



Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association 中医药规范研究学会



May-June 2025 Newsletter

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i 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/2025/05/28/conference-agenda-of-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 (May-June 2025)

Ordinary Members

Yaqi BIAN	XuZhou Medical University, China
Wesley Yeuk Lung CHOW	Hong Kong Metropolitan University, Hong Kong SAR, China
Yutong FEI	Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, China
Yuanzhi HU	Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong SAR, China
Shi-Bing LIANG	Affiliated Hospital of Shandong University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China
Kechun LIU	Biology Institute of Shandong Academy of Sciences, China
Xiaofei SHANG	Lanzhou Institute of Husbandry and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, China
Qing XIA	Biology Institute of Shandong Academy of Sciences, China

Student Members

Tianyu DONG	The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR, China
Dongpeng WANG	Hubei University of Chinese Medicine, China
Shuo ZHANG	The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong 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 DEVELOPMENT 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	
Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 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	

i The ISO/TC 249 Plenary Meeting on Traditional Medicine and the Subcommittee on Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) was held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 1 to 5 June 2025.

ISO/TC 249 is a Technical Committee under the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), established in 2009 at China's proposal. Its original mission was to promote the international standardization of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). As of this year, ISO/TC 249 has expanded its scope to include Ayurveda and Yoga, which have been incorporated as a second subcommittee. The annual plenary meeting of the ISO/TC 249 TCM subcommittee is held once a year and is hosted in rotation by its member countries. This year's meeting was hosted by the Netherlands Standardization Institute (NEN) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from 1 to 5 June 2025. Delegates and experts from 23 participating member countries—including China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, Singapore, Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and several Middle Eastern countries—attended this important gathering.

During this plenary meeting, participants reflected on the remarkable journey of TC 249 since its inception. From pioneering standards in Chinese medicine to ensure the quality and safety of specific herbal products, to advancing the precision of acupuncture practices and medical devices, the committee's work has grown in both scope and significance. With the inclusion of Ayurvedic medicine and Yoga, the committee's responsibilities have increased in complexity and impact. The standards we develop are more than technical documents—they are bridges: connecting tradition with science, patient safety with innovation, and local practices with global recognition.

Mission of ISO/TC 249

The primary responsibility of ISO/TC 249 TCM subcommittee is to develop international standards related to Traditional Chinese Medicine. Its areas of focus include Chinese medicinal materials, Chinese patent medicines, acupuncture, Tuina (Chinese therapeutic massage), analytical methods for Chinese medicines, quality control, terminology, identification, and classification. The goal is to enhance the safety, efficacy, and global acceptability of TCM products, promote international trade, support the growth and strength of Chinese enterprises, accelerate the modernization and globalization of TCM, and ultimately contribute to improving the health and well-being of humanity.

Overview of the ISO Standard Development Process for Chinese Medicine

The development of ISO international standards generally involves six stages:

1. Proposal Stage – Identification and approval of a new work item.
2. Preparatory Stage – Drafting of a working draft by the relevant working group.
3. Committee Stage – Technical discussion within the Technical Committee (TC).
4. Enquiry Stage – Circulation of the Committee Draft for Enquiry (CD or DIS) to all national bodies by the ISO Central Secretariat for a five-month voting period.
5. Approval Stage – The Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) is sent to member countries for a two-month vote.
6. Publication Stage – Once approved, the Central Secretariat finalizes and publishes the International Standard within two months, correcting any editorial errors identified by the TC Secretariat.

International standards can be proposed by member countries where the drafting unit is located, or by other member states. Due to differing internal procedures and review timelines across countries, the time required for proposal and project approval can vary. Typically, it takes at least two years from initial drafting to final approval of an ISO standard in Chinese medicine. This process involves frequent communication and negotiation with member country representatives and requires revision of drafts, experimental supplementation, and data refinement based on their feedback.

Therefore, identifying a suitable proposing country, preparing comprehensive documentation, and maintaining close contact with experienced delegates are all crucial steps in advancing the development and adoption of ISO standards in Traditional Chinese Medicine. For Ayurveda and yoga it is still in the process of structural establishment.



Chinese news and photo adapted from link below:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/Fk9y19mYcgOn92ufVHb3g>

ii WHO releases 2025 update to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11)

Home/News/WHO releases 2025 update to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11)

WHO releases 2025 update to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11)

14 February 2025 Departmental update Reading time: 2 min (612 words)

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released the 2025 edition of the International Classification of Diseases 11th Revision (ICD-11) – a tool that standardizes the language used by health professionals worldwide in diagnosing, reporting and monitoring diseases, injuries and causes of death.

The update includes:

- new features designed to improve interoperability, accuracy and ease of use in national health systems (e.g. advanced NLP and API-based coding);
- improved error detection with enhanced spelling correction and language variation recognition, reducing errors in data entry;
- multilingual expansion, available in 14 languages, with ongoing expansion to improve global accessibility;
- interoperability with external standards: ICD-11 seamlessly integrates with Orphanet, MedDRA, and other terminologies and classifications; and
- a new module covering traditional medicine conditions of Ayurveda and related traditional medicine systems, including Siddha and Unani, will enable systematic tracking of traditional medicine services, enhancing global research, reporting and evidence-based policymaking.

Full news adapted from website below:

[https://www.who.int/news/item/14-02-2025-who-releases-2025-update-to-the-international-classification-of-diseases-\(icd-11\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/14-02-2025-who-releases-2025-update-to-the-international-classification-of-diseases-(icd-11))

iii

Promotion of high-quality development of the Chinese medicine industry in Huaihua, China.

On 8 May 2025, Huaihua Municipal People's Government and academician Liu Liang of the Chinese Academy of Engineering signed a framework agreement on scientific and technological innovation cooperation, the two sides will continue to deepen cooperation, accelerate the promotion of high-quality development of the Chinese medicine industry in Huaihua.

湘智兴湘 | 共推中医药产业高质量发展 刘良院士与怀化市政府签约

湖湘院士 2025年05月10日 14:21 湖南



5月8日上午，怀化市人民政府与刘良院士签署科技创新合作框架协议，双方将持续深化合作，加快推动怀化中医药产业高质量发展。怀化市委书记许忠建出席并讲话，中国工程院院士刘良作题为“前沿技术与高端中药制剂开发”的主旨报告，省科技厅党组成员、副厅长钱国平为湖南省现代中药制药过程技术创新中心授牌，怀化市委副书记、市委政法委书记贺遵庆主持。

在主旨报告中，刘良深入阐释了习近平总书记关于发展生物医药产业的重要论述精神，分析了全球医药创新和我国生物医药行业发展总趋势，对怀化推动中医药产业高质量发展提出意见建议。

怀化市委书记许忠建表示，怀化正努力打造“千亿产值、百家药企”产业集群和中国南方中药谷、区域医疗中心、面向东盟的中医药集散交易中心“一谷两中心”，将提供最优服务、最好保障，全力支持关键技术攻关、创新平台建设、专业人才培养，着力推动合作框架协议落地落实、技术创新中心开花结果。

News and photo adapted from link below:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/YRMYdeJY52i93sH6uo8x-w>

iv

Deepening Zhejiang-Shanghai-Hong Kong Collaboration to Promote the Internationalization of Traditional Chinese Medicine —Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Industry-R&D Delegation Visited in Zhejiang and Shanghai

To foster the deep integration of industry, education, and research in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and advance the high-quality development of TCM under the Belt and Road Initiative, the "Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Industry-R&D (Hangzhou/Shanghai/Tiantai) Delegation", jointly organized by the Modernized Chinese Medicine International Association (MCMIA), the International Association of Acta Materia Medica (IAMM), and the Belt and Road TCM Development Alliance, successfully finished its four-day visit on May 16, 2025.

The delegation, including the leading Hong Kong TCM experts, scholars, and industry leaders, aimed to strengthen exchanges and collaboration between the mainland and Hong Kong in the TCM sector, and to seek new opportunities for industrial growth. Led by Mr. Guojin Yang, Chairman of MCMIA, with Deputy Heads Professor Hongxi Xu, Chairman of the Belt and Road TCM Development Alliance, and Ms. Liang Sun, Secretary General of MCMIA, the delegation members were from institutions such as the University of Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Hong Kong Baptist University, alongside representatives from renowned enterprises. The BoD members of GP-TCM RA, Prof. Clara Bik-San Lau and Prof. Xuanbin Wang attended the delegation.

During the tour, the delegation visited Zhejiang Tiantai's GAP-certified *Dendrobium officinale* cultural base—the world's largest—and the GMP-certified pharmaceutical facility of Zhejiang Tianhuang Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. They also explored the antique book collection of Mr. Chen Lizuan, the company's chairman. In Hangzhou and Shanghai, the group visited century-old TCM companies such as Huqingyu Tang and Tonghanchun Tang, the Hangzhou Digital Health Life Hall of TCM, and Japan's Tsumura Shanghai Pharmaceutical Factory, witnessing firsthand how AI and automation technologies are revitalizing TCM heritage. Discussions with local industry stakeholders focused on developing classical formulas, standardizing quality controls, and expanding global markets.

The delegation also met with the Zhejiang Provincial Administration of TCM and the Shanghai Health Commission to discuss talent development, certification systems, and cross-border research collaboration, aiming to modernize TCM and enhance its role in Belt and Road countries' healthcare systems.

Academic exchanges were also a key agenda of the delegation. At Zhejiang Chinese Medical University and Shanghai University of TCM, experts including Professor Hongxi Xu (Shanghai), Professor Wenxiu Huang (Hong Kong Polytechnic University), and Professor Clara Bik-San Lau and Professor Ning Wang (University of Hong Kong) and members from HK industry shared cutting-edge research on TCM innovation, quality standardization, and internationalization.

This visit follows the delegation's 2024 trip to Beijing, where they engaged with national regulatory bodies, further solidifying TCM as a bridge for Hong Kong's integration into national development strategies. The tour not only established high-level dialogue platforms but also accelerated efforts to standardize and globalize TCM, contributing Chinese wisdom to global health.

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Deepening Zhejiang-Shanghai-Hong Kong Collaboration to Promote the Internationalization of Traditional Chinese Medicine —Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Industry-R&D Delegation Visited in Zhejiang and Shanghai



1. A group photo with experts and leaders of the Zhejiang Provincial Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.



2. Delegation Head Mr. Guojin Yang (right) and Deputy Head Ms. Liang Sun (left) exchanging souvenir with Dr. Daxiang Wen, director of the Shanghai Health Commission.

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Deepening Zhejiang-Shanghai-Hong Kong Collaboration to Promote the Internationalization of Traditional Chinese Medicine —Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Industry-R&D Delegation Visited in Zhejiang and Shanghai



3. Academic exchange session at the "TCM Innovation Forum" featuring experts from Zhejiang, Shanghai, and Hong Kong.



4. Group photo at the "Shanghai-Hong Kong TCM Innovation Forum" with faculty and students of Shanghai University of TCM.

iv Deepening Zhejiang-Shanghai-Hong Kong Collaboration to Promote the Internationalization of Traditional Chinese Medicine —Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Industry-R&D Delegation Visited in Zhejiang and Shanghai



5. Delegation visiting key sites including Zhejiang Tianhuang Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., Hangzhou Digital Health Life Hall, Huqingyu Tang, Tonghanchun Tang, and Tsumura Shanghai Pharmaceutical Factory.

iv Deepening Zhejiang-Shanghai-Hong Kong Collaboration to Promote the Internationalization of Traditional Chinese Medicine —Hong Kong Chinese Medicine Industry-R&D Delegation Visited in Zhejiang and Shanghai



6.Prof. Clara Bik-San Lau and Prof. Xuanbin Wang

[Nature Medicine] A collaborative review by Prof. Shengyong Yang's team at Sichuan University: Artificial Intelligence in Drug Development

【Nature Medicine】四川大学杨胜勇教授团队合作综述： 人工智能在药物研发中的应用

Computer Chemistry 2025年05月06日 10:56 天津

近日，来自四川大学杨胜勇教授和中国温州医科大学、MedComm-Future Medicine 主编张康教授带领的研究团队在国际顶尖学术期刊 Nature Medicine ——《自然医学》上发表了题为“Artificial Intelligence in Drug Development”（人工智能在药物研发中的应用）的综述文章。该文全面、深入地探讨了 AI 在药物研发全流程中的最新应用，并对未来的研究方向提出了深刻见解。值得注意的是，这是 Nature Medicine 近 10 年来发表的首篇由中国学者主导的 AI 主题综述文章。

药物研发是一项复杂且耗时的工程，传统上依赖于药物开发人员的经验和试错性实验。人工智能 (AI) 技术的出现，尤其是新兴的大语言模型和生成式 AI，有望带来巨大的变革。将 AI 驱动的方法整合到药物开发流程中，已经在该过程的效率和有效性方面带来了细微但意义深远的提升。本文概述了 AI 应用在整个药物开发工作流程中的最新进展，包括疾病靶点的识别、药物发现、临床前和临床研究，以及上市后监测。最后，我们批判性地审视了当前存在的挑战，以突出 AI 增强药物开发领域中充满希望的未来研究方向。

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Review Article | Published: 20 January 2025

Artificial intelligence in drug development

Kang Zhang , Xin Yang, Yifei Wang, Yunfang Yu, Niu Huang, Gen Li, Xiaokun Li, Joseph C. Wu & Shengyong Yang 

Nature Medicine 31, 45–59 (2025) | [Cite this article](#)

29k Accesses | 43 Citations | 191 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Artificial intelligence in drug development

Journal: *Nature Medicine*

Detail:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-024-03434-4>

DOI:

[10.1038/s41591-024-03434-4](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-024-03434-4)

Abstract

Drug development is a complex and time-consuming endeavor that traditionally relies on the experience of drug developers and trial-and-error experimentation. The advent of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, particularly emerging large language models and generative AI, is poised to redefine this paradigm. The integration of AI-driven methodologies into the drug development pipeline has already heralded subtle yet meaningful enhancements in both the efficiency and effectiveness of this process. Here we present an overview of recent advancements in AI applications across the entire drug development workflow, encompassing the identification of disease targets, drug discovery, preclinical and clinical studies, and post-market surveillance. Lastly, we critically examine the prevailing challenges to highlight promising future research directions in AI-augmented drug development.

News and photo adapted from link below:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/LzxrMHJSaozX4CwKYumVA>

Research team from State Key Laboratory of Chinese Medicine Modernization jointly published their latest research in Pharmacological Research

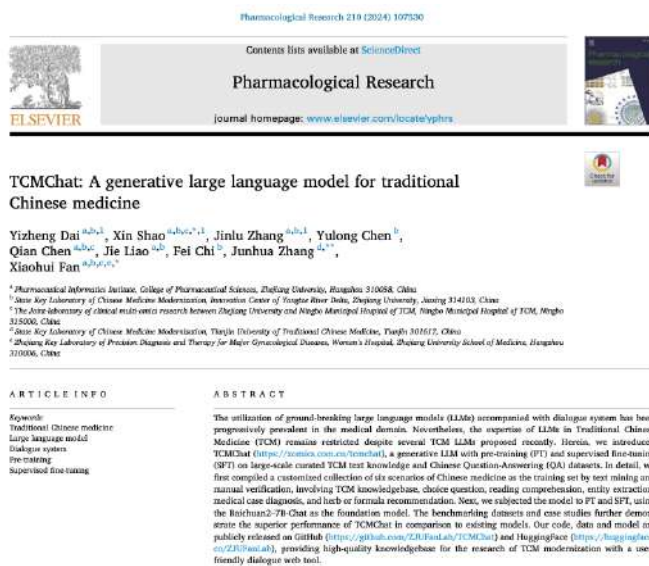
现代中药创制全国重点实验室范晓辉和张俊华团队 TCMChat 研究成果发布

中药创制全国重点实验室 2025年05月15日 16:05 天津

导读

现代中药创制全国重点实验室范晓辉教授和张俊华教授团队联合在 Pharmacological Research (中科院一区 TOP 期刊, IF 9.78) 发表最新研究成果《TCMChat: A generative large language model for traditional Chinese medicine》。戴亿郑、邵鑫和张金露为该论文共同第一作者, 现代中药全国重点实验室、浙江大学范晓辉教授与现代中药全国重点实验室、天津中医药大学张俊华教授为论文共同通讯作者。

该研究以中医药智能化应用为切入点, 将大规模语言模型 (LLMs) 技术与专业领域知识相结合, 提出一种新型的中医药知识服务解决方案。通过构建包含 7 类中医药应用场景、超 60 万条高质量数据的训练集, 并以 Baichuan2-7B-Chat 为基础模型进行预训练和监督微调, 开发出 TCMChat 中医药大模型。在知识覆盖度方面, 该模型不仅能精准解析中药材特性与方剂组成, 还可实现个医案诊断和中药或者方剂推荐, 经基准测试显示其性能显著优于同类模型。目前, TCMChat 的代码、数据和模型已在 GitHub (<https://github.com/ZJUFanLab/TCMChat>) 和 HuggingFace (<https://huggingface.co/ZJUFanLab>) 上公开发布。



TCMChat: A generative large language model for traditional Chinese medicine

Journal: *Pharmacological Research*

Detail:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1043661824004754>

DOI:

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News and photo adapted from link below:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/aC5yz4Q3OI2rwQAPXfxpA>

1. Introduction

Recently, the pre-training and fine-tuning paradigm has become increasingly popular as a common strategy in numerous Natural Language Processing (NLP) tasks [1,2]. Initially, pre-trained language models (PLMs), such as Bert [3], Roberta [4], and GPT-2 [5,6] employed transformer architecture with multiple attention [7]. These

pre-training models can capture contextual information to improve the performance of various NLP applications [8]. Recently, more and more attention has been paid to the large language model represented by ChatGPT, which introduces more advanced techniques based on GPT-3 [9], such as instruction fine-tuning and reinforcement learning based on human feedback (RLHF) [10]. ChatGPT shows significant progress when facing common sense and reasoning problems, unknown domains, and

Abbreviations: TCM, Traditional Chinese Medicine; LLMs, large language models; FT, pre-training; QA, question-answering; SFT, supervised fine-tuning; NLP, Natural Language Processing; PLMs, pre-trained language models; RLHF, reinforcement learning based on human feedback; LORA, low-rank adaptation; ZER0, zero redundancy optimizer; ETOM, encyclopedia of traditional Chinese medicine; METEOR, metric for evaluation of translation with explicit ordering; ROUGE, recall-oriented understudy for gisting evaluation; BLEU, bilingual evaluation understudy; MRR, mean reciprocal rank; NDCG, normalized discounted cumulative gain.

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Bidirectional interactions between St. John's wort and gut microbiome: Potential implications on gut-brain-axis

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biopha.2025.118111>

Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy 187 (2025) 118111



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Bidirectional interactions between St. John's wort and gut microbiome: Potential implications on gut-brain-axis

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ABSTRACT

Emerging evidence highlights the role of gut microbiome in mental health disorders, including depression, raising the question whether the action of antidepressants could be mediated, at least in part, via the microbiome-gut-brain axis. To explore this, we subjected a St. John's wort extract (STW 3-VI), clinically proven to be effective in mild to moderate depression, to a model of the upper and lower intestinal tract, including static *in vitro* predigestion followed by *ex vivo* incubation with human microbiota samples. To cover the interindividual diversity of gut microbiome composition, fecal samples from ten healthy volunteers were used. Although unchanged levels of most annotated compounds were observed during simulated upper intestinal tract digestion, incubation with fecal microbiota led to a significant change of the chemical profile of the extract. While hyperforins remained stable, flavonoids and hypericins were rapidly biotransformed, suggesting that they may act as prodrugs. Several metabolites were formed, many of which are known to be involved in gut-brain communication. Differential abundance analysis revealed significant changes in microbiome composition, particularly for taxa known to be potentially associated with depression. Among others, the *Firmicutes/Bacteroidetes* ratio, known to be lowered in depressive patients, was increased. Functional profiling revealed modulation of pathways involved in gut-brain communication, such as tyrosine and tryptophan metabolism. These bidirectional interactions suggest for the first time the gut microbiome as a potential mediator of the pharmacological effects of St. John's wort extracts via the microbiome-gut-brain axis.

1. Introduction

The human gut microbiome exerts crucial functions in human physiology and health homeostasis not only locally in the gut, but also via interactions with distant organs, e.g., it influences brain functions via the microbiome-gut-brain axis (MGBA) [1]. Potentially, neural, immune and metabolic pathways are involved in the gut microbiome and brain communication, while alterations in gut microbiome (dysbiosis) and MGBA communication have been described for mental conditions, indicating the potential significance of the gut microbiome as a missing link in the understanding and treatment of mental health disorders, such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder as well as neurodevelopmental conditions [2,3].

St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum* L., Hypericaceae; SJW) holds

historical and medicinal significance, tracing its medicinal use back to the ancient and medieval physicians Hippocrates, Dioscorides and Nikolaos Myrepsos [4,5]. Nowadays, the monograph of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) [6] describes the well-established use for mild to moderate depression which is based on clinical evidence. Notably, extracts such as STW 3-VI exhibit efficacy comparable to that of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) in patients with mild to moderate depression, displaying fewer side effects and a lower risk of discontinuation [7]. The major compounds of SJW preparations include flavonoids, naphthodianthrones (e.g., hypericin) and phloroglucinols (e.g., hyperforin), yet their precise role and mechanism of action remain the subject of ongoing debate [7–9]. According to the current state of science, hypericin, pseudohypericin, flavonoids, and procyanidins are supposed to contribute to the therapeutic effect, emphasizing the

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ShennongAlpha: an AI-driven sharing and collaboration platform for intelligent curation, acquisition, and translation of natural medicinal material knowledge**Journal:** *Cell Discovery***Detail:** <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41421-025-00776-2>**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41421-025-00776-2>

Cell Discovery

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ARTICLE OPEN

 Check for updates**ShennongAlpha: an AI-driven sharing and collaboration platform for intelligent curation, acquisition, and translation of natural medicinal material knowledge**Zijie Yang^{1,2,3,4,5}, Yongjing Yin^{5,6}, Chaojun Kong^{2,3,5}, Tiange Chi^{2,3,5}, Wufan Tao^{2,3,5}, Yue Zhang^{4,5,6} and Tian Xu^{2,3,4,5,7}

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Natural Medicinal Materials (NMMs) have a long history of global clinical applications and a wealth of records and knowledge. Although NMMs are a major source for drug discovery and clinical application, the utilization and sharing of NMM knowledge face crucial challenges, including the standardized description of critical information, efficient curation and acquisition, and language barriers. To address these, we developed ShennongAlpha, an artificial intelligence (AI)-driven sharing and collaboration platform for intelligent knowledge curation, acquisition, and translation. For standardized knowledge curation, the platform introduced a Systematic Nomenclature to enable accurate differentiation and identification of NMMs. More than fourteen thousand Chinese NMMs have been curated into the platform along with their knowledge. Furthermore, the platform pioneered chat-based knowledge acquisition, standardized machine translation, and collaborative knowledge updating. Together, our study represents the first major advance in leveraging AI to empower NMM knowledge sharing, which not only marks a novel application of AI for science, but also will significantly benefit the global biomedical, pharmaceutical, physician, and patient communities.

Cell Discovery; <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41421-025-00776-2>**INTRODUCTION**

Natural Medicinal Materials (NMMs) have been a rich reservoir of therapeutic agents¹. Their importance is highlighted by the diversity and biological relevance of the compounds they produce^{2,3}. The compounds isolated from NMMs or their derivatives have been instrumental in the treatment of various pathological conditions, ranging from infectious diseases to cancer, and continue to serve as a prolific source of novel drug leads^{4,5}. In fact, around 50% of the FDA-approved drugs are natural products or related molecules¹. Furthermore, NMMs have been directly used for therapeutic purposes throughout human history and continue to play a significant role in different societies. The broad clinical application of NMMs has been documented in various countries and regions, including China⁶, Japan⁷, South Korea⁸, India⁹, Iran¹⁰, Europe^{11,12}, the Americas^{13,14}, Africa^{15,16}, and the Arab region^{17,18}. For example, Chinese historical records alone documented nearly ten thousand NMMs and their applications¹⁹. This vast repository of knowledge has proven to be valuable in discovering new therapies^{20–22}. Therefore, the global utilization, sharing, and collaboration of NMM knowledge are crucial for advancing biomedical and pharmaceutical research and applications.

However, the great potential of NMMs has not been fully explored despite their diverse chemical reservoirs, rich history of human usage, and vast amounts of accumulated records and

knowledge. The biomedical, pharmaceutical, physician, and patient communities face several challenges in utilizing and sharing NMM knowledge (Fig. 1a). At the center of the challenges is the conspicuous absence of a standardized and Systematic Nomenclature capable of accurately differentiating and identifying each NMM. This magnifies the difficulty of efficiently procuring accurate and reliable knowledge about NMMs. The enriched information and records for NMMs further pose challenges for curation and acquisition. Finally, language barriers also hinder the global dissemination and utilization of NMM knowledge.

The problem of lacking standardized and Systematic Nomenclature for NMMs can be exemplified by the discovery of the anti-malaria drug artemisinin, which was awarded the 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. This discovery emerged from historically documented malaria-treating NMM with the Chinese name “Qing Hao”. However, this name could refer to at least six different plants in the genus *Artemisia*. The artemisinin molecule was eventually found only in *Artemisia annua* with the Chinese name of “Huang Hua Hao”, but not in five other plants, including the modern-day botanic plant with the Chinese name of “Qing Hao” (*Artemisia caudifolia*)²¹. Although the *Chinese Pharmacopoeia* (2020 edition) now specifies *Artemisia annua* as the sole NMM suitable for medicinal use²³, over three-quarters of the NMMs in the current edition still have ambiguous names (Supplementary Table S1). For example, the NMM “Ma Huang” (also known as

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From digits towards digitization: the past, present, and future of traditional Chinese medicine

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From digits towards digitization: the past, present, and future of traditional Chinese medicine

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Keywords

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM)
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Digitization is the inevitable path for the natural development of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in the context of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The goal of TCM digitization is to generate intelligence from numbers. Originating from the reasoning paradigm of Xiangshu (象数, image-number) or phenotype-numerology thinking, TCM came with a deep correlation of clinical observations with digits and laid a strong theoretical basis for digitization. The digitization of TCM should start from the clinical aspect, solve the problem of electronic medical records, achieve standardization and informatization, and on this basis, form a TCM knowledge base through knowledge-building. This process depends on the combined efforts of multiple disciplines such as medicine, mathematics, and engineering to achieve the digitization and intelligent transformation of TCM. This era calls for TCM to break down barriers, embrace opportunities, and move towards digitization. However, during the transformation, it should maintain its essence, avoid simplistic conversions, be guided by scientific value, leverage cutting-edge technologies, and enhance the depth and breadth of the interpretation of TCM connotations. The digitization of TCM will also improve its service capabilities, create an innovative digitally-intelligent TCM service platform, and contribute to the development of "Healthy China" initiatives with wisdom and solutions.

1 Introduction

On October 18, 2021, President Jinping XI emphasized during the 34th Group Study Session of the Political Bureau of the 19th CPC Central Committee: "In today's era, digital technologies and the digital economy represent the forefront of global scientific revolutions and industrial transformations. They are pivotal in the new round of international competition. We must seize this opportunity and take over the commanding heights to secure strategic advantages for future development" [1]. Historically, the First Industrial Revolution transitioned human life from an agricultural civilization to an industrial one,

the Second Industrial Revolution ushered the "Electrical Age", and the Third Industrial Revolution was marked by the emergence of information technology. Each industrial revolution has had a profound and far-reaching impact on human production and lifestyles [2]. Human society has entered an era characterized by the in-depth integration of information and digital technologies. A new round of scientific and technological revolution and industrial transformation, with the gradual coverage of urban and rural areas by artificial intelligence (AI), big data, cloud computing, and fifth-generation (5G) networks, has changed our lifestyle, economic structure, and social pattern, and has propelled the process of social and historical

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Academician Prof Wang Qi's meticulous review. Highly recommended reading for everyone who is interested in the modernisation of TCM in the era of digital intelligence.

Uncovering Anti-Inflammatory Activity of Ginsenoside Rg1 in a Wound-Injured Zebrafish Model by GC-MS-based Chemical Profiling**Journal:** *Planta Medica***Detail:** <https://www.thieme-connect.de/products/ejournals/abstract/10.1055/a-2606-6705>**DOI:** [10.1055/a-2606-6705](https://doi.org/10.1055/a-2606-6705)

Original Papers

Thieme

Uncovering Anti-Inflammatory Activity of Ginsenoside Rg1 in a Wound-Injured Zebrafish Model by GC-MS-based Chemical Profiling**Authors**Su-Jung Hsu^{1,2*}, Min He^{3,4*}, Luis Francisco Salomé-Abarca⁵, Young Hae Choi^{1,6}, Mei Wang^{4,6,7,8}**Affiliations**

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Keywords*Panax ginseng*, ginsenosides Rg1, metabolomics, gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, wound-injured inflammation, zebrafish

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ABSTRACT

There is growing evidence highlighting the pivotal role of cellular metabolic adaptation in governing diverse immune responses, as well as the capacity of immune cells to alter metabolic preferences. In both scenarios, the prospect of leveraging bioactive compounds to induce metabolic reprogramming emerges as a novel adjuvant strategy for clinical immunotherapy. Rg1, a major active ginsenoside found in ginseng roots, has the potential to function as a glucocorticoid receptor agonist. Unraveling the intricate relationship between anti-inflammatory functions and the metabolic effects of ginsenosides and glucocorticoids may contribute to the identification of metabolic biomarkers associated with anti-inflammation. This research aims to determine endogenous metabolic response differences evoked by Rg1 and glucocorticoids underlying *in vivo* anti-inflammatory responses. The metabolic impact, particularly on primary metabolites, was assessed in zebrafish embryos using gas chromatography–mass spectrometry (GC-MS) in conjunction with metabolic pathways analysis via the KEGG pathway database. Our results indicated that Rg1 possesses a similar effect in alleviating inflammation in treating injured zebrafish as betamethasone. The anti-inflammatory effects of Rg1 are achieved by inhibiting the neutrophils and macrophages toward the amputated edges and upregulating gene expression associated with pro-inflammatory cytokines. The anti-inflammatory effects of Rg1 also include changes in fatty-acid metabolism and downstream aromatic amino acids in the TCA cycle. Therefore, Rg1 may be a promising drug candidate for treating inflammatory responses and a valuable supplement for enhancing immune regulation.

* These authors contributed equally to the manuscript.

V One Health: a key element in the WHO Pandemic Agreement

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One Health: a key element in the WHO Pandemic Agreement

The adoption of the WHO Pandemic Agreement marks a pivotal moment in global health governance,¹ particularly through the inclusion of the One Health approach. This holistic approach, integrating human, animal, and environmental health, reflects a shift from fragmented responses to unified, systemic global health strategies. However, successful implementation remains fraught with challenges, particularly given past global health framework shortcomings.

Historically, global health agreements, such as the International Health Regulations and the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework, have struggled to address zoonotic disease risks. The ongoing threats of pandemics, such as COVID-19, underscore the urgency of rethinking outdated models, as pathogens spill over from animals to humans due to ecological changes and human-animal interactions.² The One Health framework proposed in the WHO Pandemic Agreement is a promising, although not flawless, response.

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The One Health provision introduces obligations, including cognitive, procedural, and substantive commitments to integrate cross-sectoral governance. It emphasises the need for countries to recognise the interdependence of human, animal, and environmental health, while mandating institutional structures for coordination and data sharing. However, these efforts face significant institutional barriers, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries, where veterinary and public health infrastructure remain underdeveloped. The complexity of reconstructing monitoring systems and the lack of interdepartmental coordination exacerbate these challenges. Although the focus has largely been on high-cost interventions, there is a need to balance these with community-driven solutions and academic research, which offer cost-effective alternatives and ensure broader sustainability.

Academic institutions play a critical role in providing tools for rigorous economic evaluations of One Health investments.³ These studies can quantify the cost-benefit dynamics of pandemic preparedness interventions, enhancing the willingness of policy makers to adopt One Health strategies despite resource constraints. Research can also inform the development of a global One Health index,⁴ enabling more precise decision making on where to focus interventions.

Academic research alone is insufficient. Community-based action is vital in translating the One Health concept into tangible, on-the-ground impact. Communities are on the front lines of disease surveillance and early detection, and play a crucial role in shaping health behaviours to prevent zoonotic diseases. Empirical evidence from past community sentinel surveillance models shows their effectiveness in enhancing early warning systems. Participatory disease monitoring and citizen science initiatives can improve data

timeliness and coverage, bridging gaps left by traditional official monitoring systems.⁵ Additionally, community health education can reduce high-risk behaviours that facilitate zoonotic transmission.

The success of the One Health approach hinges on a collaborative governance model integrating academic research, community action, and governmental coordination. Countries should establish inclusive institutional frameworks for cross-sectoral collaboration that respond to local contexts. By prioritising pilot programmes and scalable interventions, we can create replicable blueprints for large-scale deployment. Through this integrated approach, the One Health principles embedded in the WHO Pandemic Agreement can lay the foundation for a more resilient, equitable global health system.

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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

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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）

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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。

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浙江中医药大学及附属医院 2025 年公开招聘公告

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一、学校概况

浙江中医药大学是浙江省重点建设高校、高水平大学建设高校，是浙江省人民政府、国家中医药管理局、教育部共建高校。习近平总书记在浙江工作期间曾来校视察指导，先后四次对学校作出重要指示批示，为学校高质量发展指明了方向。2022 年 3 月，浙江省人民政府办公厅发文支持学校建设一流中医药大学，实施“八个一流”建设工程。学校坐落于历史文化名城杭州市，现有滨文校区和富春校区。

学校现有教职工 1600 余人，拥有中国工程院院士、国医大师、国家“万人计划”科技创新领军人才、全国名中医、国家杰出青年科学基金获得者、岐黄学者、百千万工程国家级人选等一大批知名专家学者。全日制在校生 25000 余人。

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学校是全国首批招收和培养中医药研究生、在浙江省属高校中首批获得博士学位授予权和博士后科研流动站的院校。学校现有博士学位点覆盖中医学、中西医结合、中药学、护理学 4 个一级学科；硕士学位点覆盖中医学、中西医结合、中药学、基础医学、临床医学、药理学、护理学、马克思主义理论、公共卫生与预防医学 9 个一级学科。建有中医学、中药学、中西医结合 3 个博士后科研流动站。

学校聚焦立德树人，持续提升教育教学质量。开设了中医学、临床医学、口腔医学、中药学、护理学等医学类及相关本科专业 34 个，其中国家级一流本科建设专业 11 个。建有国家中医临床教学培训示范中心、国家级实验教学示范中心、国家级大学生校外实践基地等一批省部级以上教学平台和 2 个省级现代产业学院。获国家级教学成果奖 5 项。

学校全力推进学科建设，不断提升科技创新和服务能力。在浙江省属高校中首批获得国家重点学科（中医临床基础），中医学入选浙江省登峰学科建设计划，中药学、中西医结合入选省优势特色学科建设计划。在 2024 软科世界大学学术排名 1000 强中列 665 位（全国中医药院校第二位），3 个学科进入 ESI 全球排名前 1%。建有教育部医药基础研究创新中心和 2 个国家中医临床研究基地，拥有国家中医药管理局协同创新中心、浙江省重点实验室、浙江省哲学社会科学重点培育研究基地等省部级平台 59 个。获国家科技进步奖、国家技术发明奖 5 项，教育部高等学校科学研究优秀成果奖（科学技术）一等奖、浙江省科学技术一等奖 14 项。主办《浙江中医药大学学报》《CCMP》《浙江临床医学》3 种学术期刊。

For more information, please refer to the website below:

https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/kRr_FvqSU4ycJmb2uP9UrA



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-SRNey3JQC1IA>

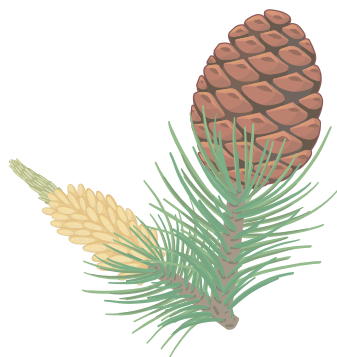


Postgraduate opportunities in Europe

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 Jingling'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. 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.

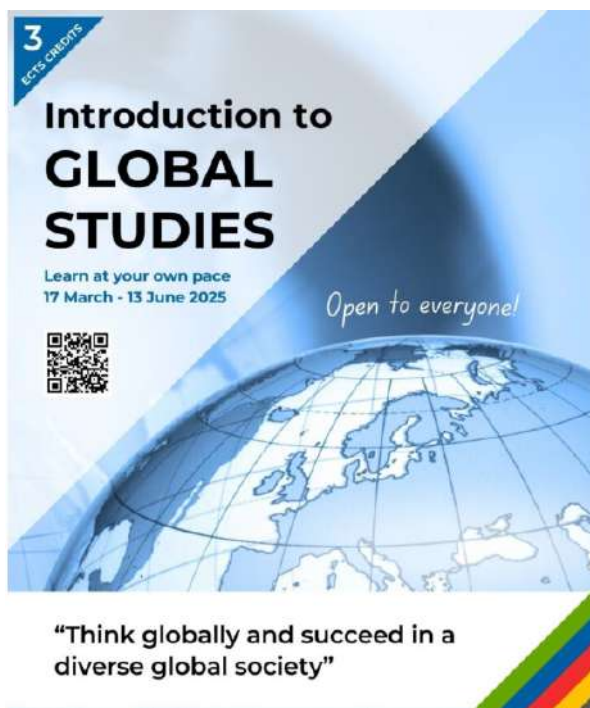
Link to Galaxy (usegalaxy.eu) which is a scientific workflow, data integration, and persistence and publishing platform for computational biology. It aims to provide research scientists who do not have programming experience with access to computational biology. The platform offers a multi-omics treatment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

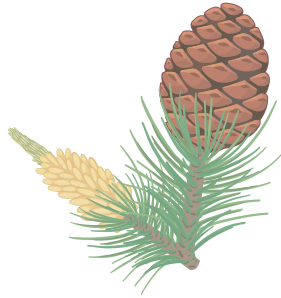
Reference:

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.

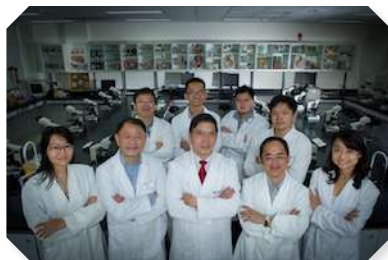
More information at



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



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



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/>



LKS Faculty of Medicine
The University of Hong Kong
香港大學李嘉誠醫學院



iv



PhD in Chinese Medicine
School of Chinese Medicine, The University of Hong Kong

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



Acta Materia Medica hosting “AMM Cup” Excellent Paper Competition for Young Scientists in Pharmacology of Traditional Chinese Medicine

i

The ‘AMM Cup’ Excellent Paper Competition for Young Scientists in Pharmacology of Traditional Chinese Medicine, jointly organised by the International Association of Materia Medica, The Belt and Road Alliance for Traditional Chinese Medicine, Hubei Key Laboratory of Wudang Local Chinese Medicine Research, National-Local Joint Engineering Research Center for Molecular Biotechnology of Fujian & Taiwan TCM, Chinese Medicine Pharmacology Branch of Hubei Provincial Pharmacological Society, Chinese Medicine Experimental Pharmacology Committee of the Guangdong Provincial Association of Chinese Medicine and the journal Acta Materia Medica (AMM), will be held on 17-19 October 2025 in Shiyan, Hubei Province, China. Application deadline is 31 August 2025.

关于举办“AMM杯”中药药理学青年科学家优秀论文竞赛通知

AMM期刊编辑部 Acta Materia Medica 2025年06月12日 11:08 江苏

为激励青年科技人才在中药药理学领域的创新精神，加快培养优秀的中药药理学研究人才，由国际药学会、一带一路中医药发展联盟、湖北医药学院武当特色中药研究湖北省重点实验室、闽台中药分子生物技术国家地方联合工程研究中心、湖北省药理学学会中药药理专业委员会、广东省中医药学会中药实验药理专业委员会、Acta Materia Medica (AMM) 杂志社联合举办的“AMM杯”中药药理学青年科学家优秀论文竞赛将于2025年10月17-19日在湖北十堰举行。现将有关事项通知如下：

一、总则

1. 目的：通过举办“AMM杯”青年科学家优秀论文竞赛，旨在鼓励在读硕士和博士研究生在中药药理学领域的求真务实和创新精神，促进青年科技人才的成长，推动中药药理研究的学术交流与发展。

2. 组织：本次竞赛暨青年科学家成果分享会由Acta Materia Medica (AMM) 杂志编辑部冠名支持。竞赛坚持公开、公平、公正的原则，充分依靠中药药理研究领域同行专家，以学术价值和潜在贡献为导向，确保评选的科学性。

二、参评范围与条件

1. 参评人资格：

· 参评人须为在读硕士、博士研究生（凭学生证）。
· 参评人参赛前须征求导师同意。

· 参评人须注册参加2025年10月17日在湖北十堰举办的中华中医药学会中药实验药理分会2025年学术年会，详见《关于中华中医药学会中药实验药理分会2025年学术年会的征文通知》。

2. 参评论文范围：

· 参评论文须为中药药理学领域未正式发表的单篇研究论文（不

接受多篇研究成果的汇总）。

· 论文应具有创新性（包括理论、技术或应用等方面），体现中药药理学领域的学术价值或应用前景。

· 若论文涉及已发表或即将发表的相关成果，需在论文和报告中明确说明。

三、申报与评选程序

1. 申报方式：

· 投稿邮箱：3988175261@qq.com。若已按《关于中华中医药学会中药实验药理分会2025年学术年会的征文通知》（中会学术发【2025】134号）要求提交论文并注明“参加青年科学家成果分享会”字样，无须重复投稿，竞赛委员会届时汇总投稿论文进行集中评审。请务必标注“参加青年科学成果分享会”字样。如已提交征文未标注，仍可向“AMM杯”竞赛单元有关联络人发送邮件说明。

2. 初审：

· 组委会对申报材料进行资格审查，确认参评人及论文的参评资格。

· 专家进行同行评审，对参赛论文进行打分并提出推荐意见。

3. 初赛：

· 由组委会组织专家对通过初审

的征文进行评审，综合考虑论文的学术水平、创新性、研究难度及应用价值，遴选出15篇竞赛论文进入现场会议决赛。

4. 决赛：

· 决赛将在2025年10月17日举行，采取现场报告与答辩形式。

· 决赛评委会通过打分评选出一、二、三等奖和优秀奖。

四、奖励

· 获奖名单将在2025年10月19日闭幕式公布。获奖者奖状、奖金、奖杯由AMM杂志社提供。

· 一等奖1名，将获得证书、奖杯及奖金2000元；

· 二等奖2名，将获得证书及奖金1000元/人；

· 三等奖5名，将获得证书及奖金500元/人；

· 优秀奖将获得奖励证书。

· 一等奖获得者将获邀在学术年会闭幕式主会场进行5min口头汇报。

五、时间安排

1. 征文材料提交截止：2025年8月31日。

2. 初审与初赛：2025年9月1日至9月30日。

3. 决赛与颁奖：2025年10月17日至10月19日。

六、注意事项

1. 参评论文不得存在剽窃、弄虚作假等学术不端行为，一经查实，取消参评资格并通报至导师。

2. 征文未经导师同意，受到导师书面撤稿通知者，取消评审、奖励资格。

3. 参评人需确保提交材料及时、完整、真实，否则不予受理。

4. 本次赛事解释权在大赛组委会。其他未尽事宜，请关注Acta Materia Medica公众号和后续通知。

七、竞赛组织

学术顾问：

徐宏喜 教授 上海中医药大学

李 华 教授 福建中医药大学

汪选斌 教授 湖北医药学院附属医院

竞赛委员会主席：

邱振鹏 教授 湖北中医药大学

竞赛委员会副主席：

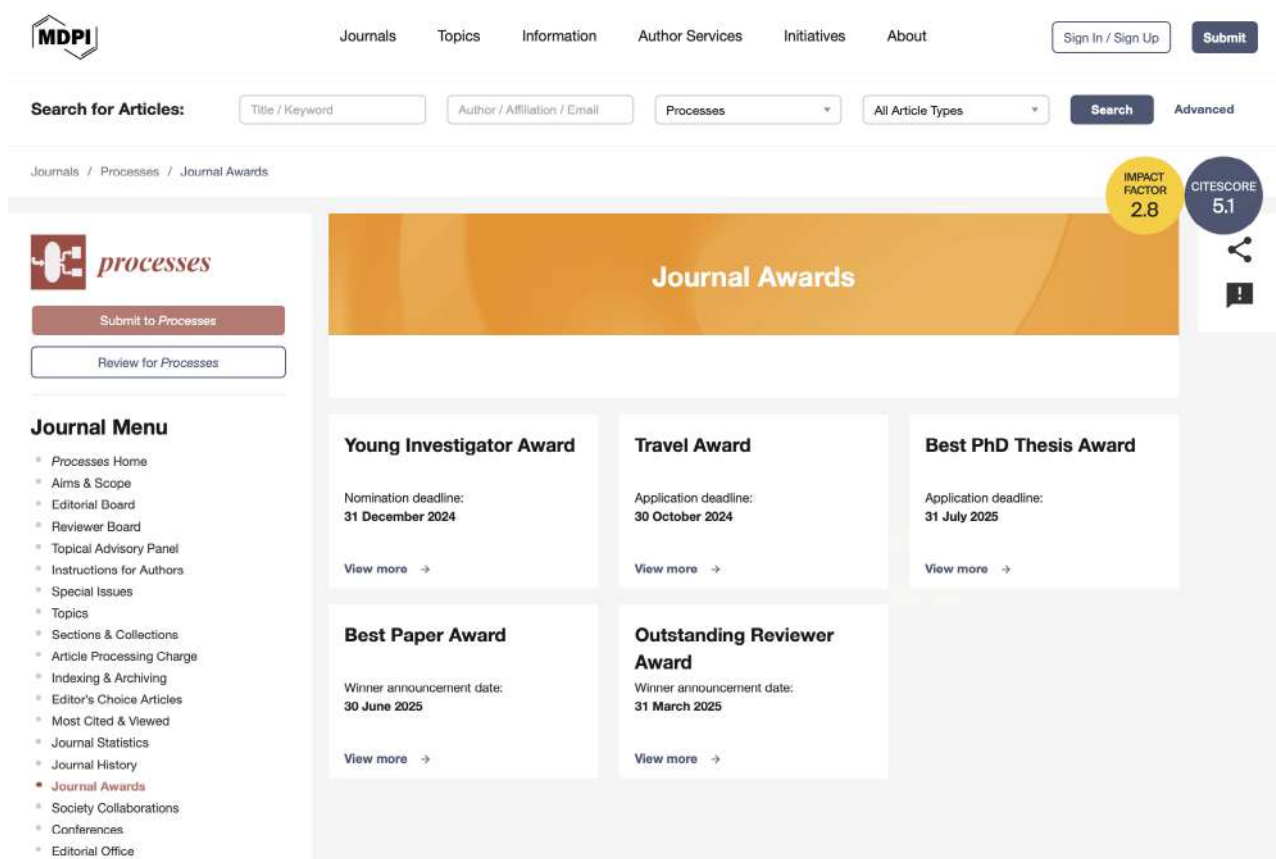
杜鸿志 副教授 湖北中医药大学

Please refer to the link below for more information:

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/u3HO71EJMzG0NN-Lq3UMFg>

Journal Award by *Processes*

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



The screenshot displays the MDPI Processes Journal Awards page. At the top, the MDPI logo is on the left, and navigation links for Journals, Topics, Information, Author Services, Initiatives, and About are in the center. On the right, there are links for Sign In / Sign Up and Submit. Below the navigation bar is a search section with fields for Title / Keyword, Author / Affiliation / Email, Processes (a dropdown menu), and All Article Types (a dropdown menu), followed by a Search button and an Advanced link. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: Journals / Processes / Journal Awards. On the left side of the main content, there is a sidebar with the Processes logo, a Submit to Processes button, a Review for Processes button, and a Journal Menu. The Journal Menu lists various links: Processes Home, Aims & Scope, Editorial Board, Reviewer Board, Topical Advisory Panel, Instructions for Authors, Special Issues, Topics, Sections & Collections, Article Processing Charge, Indexing & Archiving, Editor's Choice Articles, Most Cited & Viewed, Journal Statistics, Journal History, Journal Awards (highlighted with a red dot), Society Collaborations, Conferences, and Editorial Office. The main content area features a large orange banner with the text "Journal Awards". To the right of the banner, there are two circular badges: one for Impact Factor 2.8 and another for CiteScore 5.1. Below the banner, there are five award categories, each with a nomination or application deadline and a "View more" link: Young Investigator Award (Nomination deadline: 31 December 2024), Travel Award (Application deadline: 30 October 2024), Best PhD Thesis Award (Application deadline: 31 July 2025), Best Paper Award (Winner announcement date: 30 June 2025), and Outstanding Reviewer Award (Winner announcement date: 31 March 2025).

Med Plant Hunt with iNaturalist

i



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



Registration form



How to upload

For inquiries about Med Plant Hunt, please send email to

gptcm_medplanthunt@outlook.com



Med Plant Hunt with iNaturalist

i



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



Masson's pine (*Pinus massoniana*, Pinaceae, 马尾松, left) and Chinese pine (*Pinus tabulaeformis*, Pinaceae, 油松, right)



Masson's pine and Chinese pine are species of *Pinus* that produce a series of Chinese medicinals. In Chinese *materia medica*, their dried tuberculate/branched nodes (knotty pine wood), pollens, and leaves are known as Chinese medicinal *yousongjie* (pini lignum nodi), *songhuafen* (pini pollen), and *songzhen* (pini folium), respectively.

Bitter, pungent, and warm in properties, pini lignum nodi dispels wind-dampness, unblocks collaterals, and relieves pain. It is indicated for wind-damp painful obstruction, joint pain and soreness, and knocks and falls. Sweet and warm in properties, pini pollen stops bleeding, dries dampness, and restrains sores. It is indicated for traumatic bleeding, eczema, skin erosion, and damp sores with seepage of pus. Bitter and warm in properties, pini folium calms the spirit, supplements the qi, and dispels wind-dampness. It is indicated for palpitation and insomnia due to heart and spleen deficiency, wind-damp painful obstruction, eczema, and skin itching.

As a matter of fact, roots, barks, seed cones, and oleoresins (including colophony and turpentine oil) from these pines are medicinal substances in Chinese *materia medica* as well.

马尾松

塔形高树耸南方
柔软叶针观细长
临水而居常喜暖
杀虫止痒韵悠扬

油松

树冠似伞耐严寒
坚硬短粗蓝叶观
常在北方迎客至
又闻止痛助民安

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/EUeBhquUDD5Gi2ouLm6zAS0Bij480dsBcfPhImObF0C3Cw



Masson's pine (*Pinus massoniana*, Pinaceae, 马尾松, left) and Chinese pine (*Pinus tabulaeformis*, Pinaceae, 油松, right)



The May-June 2025 Newsletter of GP-TCM Research Association



Just click here to enjoy the video: https://uofmacau-my.sharepoint.com/:vr/g/personal/yc37514_um_edu_mo/EUeBhquUDD5Gi2ouLm6zAS0Bij480dsBcfPhImQbE0C3Cw

The May-June 2025 Newsletter of GP-TCM Research Association



I Chinese Materia Medica Highlights

Chinese poetry recitation in Mandarin and Cantonese

Masson's pine (*Pinus massoniana*, Pinaceae, 马尾松) and Chinese pine (*Pinus tabulaeformis*, Pinaceae, 油松)

马尾松

Masson's pine
(*Pinus massoniana*, Pinaceae)



tǎ	xíng	gāo	shù	sōng	nán	fāng
塔	形	高	树	耸	南	方
róu	ruǎn	xiǎo	zhēn	guān	xì	cháng
柔	软	叶	针	观	细	长
lín	shuǐ	ér	jū	cháng	xǐ	nuǎn
临	水	而	居	常	喜	暖
shā	chóng	zhǐ	zāi	qūn	chóu	yáng
杀	虫	止	灾	韵	悠	扬

Poetry recitation in Mandarin

Masson's pine (*Pinus massoniana*, Pinaceae, 马尾松) and Chinese pine (*Pinus tabulaeformis*, Pinaceae, 油松)

Sweet and warm in properties, pini pollen stops bleeding, dries dampness, and restrains sores. It is indicated for traumatic bleeding, eczema, skin erosion, and damp sores with seepage of pus. Bitter and warm in properties, pini folium calms the spirit, supplements the qi, and dispels wind-dampness. It is indicated for palpitation and insomnia due to heart and spleen deficiency, wind-damp painful obstruction, eczema, and skin itching.

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The above colour photographs, English texts and Chinese poems are contributed by Prof. Hailiao Chen (Hong Kong), Dr. Ping Gao (Hong Kong) and Prof. Jing Liu (Shenzhen), respectively. This column is edited by Prof. Zhongchen Zhuo (Hong Kong).

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

I Chinese Materia Medica Highlights



Please visit our website for more details!

The above colour photographs, English texts and Chinese poems are contributed by Prof. Hailiao Chen (Hong Kong), Dr. Ping Gao (Hong Kong) and Prof. Jing Liu (Shenzhen), respectively. This column is edited by Prof. Zhongchen Zhuo (Hong Kong).