- For drugs, provides links to "Guide to Pharmacology," which contains precise pharmacology data

**Reference:**
Marija Milacic, Deidre Beavers, Patrick Conley, Chuqiao Gong, Marc Gillespie, Johannes Griss, Robin Haw, Bijay Jassal, Lisa Matthews, Bruce May, Robert Petryszak, Eliot Ragueneau, Karen Rothfels, Cristoffer Sevilla, Veronica Shamovsky, Ralf Stephan, Krishna Tiwari, Thawfeek Varusai, Joel Weiser, Adam Wright, Guanming Wu, Lincoln Stein, Henning Hermjakob, Peter D'Eustachio, The Reactome Pathway Knowledgebase 2024, *Nucleic Acids Research, Volume 52, Issue D1*, 5 January 2024, Pages D672–D678

https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkad1025

### NPASS (http://bidd.group/NPASS)

- Search by NPC number available
- Identify the species of origin of a compound
- Find known activities of a compound
- Find compounds present in a species
- Find compounds targeting a specific target or a particular organism
- ADME/Tox prediction (via ADMETlab2.0)
- Find compounds with similar structures

**Reference:**
Hui Zhao, Yuan Yang, Shuaiqi Wang, Xue Yang, Kaicheng Zhou, Caili Xu, Xuyao Zhang, Jiajun Fan, Dongyue Hou, Xingxiu Li, Hanbo Lin, Ying Tan, Shanshan Wang, Xin-Yi Chu, Dongzhi Zhuoma, Fengying Zhang, Dianwen Ju, Xian Zeng, Yu Zong Chen, NPASS database update 2023: quantitative natural product activity and species source database for biomedical research, *Nucleic Acids Research, Volume 51, Issue D1*, 6 January 2023, Pages D621–D628,

https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkac1069

Attending international conferences is an excellent opportunity to network with fellow researchers, share your work, and stay updated on the latest advancements in your field. These conferences can also lead to new collaborations and career opportunities.

**Top 43123 Conferences, Conference Alerts 2024-2025, Conference 2024-2025, Conferences 2024-2025 (worldconferencealerts.com)**

- https://www.worldconferencealerts.com/#google_vignette

**2024 Conference Main (acupunctureresearch.org)**

- https://www.acupunctureresearch.org/conference

**Home | Meghaz Meetings**

- https://aypordiosnc.com/wine-club/

**Traditional Chinese Medicine Conferences 2024/2025/2026 (conferenceindex.org)**

- https://conferenceindex.org/conferences/traditional-chinese-medicine

## Apply for a grant in Europe

i

ERC starting grant : is for early-career scientists with 2-7 years of experience after completion of PhD.

More information at

Details: https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/starting-grant

ii

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions : supported by the European Commission, MSCA proposes various fellowships to support research and innovation through the development of human resources.

More information at

Details: https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/

iii

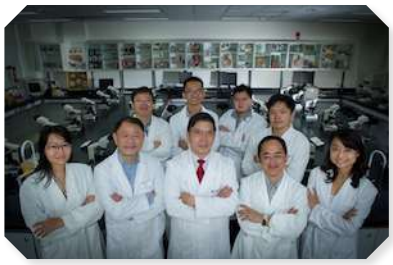
Euraxess – Belgium : Where you can find different funding opportunities for doctoral, post-doctoral, early career or internship in Belgium.

More information at

Details: https://www.euraxess.be/belgium/jobs-funding

香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
School of 中醫藥學院 Chinese Medicine

i



Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Biomedical Sciences/ Chinese Medicine/ Translational Medicine/ Pharmacy in Chinese Medicine

School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University

Details: https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/education/research-postgraduate.html

香港中文大學中醫學院
School of Chinese Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ii

PhD in Chinese Medicine

School of Chinese Medicine ,

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Details: http://www.scm.cuhk.edu.hk/en-gb/programs/research-master-doctoral-program/phd-in-chinese-medicine

澳門大學 UNIVERSIDADE DE MACAU UNIVERSITY OF MACAU
SKL QRCM-UM 中藥質量研究國家重點實驗室（澳門大學） Laboratório de Referência do Estado para Investigação de Qualidade em Medicina Chinesa (Universidade de Macau) State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicine (University of Macau)
中華醫藥研究院 Instituto de Ciências Médicas Chinesas Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences

iii

Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences

Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences, University of Macau

Details: https://sklqrcm.um.edu.mo/ycmdbs/

HKU Med LKS Faculty of Medicine The University of Hong Kong 香港大學李嘉誠醫學院
中醫藥學院

iv

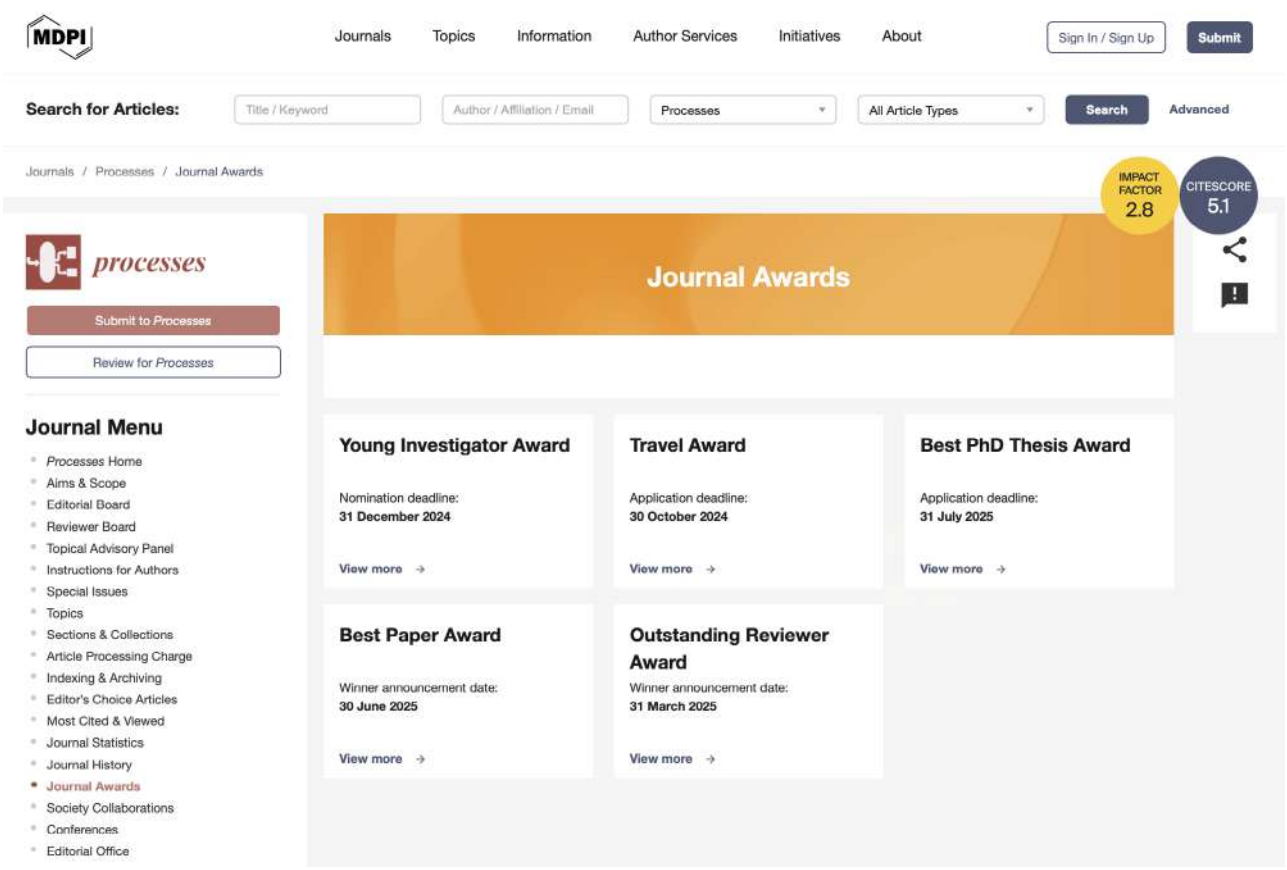
PhD in Chinese Medicine

School of Chinese Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

Details: https://scm.hku.hk/Views/Programme/English-MPhilPhD.html

## Journal Award by *Processes*

More information: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/processes/awards



## Bi-monthly meme

We include this section to add a bit of fun and relatability to the newsletter, helping to bring a light-hearted touch to our academic and professional content.


AND THE WINNER FOR THE LAST BI-MONTHLY MEME IS...

### MEME 1

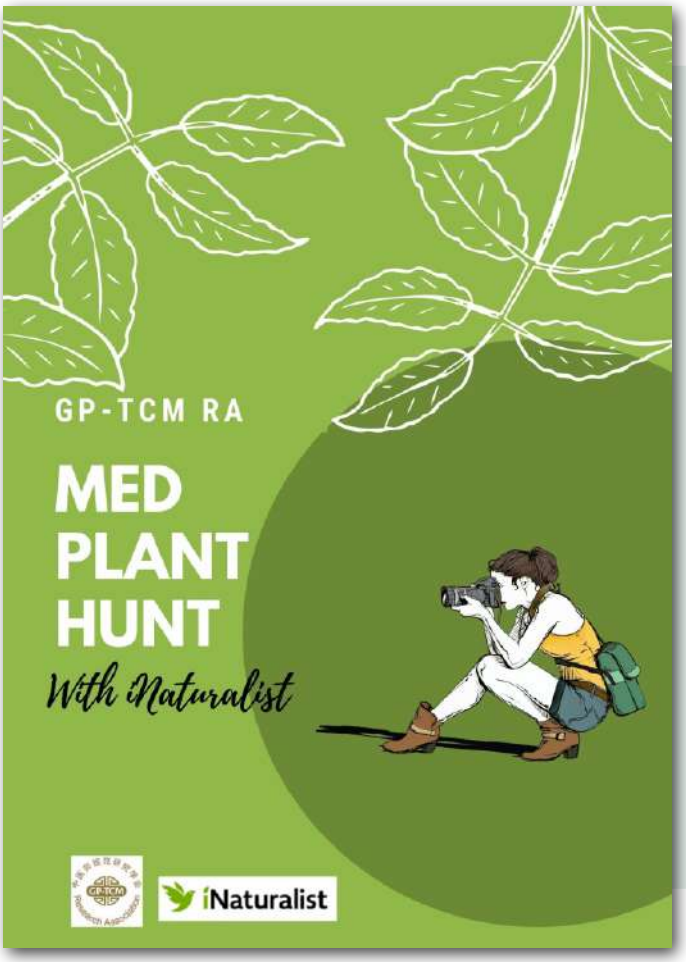

### MEME 2


Vote right now for the next "Bi-monthly meme" here https://strawpoll.com/7rnzVOPJ3nO:

Which one is your favourite?

### MEME 3

## Med Plant Hunt with iNaturalist




In order to promote conservation of wildlife, especially wild medicinal plant and TCM herbs, and their environment, a challenge on **"Med Plant Hunt"** is launched.

The aim of challenge is to encourage our members to identify and recognize the morphological features of living wild medicinal plant in nature.

### Eligibility:

Med Plant Hunt is free and open to all GP-TCM RA members.

Entries must abide by the guidelines below.

### Rules & Guidelines:

iNaturalist is a nature app to help you identify the animals and plants around you and provide a platform to connect you and experts to share about nature. Users can record and share their observations and the findings can enrich scientific data repositories like the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

Create your own account and share your wild medicinal plant observation to mobile iNaturalist app or iNaturalist website.

### How to enter:

1. Complete the registration form with iNaturalist user ID.
2. Make the observation of living wild medicinal plant around you with iNaturalist app/website.
3. With the submitted iNaturalist ID, your observation for entry will be automatically recorded and results will be announced in the coming issue of the newsletter.

How to join

For inquiries about Med Plant Hunt, please send email to gptcm_medplanthunt@outlook.com

Registration form

How to upload

## Med Plant Hunt with iNaturalist

### Prizes:

- **Adventurous Observer: The highest number of observed species**
- **TCM Photographer: Best photo shoot**
- **Lucky Observer: Observe rare species**

The selected entries will be published on the next issue of the newsletter. An electronic certificate and **a complementary gift** (e.g. water bottle ideal for outdoor activities, sponsored by Macau Pharmacology Association) will be given.

澳門藥理協會

# MED PLANT HUNT
*With iNaturalist*

## Med Plant Hunt Registration Form

Name: Email:

Affiliation: Country or region:

| iNaturalist account information |
|---|
| User name: |
| User email: |

(Please send the form to gptcm_medplanthunt@outlook.com for registration)

Online registration | How to join | Registration form | How to upload

Back to content page

Butterfly bush (*Buddleja officinalis,* Loganiaceae, 密蒙花 , left) and paper bush (*Edgeworthia chrysantha,* Thymelaeaceae, 结香 , right)

First recorded in the text of *Materia Medica* of the *Kaibao Era (Kai Bao Ben Cao)* of the Song Dynasty (960~1279) and official in current Chinese pharmacopoeia, the dried flower bud and inflorescence of butterfly bush *(Buddleja officinalis)* is the Chinese medicinal *mimenghua* (buddlejae flos), also known as *laomenghua* ( 老 蒙 花 ) in commerce. Sweet and slightly cold, buddlejae flos clears heat, nourishes the liver, improves eyesight, and removes nebula. It is indicated for eye disorders manifested as red, swollen, painful, and tearing eyes, superficial visual obstruction, as well as dim or blurred vision. Buddlejae flos is often used as an ingredient of some proprietary Chinese medicine products such as Cloud Dispersal and Nebula Removal Pills (*Bo Yun Tui Yi Wan*, 拨云退翳丸 ).

First appeared in the text of *Properties of Classified Folk Medicinals (Fen Lei Cao Yao Xing)* of the Qing Dynasty (1644~1911), the dried flower bud and inflorescence of paper bush *(Edgeworthia chrysantha)* is the Chinese folk medicinal *jiexianghua* (edgeworthiae chrysanthae flos), also known as *xinmenghua* ( 新蒙花 ) in commerce. Sweet and neutral, edgeworthiae chrysanthae flos nourishes liver and kidney, improves eyesight, and removes nebula. It is indicated for night blindness, superficial visual obstruction, as well as nocturnal emission. The dried root (edgeworthiae chrysanthae radix) is a pungent and neutral folk medicinal that dispels wind, unblocks channels, and nourishes liver and kidney. It is indicated for painful obstruction, knocks and falls, nocturnal emission, and leukorrhea.

The above-mentioned Chinese commercial names *(laomenghua and xinmenghua)* are misleading. In certain regions such as Guizhou and Fujian provinces, the latter may be mistakenly used as a substitute of the former. As a matter of fact, these 2 medicinals should not be used interchangeably in clinical practices.

**密蒙花**

园中一遇在南方
花聚枝头嗅异香
清热目明能退翳
又闻米饭染成黄

**结香**

柔枝长叶态清幽
花簇芳香可解忧
同向结头君若见
两情相悦水常流

The above colour photographs, English texts and Chinese poems are contributed by Prof **Hubiao Chen** (Hong Kong), Dr **Ping Guo** (Hong Kong) and Prof **Jiqing Liu** (Shenzhen), respectively. This column is advised by Prof **Zhongzhen Zhao** (Hong Kong).

Just click here to enjoy the video:

https://uofmacau-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/yc37514_um_edu_mo/EUUlHuS7zWxChAnwfiSeDmIBRMIdJoEZTBCl6W5-0QJAhg?nav=eyJyZWZlcnJhbEluZm8iOnsicmVmZXJyYWxBcHAiOiJPbmVEcmI2ZUZvckJ1c2luZXNzIiwicmVmZXJyYWxBcHBQbGF0Zm9ybSI6IldlYiIsInJlZmVycmFsTW9kZSI6InZpZXciLCJyZWZlcnJhbFZpZXciOiJNeUZpbGVzTGlua0NvcHkifX0&e=UmzcVn

Butterfly bush (*Buddleja officinalis,* Loganiaceae, 密蒙花 , left) and paper bush (*Edgeworthia chrysantha,* Thymelaeaceae, 结香 , right)

## The March-April 2025 Newsletter of GP-TCM Research Association

Just click here to enjoy the video: https://uofmacau-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/yc37514_um_edu_mo/EUUlHuS7zWxChAnwfiSeDmIBRMIdJoEZTBCl6W5-0QJAhg?nav=eyJyZWZlcnJhbEluZm8iOnsicmVmZXJyYWxBcHAiOiJPbmVEcml2ZUZvckJ1c2luZXNzIiwicmVmZXJyYWxBcHBQbGF0Zm9ybSI6IldlYiIsInJlZmVycmFsTW9kZSI6InZpZXciLCJyZWZlcnJhbFZpZXciOiJNeUZpbGVzTGlua0NvcHkifX0&e=UmzcVn