Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association

中医药规范研究学会

July-August 2025 Newsletter

Editor-in-chief
Mei Wang
(mei.wang@subiomedicine.com)

Deputy Editor
Simon Ming Yuen Lee
(simon-my.lee@polyu.edu.hk)

Section Editor
-Chinese Materia Medica
Ping Guo
(s193231@hkbu.edu.hk)

Executive Editor
Jess Kit Ieng Kuok
(kuokkitieng@gmail.com)

CONTENTS

Highlights of the 13th Annual Meeting of the Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association and AGM 2025

The 13th Annual Meeting of The Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association (in association with Federation of Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners (FTCMP) and UK Centre Of Chinese Medicine (CCMUK)) was successfully held in Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, London, UK from July 24 to 27, 2025. This year, the Annual Meeting was hosted by Prof. Monique Simmonds (Past-President). As a general practice, the Board of Directors (BoD), coming from different parts of the world, took the opportunity to hold a face-to-face BoD meeting on the afternoon of July 22 . During this meeting, BoD members, together with the chairs and co- chairs of the 7 Interest Groups participated, and several items were discussed, including the future development of GP-TCM RA. The 1.5-hour BoD meeting was followed by a dinner gathering.

(1) Photos taken during the BoD meeting

The four-day Annual Meeting took place at the Jodrell Laboratory inside Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, with the theme "One health- potential for the integration of Chinese Medicine". The opening ceremony started with the welcome remarks from Prof. Monique Simmonds, host of the meeting and Past-Pesident of GP-TCM RA, followed by a speech from Dr. Mei Wang, the Pesident of GP-TCM RA. A total of over 90 participants from across the world attended the conference, with 47 abstract submissions and poster presentations. The program also included 5 keynote lectures delivered by Prof. Amala Soumyanath (Oregon Health & Science University. USA), Prof. Lie-Fen Shyur (Academia Sinica, Taiwan), Dr. Emiel van Galen (Chair of the Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products, EMA), Prof. Nicola Robinson (BoD member of GP-TCM RA) and Prof. Lixing Lao (Virginia University of Integrative Medicine, USA).

In addition to the 7 Interest Groups organizing a total of 26 lectures and on hot topics under the following categories: Quality Control (chaired by Prof. Rudolf Bauer and Prof. Monique Simmonds), Pharmacology & Toxicology (chaired by Prof. Clara B.S. Lau, Prof. Lie-Fen Shyur and Prof. Qihe Xu), Clinical Studies (chaired by Prof. Lidan Zhong and Dr. Xiao-Yang Hu), Regulatory Aspects and Industry (chaired by Dr. Li-Ping Qu, Prof. Gerhard Franz and Mr. Abraham Chan), Acupuncture–Moxibustion and Meridians (chaired by Prof Nicola Robinson and Prof. Jianping Liu), Publication (chaired by Dr. Myeong Soo Lee, Prof. De-An Guo and Prof. Thomas Efferth) and Clinical Practice Guidelines (chaired by Dr. Chris Chan, Prof. Vivian Taam Wong and Dr. Wendy Wong).

(2) Prof. Monique Simmonds during the opening remark

(3) Dr. Mei Wang during the opening remark

(4) The group photo taken at Royal Botanic Garden, Kew

On Day 1, the first Keynote talk in tribute to Prof. Peter Houghton was delivered by Prof. Amala Soumyanath and at the end of the session, Mrs Houghton was also invited to make tribute and share valuable photographs of Prof. Peter Houghton, while Prof. Clara Lau (Past President) and Dr. Qihe Xu (BoD member) announced The Peter Houghton Award by The King's Centre for Integrative Chinese Medicine, King's College London to support young scientists. During lunch time of day 1, an Early Career Participants Lunch Gathering with Prof. Clara Lau (Past President), Dr. Mei Wang (President) and Prof. Simon Lee (President-Elect of GP-TCM). Dr. Mei Wang took this opportunity to introduce GP-TCM RA to the students and young researchers and each early career participant had the opportunity to introduce themselves and provide feedback on how GP-TCM RA could facilitate their research career development. At the end of day 1, the conference dinner took place at the The Orangery inside Kew Gardens. Gifts were given to all dinner participants, and Dr. Mei Wang thanked the gift sponsors (Davines Group) for their support of the Annual Meeting.

(5) Prof. Amala Soumyanath during the keynote lecture

Introduing The Peter Houghton Award

(6) Mrs Houghton sharing

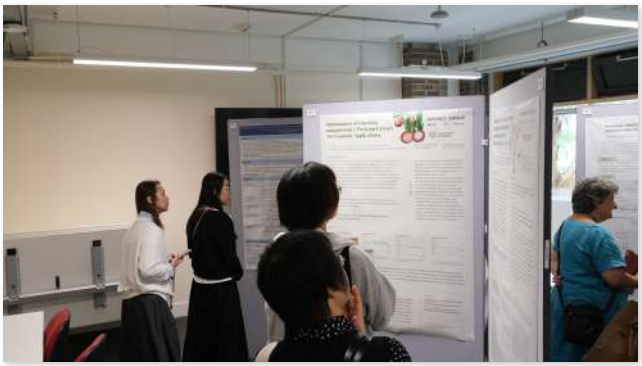
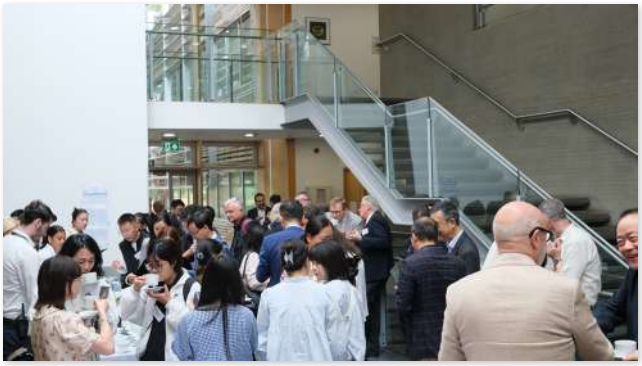
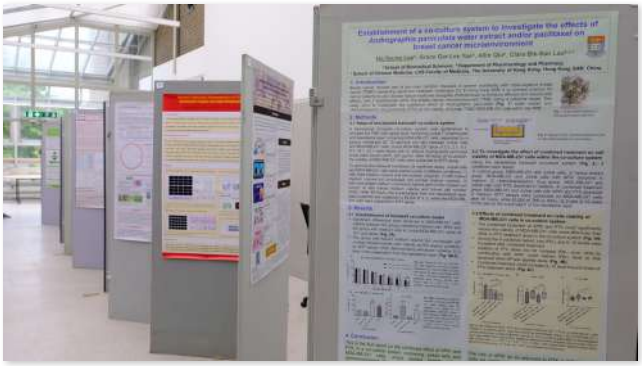
Prof. Lie Fen Shyur during the keynote lecture

Dr. Emiel van Galen during the keynote lecture

(9) Prof. Nicola Robinson during the keynote lecture

(10) Prof. Lixing Lao during the keynote lecture

(11) Photos taken during tea breaks, poster presentations and exhibition booths.


(12) Early Career Participants Lunch Gathering

(13) Photos taken during the conference dinner at The Orangery inside Kew Gardens.








(14) Tours of Kew Collections

At the end of each day, different tours of Kew collections were organised for participants to enjoyed visiting the Herberium, Fungarim and the Economic Botany Collections at Kew Garden, On day 2, during the two-minute flash poster presentations 10 abstracts were selected for brief presentations by students and young researchers and the AGM was held where Dr. Mei Wang presented the President's report, introducing the objectives and mission of GP- TCM RA, the latest membership statistics and the online workshops and other acheivement of GP-TCM RA in 2025 followed by Prof. Simon Lee then presented the Secretary-General's report and Dr Tai-Ping Fan presented the Treasurer report. During the AGM, Dr. Mei Wang announced that the 14th Annual Meeting would be held at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), in Singapore possibly in July 2026 (exact date to be confirmed), and the host, Prof. Lidan Zhong (BoD member) also presented the recources and facilites in NTU for organising the Annual Meeting in 2026. At the end of day 2, a drink reception and poster viewing session was held to allow partcipants networking.

(15) Photos taken during the AGM

Dr. Mei Wang presented the President's report

Prof. Simon Lee Secretary-General's report

Dr Tai-Ping Fan presented the Treasurer report

This Annual Meeting is organised in association with FTCMP and CCMUK, and on Day 3, additional particpants joined us, then the Annual Meeting commerce with an Award Ceremoney and Closing remarks. During the Award presentation. Three Travel Awards were given to the top three submitted abstracts by students, and book awards will be presented to the presenters of the top 10 selected abstracts. In addition, the Poster Awards (sponsored by The Hung Chi Ching Chartable Fund) were given out as 1st prize 2nd prize and 3rd prize to the awardees. Finally, at the closing ceremony, GP-TCM RA President Dr. Mei Wang thanked the host Prof. Monique Simmonds, Ms. Rachel Wakling and Ms. Charlotte Meggitt and the Conference Organising Team at Kew Garden for hosting this year Annual Meeting. Dr Mei Wang also thanked the Platinum Sponsor: PuraPharm International (H.K.) Ltd. Gold Sponsors: Phoenix Medical, CR Jiangzhong;

Travel award sponsor: The Hung Chi Ching Charitable Fund; Book Sponsor: Taylor & Francis Group, Informa UK Limited; Sponsor: HL Suppherb and Gift Sponsors: Davines Group.

Dr. Mei Wang presented Honorary Member certificates to Prof. Clara B.S. Lau and Prof. Michael Heinich.

(16) Award Ceremony

(16) Award Ceremony

(17) Closing remarks

Dr. Mei Wang thanked the host Prof. Monique Simmonds, Ms. Rachel Wakling, Ms. Charlotte Meggitt and the Conference Organising Team at Kew Garden.

Acknowledgements

PuraPharm®

PuraPharm International (H.K.) Ltd.

Platinum sponsor

PHOENIX MEDICAL 鳳凰醫藥
Innovation | Production | Promotion

Phoenix Medical

Gold sponsors

華潤江中 CR JIANGZHONG

CR Jiangzhong

Gold sponsors

洪子晴慈善基金會 The Hung Chi Ching Charitable Fund

The Hung Chi Ching Charitable Fund

Travel award sponsor

CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group

Taylor & Francis Group, Informa UK Limited

Book sponsor

HL SUPPHERB

Sponsor

DAVINES GROUP
davines sustainable beauty | [comfort zone] conscious skin science

Davines Group

Gift sponsors

i Congratulations to Dr Mei Wang for receiving the Award for International Science and Technology Cooperation during the Sichuan Science and Technology Award conference

点赞！这些中医药项目和科技工作者获省科学技术奖！

四川中医药 2025年08月28日 17:31 四川

8 月 28 日上午，四川省科学技术奖励大会在成都举行，会上公布了 2024 年度四川省科学技术奖获奖名单。赵凌荣获四川省杰出青年科学技术创新奖。王梅（Mei Wang）、阿列克谢沃瑞克哈特斯基（Alexei Verkhratsky）荣获四川省国际科学技术合作奖。9 个项目获四川省科学技术进步奖，其中，一等奖 2 项，二等奖 3 项，三等奖 4 项，一起来看～

2024年度四川省国际科学技术合作奖

中文名	国 籍	合作单位	提名者
王 梅 (Mei Wang)	荷 兰	四川省中医药科学院	省中医药局
阿列克谢·沃瑞克哈特斯基 (Alexei Verkhratsky)	英 国	成都中医药大学	省中医药局

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/EUhri_6N_zPelVkZuzaJKQ

ii Congratulation to Prof. Linda Zhong on her election as President of the International Society for Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine Research (ISCMR)

NTU School of Biological Sciences

We are delighted to congratulate Associate Professor Linda Zhong, who is also the Director of Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine, School of Biological Sciences (SBS), on her election as President of the International Society for Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine Research (ISCMR).

This recognition from an international, multi-disciplinary scientific organisation highlights her outstanding contributions to research and leadership in the field of traditional and integrative medicine. Her achievement brings pride to SBS and underscores the global impact of our faculty.

Join us in congratulating Assoc. Prof. Zhong on this remarkable milestone!

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ntusbs_ntusbs-oursbs-proudmoment-activity-7364219768922390528-M7zH?utm_medium=ios_app&rcm=ACoAAAEi3AgBbl2iGyKQG_DwwmU3GEmkNBJaJw8&utm_source=social_share_video_v2&utm_campaign=copy_link

New members of GP-TCM RA (July-August 2025)

Ordinary Members

Sushil Kumar CHAUDHARY	Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), India
Banaz JALIL	University College London, UK
Zhaolan LIU	Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, China
Beverley de VALOIS	University of Bristol, UK
Zhongping YAO	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong SAR, China
Min ZHANG	King's College London, UK

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	

Special Commemorative Issue of School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University.

HKBU releases first global Chinese medicine research analytics report showing publication output tripled in 10 years

香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

PRESS RELEASE

HKBU releases first global Chinese medicine research analytics report showing publication output tripled in 10 years

Thursday, 7 August 2025

Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), in collaboration with the global academic data analytics company Elsevier, has released a global research analytics report Evolving Legacy: Decoding the Scientific Trajectory of Chinese Medicine. Using scientific metrics, the report reveals systematically for the first time the comprehensive global trends and process of modernisation in Chinese medicine research. The report covers over 200,000 Chinese medicine-related publications from 2014 to 2023, providing a clear portrait of Hong Kong's international standing and contributions in Chinese medicine research with a data-driven approach.

Professor Lyu Aiping, Vice-President (Research & Development), HKBU, shares the initiatives of HKBU to promote the research and development of Chinese medicine.

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://www.hkbu.edu.hk/en/whats-new/press-release/2025/0807-hkbu-releases-first-global-chinese-medicine-research-analytics-report-showing-publication-output-tripled-in-10-years.html

ii An innovative approach to teaching Chinese medicine gynaecology

香港浸會大學 HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

PRESS RELEASE

An innovative approach to teaching Chinese medicine gynaecology

31 Jul 2025

The team from the Clinical Division of the School of Chinese Medicine comprises Professor Zhang Chunling, team leader (2nd left), Professor Li Xiaoguang (2nd right), Professor Wang Yurong (1st right) and Dr Chin Wing-yee (1st left).

One couple longing to become parents have sought professional help for over 10 years. Another underwent several assisted reproductive treatments to no avail. Female patients experience intense period pain for years, struggling to carry out daily tasks. At the Chinese medicine gynaecology clinic, every patient represents a difficult life journey.

The Gynaecology Team from the Clinical Division of the School of Chinese Medicine at HKBU understands that while clinical excellence is important, the practitioner must put patient-centred care first to truly heal the patient's body and mind. Therefore, the team aims to nurture students to become capable and empathetic Chinese medicine practitioners by teaching them the professional knowledge in syndrome differentiation and clinical skills, while also fostering empathy and a sense of social responsibility.

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://www.hkbu.edu.hk/en/whats-new/discover-hkbu/2025/July-2025/an-innovative-approach-to-teaching-chinese-medicine-gynaecology.html

iii SCM celebrates success at Silicon Valley Festival with 1 gold medal and 1 silver medal

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

NEWS

SCM celebrates success at Silicon Valley Festival with 1 gold medal and 1 silver medal

14 August 2025

The School made a remarkable debut at the Silicon Valley International Invention Festival, organised by the International Federation of Inventors' Associations, which took place from 8 to 10 August in the United States. Two projects stood out among innovations from over 30 countries and regions, winning one gold medal and one silver medal.

Gold Medal

"Metabolic modulation of intratumoral cholesterol with engineered bacteria for the treatment of colorectal cancer" led by Professor Wong Hoi-leong Xavier, Professor of Teaching and Research Division (CMTR)

Professor Wong Hoi-leong Xavier (left) and his PhD student Mr Wu Jiayan (right).

Silver Medal

"Development of Justicia Chinese Medicinal Plants as Antiviral Veterinary Products" led by Professor Zhang Hongjie, Associate Dean (Teaching and Learning) and Chair Professor of CMTR

Professor Zhang Hongjie

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/news-and-events/news/2025/20250814-SCM-celebrates-success-at-Silicon-Valley-Festival-with-1-gold-medal-and-1-silver-medal.html

iv Professor Zhang Ge leads team to develop novel pulmonary fibrosis treatment with funding from Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board

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

NEWS

Professor Zhang Ge leads team to develop novel pulmonary fibrosis treatment with funding from Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board

4 August 2025

Professor Zhang Ge, Associate Dean (Research), has successfully secured a grant of HK$1.8 million from the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board for supporting a project entitled "A next-generation CTGF inhibitors to suppress pulmonary fibrosis in pneumoconiosis". This project, led by Professor Zhang, is a collaborative effort of researchers from SCM, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen University General Hospital and The Second Affiliated Hospital of Shantou University Medical College.

Professor Zhang Ge (centre) has successfully secured a grant of HK$1.8 million from the Pneumoconiosis Compensation Fund Board.

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/news-and-events/news/2025/20250804-Professor-Zhang-Ge-leads-team-to-develop-novel-pulmonary-fibrosis-treatment-with-funding-from-Pneumoconiosis-Compensation-Fund-Board.html

V SCM organised the "2025 Symposium on Autophagy, Aging, Cancer and Neurodegeneration: Therapeutic Potential of Chinese Medicine"

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

NEWS

SCM organised the "2025 Symposium on Autophagy, Aging, Cancer and Neurodegeneration: Therapeutic Potential of Chinese Medicine"

1 August 2025

SCM successfully hosted the "2025 Symposium on Autophagy, Aging, Cancer and Neurodegeneration: Therapeutic Potential of Chinese Medicine" on 28 July 2025. This symposium delves into the significant role of autophagy in aging and aging-related cancer and neurodegenerative diseases, particularly Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, while exploring the therapeutic potential of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in modulating autophagy for cancer treatment and neuroprotection.

Speakers and SCM members share insights at the symposium.

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/news-and-events/news/2025/20250801-SCM-organised-the--2025-Symposium-on-Autophagy,-Aging,-Cancer-and-Neurodegeneration--Therapeutic-Potential-of-Chinese-Medicine--.html

vi Professor Xavier Wong secures HK$1.48M HMRF grant for anti-obesity medication clinical trial

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

NEWS

Professor Xavier Wong secures HK$1.48M HMRF grant for anti-obesity medication clinical trial

29 July 2025

A research team led by Professor WONG Hoi-leong Xavier secures a grant of HK$1.48 million from the Health and Medical Research Fund (HMRF), administered by the Food and Health Bureau. The funding will support a pioneering clinical trial titled "Efficacy and Safety of Artesunate Treatment for Patients with Obesity: A Randomised Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Pilot Study".

The project aims to evaluate the clinical efficacy and safety of artesunate, a compound derived from traditional Chinese medicine, as a potential treatment for obesity. Artesunate's unique pharmacological profile and emerging evidence of its metabolic benefits position it as a promising candidate for addressing obesity and its related complications. In preclinical animal studies published in Nature Communications, Professor Wong's research team demonstrated that artesunate significantly reduced body weight, improved metabolic health (including enhanced insulin sensitivity and better cholesterol profiles), and suppressed appetite in obese mice and non-human primates, all without adverse effects. Building on these encouraging results, the team is now advancing to human trials, with the goal of validating artesunate's potential as a safe and effective therapy for obesity and its associated conditions.

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/news-and-events/news/2025/20250729-Professor-Xavier-Wong-secures-HK-1-48M-HMRF-grant-for-anti-obesity-medication-clinical-trial.html

vii Exciting News: Professor Bian Zhaoxiang Selected for the "Qihuang Scholar 2024"

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

NEWS

Exciting News: Professor Bian Zhaoxiang Selected for the "Qihuang Scholar 2024"

23 July 2025

The National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (NATCM) announced the list of inductees for the prestigious "Qihuang Scholar 2024" on 11 July. Professor Bian Zhaoxiang, Associate Vice-President (Clinical Chinese Medicine) and Chair Professor in Chinese Medicine, School of Chinese Medicine has been selected for this esteemed honour. This recognition is a testament not only to Professor Bian's exceptional stature in the field of Chinese medicine but also affirms the School's commitment to excellence in research and talent cultivation within the discipline.

As a renowned research scientist in the field of gut dysbiosis, Professor Bian has dedicated tremendous effort to advancing education, clinical research, and community service in Chinese medicine since joining the School in 2001. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Bian led the HKBU Chinese medicine team in active anti-epidemic endeavours, making significant contributions to the wellbeing of the Hong Kong community and underscoring the important role of Chinese medicine.

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/news-and-events/news/2025/20250723-Exciting-News--Professor-Bian-Zhaoxiang-Selected-for-the--Qihuang-Scholar-2024-.html

viii A new book by HKBU staff, Professor Zhao Zhongzhen, Professor Emeritus and Professor Chen Hubiao, Professor of the Teaching and Research Division

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

NEWS

New book by staff

15 July 2025

Chinese Medicinal Identification:

An Illustrated Approach (Arabic edition)

ISBN:

ISBN 978-9948-727-996

Editor-in-Chief:

Professor Zhao Zhongzhen, Professor Emeritus and Professor Chen Hubiao, Professor of the Teaching and Research Division

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://scm.hkbu.edu.hk/en/news-and-events/news/2025/20250715-New-book-by-staff.html

ix New hospital seen key for HK to be bridgehead for TCM internationalization

CHINA DAILY | HONG KONG

NEWS > Hong Kong > Content

Published: 16:12, August 14, 2025 | Updated: 09:17, August 15, 2025

New hospital seen key for HK to be bridgehead for TCM internationalization

By Luo Weiteng

In this undated file photo, a practitioner of traditional Chinese medicine at Pok Oi Hospital in Hong Kong treats a patient via acupuncture. (PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY)

Hong Kong is gearing up to welcome its first Chinese medicine hospital by year-end, positioning the city a bridge between tradition and modernity in healthcare. A former Hong Kong health chief and experts envision landmark initiatives and international collaborations that could bring traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) from its ancient roots to the forefront of the global stage.

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://www.chinadailyasia.com/hk/article/617907?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwML3i5leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHheOyc0VOXOy3TpqJkSlNuQiM44ujaoKrMy60vbAnlDvHcEU0golhnCPFpal_aem_oRuq5p6JYuhM-YgZLGBouw

i NIH announces end to funding for animal-only studies

By Brian Buntz | July 7, 2025

The National Institutes of Health announced on Monday that the biomedical agency would no longer award funding to new grant proposals solely relying on animal testing. The policy was unveiled at the FDA & NIH Workshop on Reducing Animal Testing in comments from Dr. Nicole Kleinstreuer, Acting NIH Deputy Director for Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives.

"I'm delighted to announce today that all new NIH funding opportunities moving forward should incorporate language on consideration of NAMS," Kleinstreuer stated during the workshop, referring to New Approach Methodologies, a suite of modern alternatives including computer modeling, AI and 'organs-on-a-chip' technologies. "NIH will no longer seek proposals exclusively for animal models."

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://www.drugdiscoverytrends.com/nih-announces-end-to-funding-for-animal-only-studies/

ii New approach methodologies: EU regulatory horizons

nature reviews drug discovery

Abstract

New approach methodologies (NAMs) have the potential to progressively transform medicines development by reducing reliance on animal testing while increasing the relevance of nonclinical data to patients. However, achieving regulatory acceptance of NAMs demands enhanced collaboration, clear guidance and continuous, science-based adaptation of the regulatory environment to accommodate emerging innovation.


Comment

New approach methodologies: EU regulatory horizons

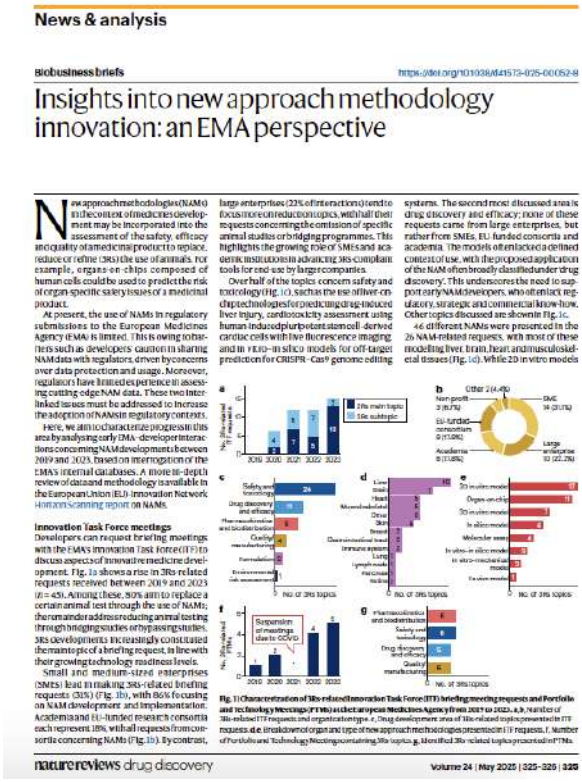
News and photo adapted from link below:
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41573-025-00053-7?utm_source=nature_etoc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CONR_41573_AWA1_GL_DTEC_054CI_TOC-250801&utm_content=20250801

iii Insights into new approach methodology innovation: an EMA perspective

nature reviews drug discovery

Insights into new approach methodology innovation: an EMA perspective

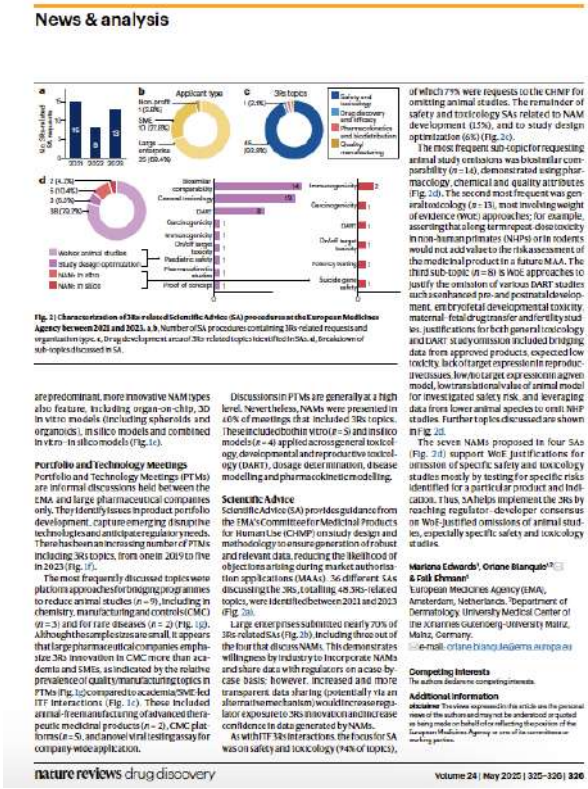
By Mariana Edwards, Oriane Blanquie & Falk Ehmann



News & analysis

Biobusiness briefs

Insights into new approach methodology innovation: an EMA perspective



News & analysis

nature reviews drug discovery

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://www.nature.com/articles/d41573-025-00052-8

iv Why Names Matter: Demystifying the Nomenclature of Plants and Herbal Substances. HerbalGram. 2025 Jan 1(142).

Why Names Matter:

Demystifying the Nomenclature of Plants and Herbal Substances

What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

—William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" (Act II, Scene 2)[1]

By Bob Allkin, PhD, and Kristina Patmore

Plants for Health
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Richmond, Surrey, UK

1. Introduction

In Shakespeare's play, Juliet pleads that Romeo is the same person regardless of his name, and *HerbalGram* readers likely need no reminder that a label offers no guarantee of a product's content. This article explains and illustrates why it is important to pay close attention to the names used when communicating about objects, places, and concepts. We encourage readers to clearly differentiate between names (the labels we use) and the objects they refer to (the plants or herbal substances).

Names are necessary to communicate verbally and when searching for information or exchanging data. The validity of research papers, effectiveness of regulations, and credibility of herbal products all rely on using meaningful, unambiguous, and precise plant names. Finding published information about a plant requires knowing the different names that previous authors may have used.

Communicating precisely, unambiguously, and comprehensively about plants or herbal substances is not as straightforward as one might imagine. People often assume, for example, that others will interpret names as they do, but a person's preferred common name for a plant may reflect their birthplace, profession, or cultural background. As with other elements of language, the meaning of names can change and be used inconsistently even within the same language: they may vary from place to place (e.g., "lift" and "elevator") or between generations. Regulators, scientists, pharmacists, and industry members who

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://www.herbalgram.org/resources/herbalgram/issues/142/table-of-contents/hg142-feat-nomenclature/
https://kew.iro.bl.uk/concern/articles/cae8e4a1-135c-47b5-9f32-b13a6a4d28a8

V Research group from The Affliated Guangzhou Hospital of TCM of Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, Guangzhou, China have recently published " CARE extension guideline for acupuncture case reports"

IF 9.8 段玉婷团队：首个基于 CARE 指南针对针刺病例报告的国际标准化报告标准

Frontiers-CMCR 中医药研究前沿 2025年07月15日 09:43 美国

（临床研究中心）
于2025年7月1日
在BMJ evidence-based medicine (IF=9.8)
发表了一篇名为
《CARE extension guideline for acupuncture case reports》
针灸病例报告的CARE扩展指南
病例报告报告标准CARE
（CAse REport statement）的
针刺扩展版CARE for Acupuncture。

Research methods and reporting

OPEN ACCESS

CARE extension guideline for acupuncture case reports

Yuting Duan [1,2] Zhirui Xu [1,2] Yongqi Zhang [3] Shujuan Liu [2] Juexuan Chen [4] Yaolong Chen [5] Nenggui Xu [3] Chunzhi Tang [3] Peijing Rong [6] Liming Lu [3] Yu Wang [7] Ye-Seul Lee [8] Tae-Hun Kim [9] David S Riley [10] Lin Shi [1,2] Myeong Soo Lee [11] Lin Yu [1,2]

News and photo adapted from link below:

研究主要发现及亮点

本研究是首个基于 CARE 指南针对针刺病例报告的国际标准化报告标准。该报告标准不仅整合了中西医视角，还兼顾不同流派（如中医针灸、韩医、日医等）与国际多样性。

CARE for Acupuncture 遵循 EQAUTOR 协作网报告标准研发程序进行制定，我们希望它能够指引针灸领域的作者、编辑、同行评议专家和读者提高针刺病例报告稿件的透明度、完整性和准确性。

研究背景及研究目的

现有国际病例报告报告标准是 CARE，但其缺乏针刺特异性，针刺病例报告关键信息是缺失的（如针具细节、辨证论治、不良反应）。

研究旨在制定首个针刺病例报告报告标准（CARE for Acupuncture），提升报告透明度、完整性和可重复性。

Yuting Duan [1,2], Zhirui Xu [1,2], Yongqi Zhang [3], Shujuan Liu [2], Juexuan Chen [4], Yaolong Chen [5], Nenggui Xu [3], Chunzhi Tang [3], Peijing Rong [6], Liming Lu [3], Yu Wang [7], Ye-Seul Lee [8], Tae-Hun Kim [9], David S Riley [10], Lin Shi [1,2], Myeong Soo Lee [11], Lin Yu [1,2]

Correspondence to Dr Yuting Duan; duanyt@gzhmu.edu.cn; Dr Lin Yu; yul@gzhmu.edu.cn; Professor Myeong Soo Lee; drmsleee@gmail.com

Abstract

Existing reporting checklists lack the specificity and comprehensiveness required to effectively guide the documentation of acupuncture case reports. Therefore, we developed a reporting guideline tailored specifically for acupuncture case reports, building upon the CAse REport (CARE) statement. A multidisciplinary group of international experts including clinicians, researchers and methodologists was convened to draft the initial checklist in accordance with the methodology recommended by the Enhancing the QUAlity and Transparency Of health Research (EQUATOR) network. Through an extensive literature review and a series of expert interviews, the final CARE for acupuncture checklist comprised of 30 items. 38 experts from diverse disciplines participated in three rounds of modified Delphi surveys to refine and clarify these items. CARE for acupuncture is a comprehensive reporting guideline focused on acupuncture case reports developed with rigorous methodology. We hope that CARE for acupuncture will further guide authors, editors, peer reviewers and readers to enhance the transparency, completeness and accuracy of reporting of case reports in acupuncture.

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

Detail: https://ebm.bmj.com/content/early/2025/07/01/bmjebm-2025-113641

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjebm-2025-113641

vi Research group from the College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China have recently published " A hierarchically assembled oral formulation with drug-convertible carriers for targeted ulcerative colitis therapy through a three-pronged strategy"

【机制研究】IF 21.8 陈孝银、邓力、张奕团队：基于中医“君 - 臣 - 佐 - 使”理论提出结肠炎治疗新思路

Frontiers-CMCR 中医药研究前沿 2025年08月15日 11:39 美国

暨南大学中医学院陈孝银/邓力、
暨南大学生物医学工程研究所张奕团队
于2025年6月19日
在 Advanced Composites and Hybrid Materials (IF=21.8)
发表了一篇名为
《A hierarchically assembled oral formulation with drug-convertible carriers for targeted ulcerative colitis therapy through a three-pronged strategy》
一种分层组装的口服制剂，采用可转化药物载体，通过三管齐下的策略实现溃疡性结肠炎的靶向治疗


Home > Advanced Composites and Hybrid Materials > Article

A hierarchically assembled oral formulation with drug-convertible carriers for targeted ulcerative colitis therapy through a three-pronged strategy

Research | Open access | Published: 19 June 2025
Volume 8, article number 280, (2025) Cite this article

News and photo adapted from link below:

研究亮点

研究从传统中医“君 - 臣 - 佐 - 使”用药理论的出发，创新性地将该药物配伍原则与现代药物递送系统技术相结合，提出一种分级组装的口服递送制剂（BD/PA@SA）用于 UC 的多靶点治疗，同时干预 UC 的三大病理机制（炎症、粘膜损伤和肠道微生物群紊乱），最大限度地提高治疗效果。

研究背景

溃疡性结肠炎（UC）是一种炎症性肠病，其特征是结肠反复炎症发作、上皮屏障缺陷和菌群失调。目前用于治疗 UC 的药物包括 5-ASA、皮质类固醇等。然而，这些治疗对 UC 的缓解率低。此外，由于它们的药物机制侧重于抗炎作用，其靶点有限。菌群失调与 UC 的发生或进展密切相关，并可进一步导致肠道粘膜损伤。

目前，没有批准的药物可以通过微生物群调节、屏障修复和抗炎作用同时治疗 UC。因此，开发新型口服给药系统以实现 UC 治疗的多靶点治疗仍然至关重要。


Advanced Composites and Hybrid Materials (2025) 8:280
https://doi.org/10.1007/s42114-025-01362-6

RESEARCH

A hierarchically assembled oral formulation with drug-convertible carriers for targeted ulcerative colitis therapy through a three-pronged strategy

Yawen Jiang[1] · Huachong Xu[1] · Jialin Wu[1] · Tao Sun[2] · Hongji Lu[1] · Shiqi Wang[1] · Guosen Ou[1] · Shulei Wei[1] · Yiwen Lv[1] · Tangjuan Liu[1] · Yaokang Chen[1] · Baoyi Feng[2] · Wujing Zhang[1] · Zexuan Guo[1] · Lu Xu[1] · Yi Zhang[2,3] · Li Deng[1,4] · Xiaoyin Chen[1]

Received: 12 February 2025 / Revised: 14 May 2025 / Accepted: 6 June 2025
© The Author(s) 2025

Abstract
Ulcerative colitis (UC) is a serious global disease whose incidence has been increasing. Currently, its clinical therapies are mainly anti-inflammatory agents and still result in a remission rate of less than 60%. Therefore, developing novel oral delivery systems to achieve multitarget therapy for UC treatment remains crucial. This study develops a hierarchically assembled oral delivery formulation for targeted UC therapy through a three-pronged strategy, including anti-inflammatory effects, barrier restoration, and microbiota modulation. Specifically, berberine and dehydrocostus lactone (BD), which are compatible bioactive molecules derived from herbs, are embedded into nano/microscale protein aggregates (PA) for prolonged retention and sustained drug release. Subsequently, BD-embedded PA (BD/PA) is encapsulated by sodium alginate microspheres (@SA) to yield BD/PA@SA for colon-targeted delivery. The coordination of components in BD/PA@SA considerably extends the drugs' bioavailability up to 1 week at approximately 1/20 original dosage and targets the three most important pathological features (inflammation, mucosal barrier damage, and gut microbiota disorders) of UC to achieve excellent three-pronged efficacy. Importantly, the delivery carriers (PA and @SA) can be converted into short-chain fatty acids through microbial metabolism to treat UC, as confirmed by the microbiome, metabolomics, and transcriptomics analyses. This work presents a hierarchically assembled oral formulation effective against UC, utilizing carriers that can achieve 1-week retention and sustained drug release, along with the drug-convertible capacity to maximize therapeutic efficacy.

Keywords Oral delivery system · Convertible carrier · Herbal combination · Ulcerative colitis · Three-pronged · Protein aggregate

Yawen Jiang, Huachong Xu, Jialin Wu, and Tao Sun contributed equally to this work.

✉ Yi Zhang
zhangyi_0424hot@163.com
✉ Li Deng
dengli@jnu.edu.cn
✉ Xiaoyin Chen
tchenxiaoyin@jnu.edu.cn
1 College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Jinan University, Guangzhou 510632, China
2 Key Laboratory of Biomaterials of Guangdong Higher Education Institutes, Engineering Technology Research Center of Drug Carrier of Guangdong, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Jinan University, Guangzhou 510632, China
3 Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Spine and Spinal Cord Reconstruction, The Fifth Affiliated Hospital (Heyuan Shenhe People's Hospital), Jinan University, Heyuan 517000, China
4 Guangdong Provincial Key Laboratory of Traditional Chinese Medicine Informatization, Jinan University, Guangzhou 510632, China

Published online: 19 June 2025
Springer

Journal: ***Advanced Composites and Hybrid Materials***

Detail: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s42114-025-01362-6
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/s42114-025-01362-6

vii FDA and EMA Approval: HKU Medical School Develops Oral Arsenic-Based Leukemia Drug with 97% Cure Rate

CHINA DAILY | HONG KONG

NEWS > Hong Kong > Content

Published: 18:44, February 10, 2025 | Updated: 19:35, February 10, 2025

HKU develops blood cancer treatment with 97% cure rate

By Fang Xue in Hong Kong

Harry Gill (right), clinical associate professor from the University of Hong Kong's Department of Medicine, and his colleagues present samples of a drug for acute promyelocytic leukemia that has a 97-percent cure rate on Feb 10, 2025. (FANG XUE / CHINA DAILY)

科研成果 | 获 FDA 和 EMA 认证：港大医学院研发口服砒霜白血病药物 97% 治愈率，首款全球化香港处方药物，开创癌症治疗新篇章

香港大学李嘉诚医学院（港大医学院）研究团队成功研发的三氧化二砷（俗称砒霜）口服药剂（药用口服砒霜或 ARSENOL®），可用于治疗一种死亡率高的血癌——急性早幼粒细胞白血病（acute promyelocytic leukaemia，APL）。药用口服砒霜的发明和应用是香港医学史上的重要里程碑，意义深远。**这不仅是香港首款自主发明和制造的处方药，也是首个获得美国、欧洲和日本专利的药物。**经过二十年的不懈努力，港大医学院研究团队成功转化香港研发成果为临床应用，将药用口服砒霜纳入 APL 患者的治疗方案。过往广泛的临床研究结果显示，**药用口服砒霜具有高效性和安全性，APL 患者的整体存活率超过 97%，能显著减轻副作用和治疗负担。**

01. 具历史意义的香港发明 : 药用口服砒霜治 apl 成效卓著

港大医学院的研究团队在药用口服砒霜治疗 APL 已进行超过 20 年的广泛研究。在一项为期 15 年的前瞻性随访研究中，超过 400 名复发性 APL 患者接受以药用口服砒霜为基础的治疗方案后，其分子生物学缓解率（molecular remission rate）和五年整体存活率分别高达 100% 和 80%。这些成果是在未进行骨髓移植的情况下实现的；**骨髓移植是一种高度有毒的治疗方法，但全球多个没有药用口服砒霜药剂的地区仍采用此方法。**

随后，研究团队将药用口服砒霜作为首次缓解后的维持治疗，喜证五年无白血病存活率和整体存活率分别达至 90% 和 97%。下一步是将药用口服砒霜纳入新确诊 APL 患者的第一线诱导治疗，并达至五年内 100% 无白血病的存活率和整体存活率。综合目前的研究结果，港大医学院的研究人员已制定一套治疗计划，重点包括及早开始治疗、提供必要的支援性护理，以及在第一线诱导治疗中使用药用口服砒霜。这套治疗计划能有效减低 APL 并发症所引致的早期死亡率，过去这一比例可高达 20% 至 30%。

研究团队目前正在香港测试一种全口服治疗方案（简称 AAA），由药用口服砒霜（Oral-ATO）、全反式维甲酸（all-trans retinoic acid，ATRA）及抗坏血酸（ascorbic acid）组成，并根据不同 APL 患者的风险进行调整。

News and photo adapted from link below:
https://www.herbalgram.org/resources/herbalgram/issues/142/table-of-contents/hg142-feat-nomenclature/
https://kew.iro.bl.uk/concern/articles/cae8e4a1-135c-47b5-9f32-b13a6a4d28a8

Topical and transdermal botanical formulations of the Chinese pharmacopoeia—A review

Journal: ***Phytotherapy Research***

Detail: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ptr.8286

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1002/ptr.8286

Received: 24 February 2024 | Revised: 16 June 2024 | Accepted: 18 June 2024
DOI: 10.1002/ptr.8286

REVIEW

WILEY

Topical and transdermal botanical formulations of the Chinese pharmacopoeia—A review

Jingyi Gu[1] | Majella E. Lane[1] | Bruno Da Silva Sil Dos Santos[2] | Michael Heinrich[3,4]

[1]Department of Pharmaceutics, UCL School of Pharmacy, University of London, London, UK
[2]School of Human Sciences, London Metropolitan University, London, UK
[3]Department of Chinese Pharmaceutical Sciences and Chinese Medicine Resources, College of Chinese Medicine, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan, China
[4]Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, UCL School of Pharmacy, University of London, London, UK

Correspondence
Jingyi Gu, Department of Pharmaceutics, UCL School of Pharmacy, University of London, 29-39 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AX, UK.
Email: ucbtjgu@ucl.ac.uk

Abstract

In pharmaceutics, ingredients are classified as active ingredients and excipients. In topical/transdermal phytomedicines, an ingredient may serve both functions. Published information on these dual-purpose ingredients and their pharmacological relevance is limited. An intriguing scenario arises in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) formulations, where active ingredients and excipients are undifferentiated. This study analyzes ingredients in TCM topical/transdermal formulations, aiming at harmonization of understanding of TCMs. The most commonly recorded ingredients from such formulations in the Chinese pharmacopoeia 2020 (ChP 2020) are reviewed, aiming at developing innovative topical/transdermal phytomedicines. Current editions of Chinese historical documents were reviewed to explore the principles underlying the use of these ingredients. TCM formulations containing botanical drugs for topical/transdermal application were selected from the ChP 2020. The use of botanical materials in TCM formulations is guided by the "Jun-Chen-Zuo-Shi" principle rooted in Yin-Yang and the five elements' theories. In the ChP 2020, 155 botanical drugs, along with 40 excipients (from the "procedure" section, focusing on processing and technical parameters), were identified from 34 botanical formulations intended for topical/transdermal application. Pungent and aromatic botanical materials were the most frequently recorded. Adhesive plasters were the most commonly recorded TCM dosage form, employing specific matrix blends. This new perspective of study reveals the prevalence of pungent and aromatic botanical materials, the common use of adhesive plasters, multifunctional properties of botanical oils, and formulation adaptability in TCM topical/transdermal products. These insights should inform novel formulation designs for both pharmaceutical and phytopharmacological research.

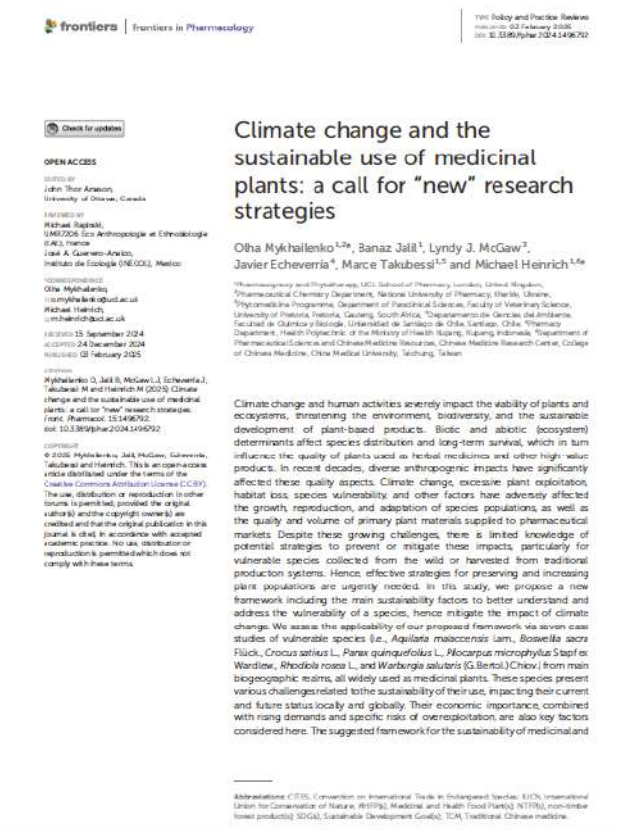
KEYWORDS
botanical formulation, Chinese pharmacopoeia, ingredient, topical, transdermal

ii Climate change and the sustainable use of medicinal plants: a call for "new" research strategies

Journal: ***Phytotherapy Research***

Detail: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ptr.8286

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1002/ptr.8286



frontiers | frontiers in Pharmacology

Climate change and the sustainable use of medicinal plants: a call for "new" research strategies

Abstract

Climate change and human activities severely impact the viability of plants and ecosystems, threatening the environment, biodiversity, and the sustainable development of plant-based products. Biotic and abiotic (ecosystem) determinants affect species distribution and long-term survival, which in turn influence the quality of plants used as herbal medicines and other high-value products. In recent decades, diverse anthropogenic impacts have significantly affected these quality aspects. Climate change, excessive plant exploitation, habitat loss, species vulnerability, and other factors have adversely affected the growth, reproduction, and adaptation of species populations, as well as the quality and volume of primary plant materials supplied to pharmaceutical markets. Despite these growing challenges, there is limited knowledge of potential strategies to prevent or mitigate these impacts, particularly for vulnerable species collected from the wild or harvested from traditional production systems. Hence, effective strategies for preserving and increasing plant populations are urgently needed. In this study, we propose a new framework including the main sustainability factors to better understand and address the vulnerability of a species, hence mitigate the impact of climate change. We assess the applicability of our proposed framework via seven case studies of vulnerable species (i.e., Aquilaria malaccensis Lam., Boswellia sacra Flück., Crocus sativus L., Panax quinquefolius L., Pilocarpus microphyllus Stapf ex Wardlew., Rhodiola rosea L., and Warburgia salutaris (G.Bertol.) Chiov.) from main biogeographic realms, all widely used as medicinal plants. These species present various challenges related to the sustainability of their use, impacting their current and future status locally and globally. Their economic importance, combined with rising demands and specific risks of overexploitation, are also key factors considered here. The suggested framework for the sustainability of medicinal and other high-value plant-based products in the phytopharmaceutical industry emphasises strategies that promote conservation and sustainable resource use. It can also be adapted for other vulnerable species requiring urgent attention.

iii Understanding the research landscape of over-the-counter herbal products, dietary supplements, and medications evaluated for depressive symptoms in adults: a scoping review

Journal: *Frontiers in Pharmacology*

Detail: https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/pharmacology/articles/10.3389/fphar.2025.1609605/full

DOI: https://doi.org/10.3389/fphar.2025.1609605

frontiers | Frontiers in Pharmacology

TYPE Systematic Review
PUBLISHED 15 July 2025
DOI 10.3389/fphar.2025.1609605

OPEN ACCESS

EDITED BY
Andrea Orellana-Manzano,
Facultad de Ciencias de la Vida (FCV), Ecuador

REVIEWED BY
Xiaoyu Dong,
Shengjing Hospital of China Medical University, China
Mudassir Alam,
Aligarh Muslim University, India
Xuanpeng Wang,
Dalian Polytechnic University, China

*CORRESPONDENCE
Rachael Frost,
r.h.frost@ljmu.ac.uk

RECEIVED 10 April 2025
ACCEPTED 19 May 2025
PUBLISHED 15 July 2025

CITATION
Frost R, Zamri A, Mathew S, Salame A, Bhanu C, Bhamra SK, Bazo-Alvarez JC, Heinrich M and Walters K (2025) Understanding the research landscape of over-the-counter herbal products, dietary supplements, and medications evaluated for depressive symptoms in adults: a scoping review. *Front. Pharmacol.* 16:1609605. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2025.1609605

Understanding the research landscape of over-the-counter herbal products, dietary supplements, and medications evaluated for depressive symptoms in adults: a scoping review

Rachael Frost[1,2]*, Aiman Zamri[2], Silvy Mathew[2], Adriana Salame[3], Cini Bhanu[2], Sukvinder K. Bhamra[4], Juan Carlos Bazo-Alvarez[2,5], Michael Heinrich[6,7] and Kate Walters[2]

[1]School of Public and Allied Health, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, United Kingdom, [2]Department of Primary Care and Population Health, University College London, London, United Kingdom, [3]Division of Medicine, University College London, London, United Kingdom, [4]Medway School of Pharmacy, University of Kent, Kent, United Kingdom, [5]Escuela de Medicina, Universidad Cesar Vallejo, Trujillo, Peru, [6]UCL School of Pharmacy, University College London, London, United Kingdom, [7]China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan

Background: Over-the-counter (OTC) products such as herbal medical products (HMPs) or dietary supplements are a valued part of preventative and supportive self-care for depressive symptoms, but there is a wide array of products available, with differing levels of clinical evidence. It is unclear what the optimal directions for future research in this field are.

Aim: We aimed to explore the size and nature of the evidence base available for OTC products for depression in adults aged 18–60.

Methods: We carried out a scoping review following Joanna Briggs Institute guidance. We searched MEDLINE, Embase, PsycINFO, AMED, and CENTRAL from inception to December 2022, and 10% of the results were screened by two authors and the remainder by one author. We included randomised controlled trials of products commonly available OTC in multiple countries in participants with symptoms or a diagnosis of depression. Results were narratively summarised by the product and volume of evidence available.

Results: Out of 23,933 records found, we screened 1,367 full texts and included 209 trials. The largest volume of evidence was for omega-3s, St John's Wort, saffron, probiotics, and vitamin D. Among a range of herbal medical products with promising evidence, those most commonly used and thus warranting further research were lavender, lemon balm, chamomile, and Echium. For 41 products, we found only single trials. Few products presented safety issues, whether used alone or adjunctively with antidepressants.

Conclusion: Products with limited but promising evidence included folic acid, lavender, zinc, tryptophan, Rhodiola, and lemon balm, and future research should focus on these products. There is a need for further evaluation of herbal medical

iv International clinical practice guideline on the use of traditional Chinese medicine for functional dyspepsia (2025)

Journal: ***Journal of Integrative Medicine***

Detail: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2095496425000640?via%3Dihub

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joim.2025.05.00

ARTICLE IN PRESS

Journal of Integrative Medicine xxx (xxxx) xxx

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Journal of Integrative Medicine

journal homepage: www.jcimjournal.com/jim
www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-integrative-medicine

Clinical Practice Guidelines

International clinical practice guideline on the use of traditional Chinese medicine for functional dyspepsia (2025)

Sheng-sheng Zhang [a,*], Lu-qing Zhao [a], Xiao-hua Hou [b], Zhao-xiang Bian [c], Jian-hua Zheng [d], Hai-he Tian [e], Guan-hu Yang [f], Won-sook Hong [g], Yu-ying He [h], Li Liu [i], Hong Shen [j], Yan-ping Li [k], Sheng Xie [l], Jin Shu [m], Bin-fang Zeng [n], Jun-xiang Li [o], Zhen Liu [p], Zheng-hua Xiao [q], Jing-dong Xiao [r], Pei-yong Zheng [s], Shao-gang Huang [t], Sheng-liang Chen [u], Gui-jun Fei [v]

[a] *Digestive Disease Center, Beijing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Beijing 100010, China*
[b] *Department of Gastroenterology, Union Hospital, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan 430022 Hubei Province, China*
[c] *Chinese Medicine Clinical Study Center, School of Chinese Medicine, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong 999077, China*
[d] *Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Society of Australia Ltd, Sydney 2166, Australia*
[e] *American TCM Association (ATCMA), Vienna, VA 22182, USA*
[f] *Department of Specialty Medicine, Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701, USA*
[g] *Shanghai Hechuan-Rhine TCM Hospital, Shanghai 200240, China*
[h] *Yuying TCM Clinic, Paya Lebar Square, S409051, Singapore*
[i] *College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Shaanxi University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Xianyang 712046 Shaanxi Province, China*
[j] *Department of Gastroenterology, Jiangsu Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine, Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, Nanjing 210029 Jiangsu Province, China*
[k] *Department of Gastroenterology, Chongqing Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Chongqing 400000, China*
[l] *Department of Administration, the First Affiliated Hospital of Guangxi University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Nanning 530021, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China*
[m] *Gansu Provincial Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Lanzhou 730050 Gansu Province, China*
[n] *College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Xinjiang Medical University, Urumqi 830011, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China*
[o] *Department of Gastroenterology, Dongfang Hospital, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, Beijing 100078, China*
[p] *Department of Gastroenterology, Guang'anmen Hospital, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, Beijing 100053, China*
[q] *Department of Gastroenterology, the Second Affiliated Hospital of Guizhou University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Guiyang 550003 Guizhou Province, China*
[r] *Department of Digestive Diseases, Liaoning University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Shenyang 110032 Liaoning Province, China*
[s] *Institute of Digestive Disease, Longhua Hospital, Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Shanghai 200032, China*
[t] *State Key Laboratory of Dampness Syndrome of Chinese Medicine, the Second Affiliated Hospital of Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, Guangzhou 510120 Guangdong Province, China*
[u] *Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Renji Hospital, School of Medicine, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Shanghai 200127, China*
[v] *Department of Gastroenterology, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100730, China*

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 28 November 2024
Accepted 28 February 2025
Available online xxxx

Keywords:
Functional dyspepsia
Guideline
Traditional Chinese Medicine

ABSTRACT

Functional dyspepsia (FD), characterized by persistent or recurrent dyspeptic symptoms without identifiable organic, systemic or metabolic causes, is an increasingly recognized global health issue. The objective of this guideline is to equip clinicians and nursing professionals with evidence-based strategies for the management and treatment of adult patients with FD using traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). The Guideline Development Group consulted existing TCM consensus documents on FD and convened a panel of 35 clinicians to generate initial clinical queries. To address these queries, a systematic literature search was conducted across PubMed, EMBASE, the Cochrane Library, China National Knowledge Infrastructure (CNKI), VIP Database, China Biology Medicine (SinoMed) Database, Wanfang Database, Traditional Medicine Research Data Expanded (TMRDE), and the Traditional Chinese Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System (TCMLARS). The evidence from the literature was critically appraised using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development, and Evaluation (GRADE) approach. The strength of the recommendations was ascertained through a consensus-building process involving TCM and allopathic medicine experts, methodologists, pharmacologists, nursing specialists, and health economists, leveraging their collective expertise and empirical knowledge. The guideline comprises a

* Corresponding author.
E-mail address: zhangshengsheng@bjzhongyi.com (S.S. Zhang).

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joim.2025.05.002

Please cite this article as: S.S. Zhang, L.Q. Zhao, X.H. Hou et al. International clinical practice guideline on the use of traditional Chinese medicine for functional dyspepsia (2025), Journal of Integrative Medicine, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joim.2025.05.002

V

Evaluating the role of large language models in traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis and treatment recommendations

Journal: ***npj Digital Medicine***

Detail: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-025-01845-2

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41746-025-01845-2

npj | digital medicine

Article

Published in partnership with Seoul National University Bundang Hospital

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41746-025-01845-2

Evaluating the role of large language models in traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis and treatment recommendations

Yu Liu[1], Yishan Yuan[2], Keming Yan[1], Yuanyuan Li[1], Valeria Sacca[1], Sierra Hodges[1], Mattia Cannistra[1], Pauline Jeong[1], Jiani Wu[1] & Jian Kong[1] ✉

Digital health technologies hold significant potential for reducing global healthcare disparities. Large language models (LLMs) offer new opportunities to enhance access to culturally specific healthcare, including traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). This study evaluated the diagnostic and treatment performance of seven publicly available LLMs using a real-world acupuncture case, comparing their outputs with three professional acupuncturists across five domains: Western diagnosis, TCM diagnosis, acupoint selection, needling technique, and herbal medicine. Twenty-eight expert evaluators from China, South Korea, and the United States assessed the responses using a multilingual survey. LLMs performed comparably to acupuncturists in Western diagnosis and showed variable performance in TCM-specific tasks. GPT-4o, Qwen 2.5 Max, and Doubao 1.5 Pro demonstrated the highest alignment with expert evaluations, particularly in TCM diagnosis and acupoint selection. These findings highlight the potential of general-purpose LLMs to support culturally grounded medical decision-making and reduce access barriers in TCM care systems.

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) offers therapeutic approaches through herbal medicine, acupuncture, and Qigong to support neurological disorders[1,2], mental health[3,4], pain relief[5,6], women's health and fertility[7,8], cancer care[9,10], chronic conditions[11,12], disease prevention[13,14], and overall wellness[15,16]. These approaches emphasize personalized treatment based on individual patient assessment, syndrome differentiation[17], and many other disorders/conditions. However, global adoption of TCM faces significant barriers. Its philosophical foundations, such as Yin-Yang balance[18], five elements, and Qi flow[19], are deeply rooted in Chinese philosophy, making them difficult to translate into global and modern scientific biomedical models[20]. Additionally, the diagnostic approach in TCM also differs significantly from modern Western medicine; while Western protocols typically follow standardized pathways, TCM adopts a more personalized and nonlinear diagnosis approach[21]. These philosophical and methodological differences create substantial and fundamental cultural and systemic barriers to global reach and adoption of TCM, affecting broader health equity. Populations unfamiliar with the cultural context of TCM struggle to fully understand and trust its practices, limiting their access to its potential benefits. Addressing these cultural disparities is essential for transforming TCM into a globally inclusive healthcare option.

Recent advances in digital health technologies, particularly large language models (LLMs), present an innovative opportunity for making TCM more globally accessible[22–25]. LLMs have proven valuable in clinical decision support, diagnostics, and medical documentation[26–29], while also playing an expanding role in medical education[30–32]. Furthermore, their multilingual capabilities and adaptability enable more inclusive digital health solutions, ensuring accessibility for diverse populations through culturally and linguistically tailored applications[33,34]. However, the use of LLMs for TCM presents unique challenges due to its complex philosophical and linguistic nuances. For example, adapting LLMs to TCM-specific tasks such as syndrome differentiation, acupuncture point selection, and herbal medicine recommendations, require LLMs to bridge significant cultural and theoretical gaps[35]. Thus, successfully integrating LLMs into TCM practice demands not only technological advancements but also a deeper understanding of cross-cultural medical translation capabilities.

This study aims to evaluate the performance of LLMs in diagnosing and recommending treatments for a complex real-world acupuncture case study by comparing the performance of seven general-purpose LLMs with professional acupuncturists. Specifically, we test three hypotheses: (1) can

[1]Department of Psychiatry, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Charlestown, MA, USA. [2]Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, Beijing, China. ✉e-mail: jkong2@mgh.harvard.edu

vi

The Lancet One Health Commission: harnessing our interconnectedness for equitable, sustainable, and healthy socioecological systems

Journal: ***Frontiers in Pharmacology***

Detail: https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)00627-0/fulltext

DOI: 10.1016/S0140-6736(25)00627-0

The Lancet Commissions

The *Lancet* One Health Commission: harnessing our interconnectedness for equitable, sustainable, and healthy socioecological systems

Andrea S Winkler, Christina Marie Brux*, Hélène Carabin†, Carlos G das Neves†, Barbara Häsler†, Jakob Zinsstag†, Eric Maurice Fèvre‡, Anna Okello‡, Gabrielle Laing‡, Wendy Elizabeth Harrison‡, Anna K Pöntinen, Annalena Huber, Arne Ruckert, Barbara Natterson-Horowitz, Bernadette Abela, Cécile Aenishaenslin, David L Heymann, Ernst Kristian Rødland, Franck C J Berthe, Ilaria Capua, James Sejvar, Juan Lubroth, Jukka Corander, Jürgen May, Laura Franziska Roth, Lian Francesca Thomas, Lucille Blumberg, Maria Knight Lapinski, Matthew Stone, Melvin Katey Agbogbatey, Ning Xiao, Osama Ahmed Hassan, Osman Dar, Peter Daszak, Renzo R Guinto, Sera Senturk, Sundeep Sahay, Thelma Alafia Samuels, Yngvild Wasteson, John H Amuasi§*

Executive summary

Industrialisation, urbanisation, and globalisation have substantially improved human life expectancy over the past century. In tandem, an expanding array of interlinked threats to humans, other animals, plants, and a myriad of other biotic and abiotic elements in our shared ecosystems has been generated. These threats include emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), non-communicable diseases (NCDs), jeopardised food safety and security, freshwater scarcity, climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. These pressing health and sustainability challenges exceed the scope of any single discipline, government ministry, or societal sector, underscoring the need for interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multisectoral collaboration, as well as for a socioecologically oriented systems perspective that appreciates the fundamental interconnections between humans, other animals, and the wider ecosystem.

When this Commission first convened in 2019, One Health was a highly visible, but also greatly evolving, concept and approach. Predominantly driven by the veterinary sector, the primary focus of One Health in early years had been on zoonotic diseases, but more recent years have seen an increasingly interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary expansion and diversification of the concept, a proliferation of initiatives, and growing concerns about fragmentation and insufficient conceptual clarity. There was a need to advance not only conceptual expansion, but also consensus, as well as aligned, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and multisectoral efforts towards One Health operationalisation, implementation, and institutionalisation. We set out to address these needs and leverage One Health as a crucial and viable approach to achieving equitable, sustainable, and healthy socioecological systems—the vision of the *Lancet* One Health Commission. The zoonotic underpinnings of the COVID-19 pandemic and its wide-ranging effects across sectors necessitated a radical rethink of the role of One Health in pursuing sustainable development and substantially shaped the importance and trajectories of the Commission's work.

The Commission's methodology entailed convening a diverse, transnational, and interdisciplinary group of experts, who conducted an informed synthesis and appraisal of the current state of knowledge and evidence regarding the need for and value of One Health, which resulted in the proposal of key avenues for One Health operationalisation, implementation, and institutionalisation. We build on new and evolving One Health advances, including the One Health Joint Plan of Action, launched by the One Health Quadripartite, and the definition of One Health, One Health principles, and theory of change put forth by the One Health High-Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP).

This Commission is guided by a One Health ethos comprising principles of holism and systems thinking, epistemological pluralism, equity and egalitarianism, and stewardship and sustainability. The Commission also engages a socioecological systems perspective that sheds light on the crucial importance of the environment, including plants, soil, water, air, wildlife, biodiversity, and climate. In our approach, we have deliberately avoided boundaries between humans, other animals, and the environment. As reflected in the key messages, the evidence synthesis and appraisal was structured via sections dedicated to surveillance, infectious diseases, AMR, NCDs, health systems, and food systems.

The *Lancet* One Health Commission provides a cutting-edge appraisal of where One Health has come from, where it is now, and what a viable future should be. One Health was not mentioned in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; however, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic brought into acute focus the fundamental interconnections between humans, other animals, plants, and a myriad of other biotic and abiotic elements in the ecosystem, and, consequently, how healthy sustainable socioecological systems could be achieved via a One Health approach. The consensus around One Health that has been built by the One Health Quadripartite and OHHLEP, which has been reinforced by this Commission, is essential for addressing the threats to health posed by infectious diseases, AMR, NCDs, and planetary crises; harnessing data and artificial intelligence for disease surveillance and health-care delivery; forging equitable partnerships and inclusive collaborations; and generating necessary insight into socioecological interconnection. As such, One Health is a crucial catalyst in the pursuit of an equitable, sustainable,

Lancet 2025; 406: 501–70

Published Online July 16, 2025 https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(25)00627-0

See Comment pages 424 and 426

*First authors

†Second authors and core writing team

‡Third authors and working group leads

§Senior author

Department of Neurology, Technical University of Munich University Hospital, and Center for Global Health, School of Medicine and Health, Technical University of Munich, Munich, Germany (Prof A S Winkler MD PhD, A Huber MSc, L F Roth MSc, S Senturk MBChB MSc); **Department of Community Medicine and Global Health, Institute of Health and Society, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway** (Prof A S Winkler); **Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA** (Prof A S Winkler); **Sustainable Health Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway** (C M Brux MPhil); **Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and School of Public Health, University of Montreal, Montreal, QC, Canada** (Prof H Carabin DVM PhD); **European Food Safety Authority, Parma, Italy** (Prof C G das Neves DVM PhD); **Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo, Norway** (Prof C G das Neves); **Department of Pathobiology and Population Sciences, Veterinary Epidemiology, Economics and Public Health Group, The Royal Veterinary College, Hatfield, UK**

vii The entities enabling scientific fraud at scale are large, resilient, and growing rapidly

Journal: ***Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciencesy***

Detail: https://www.pnas.org/doi/full/10.1073/pnas.2420092122

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2420092122

PNAS RESEARCH ARTICLE | SOCIAL SCIENCES

The entities enabling scientific fraud at scale are large, resilient, and growing rapidly

Reese A. K. Richardson[a,b], Spencer S. Hong[c], Jennifer A. Byrne[d,e,1], Thomas Stoeger[f,g,h,1], and Luís A. Nunes Amaral[a,b,i,j,k,1]

Affiliations are included on p. 10.

Edited by Daniel Acuña, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO; received September 30, 2024; accepted March 18, 2025 by Editorial Board Member Mark Granovetter

Science is characterized by collaboration and cooperation, but also by uncertainty, competition, and inequality. While there has always been some concern that these pressures may compel some to defect from the scientific research ethos—i.e., fail to make genuine contributions to the production of knowledge or to the training of an expert workforce—the focus has largely been on the actions of lone individuals. Recently, however, reports of coordinated scientific fraud activities have increased. Some suggest that the ease of communication provided by the internet and open-access publishing have created the conditions for the emergence of entities—paper mills (i.e., sellers of mass-produced low quality and fabricated research), brokers (i.e., conduits between producers and publishers of fraudulent research), predatory journals, who do not conduct any quality controls on submissions—that facilitate systematic scientific fraud. Here, we demonstrate through case studies that i) individuals have cooperated to publish papers that were eventually retracted in a number of journals, ii) brokers have enabled publication in targeted journals at scale, and iii), within a field of science, not all subfields are equally targeted for scientific fraud. Our results reveal some of the strategies that enable the entities promoting scientific fraud to evade interventions. Our final analysis suggests that this ability to evade interventions is enabling the number of fraudulent publications to grow at a rate far outpacing that of legitimate science.

fraud | metascience | organizations

Significance

Numerous recent scientific and journalistic investigations demonstrate that systematic scientific fraud is a growing threat to the scientific enterprise. In large measure this has been attributed to organizations known as research paper mills. We uncover footprints of activities connected to scientific fraud that extend beyond the production of fake papers to brokerage roles in a widespread network of editors and authors who cooperate to achieve the publication of scientific papers that escape traditional peer-review standards. Our analysis reveals insights into how such organizations are structured and how they operate.

Over the last four centuries, the production of scientific knowledge has increasingly become a matter of state and societal importance. The "contract" between scientists and states can be summarized thusly: In exchange for creating new knowledge that is useful to the state and training a workforce able to use that knowledge, society supports scientists with rewarding careers, good salaries, and public recognition. The success of this contract has led to an extraordinary growth in the scale and scope of the scientific enterprise (1) and to its adoption across the world (2). Indeed, some studies suggest that the wealth of a nation is closely aligned with the amount (3, 4) and quality (5) of the research it produces.

The state-supported scientific enterprise can be idealized as a public goods game (6) with numerous and diverse stakeholders. Because of the increasing complexity of the knowledge being created and increased specialization, the system relies on the good-faith assumption of genuine contributions by all participants (7–10). Scientists rely on other scientists to disclose knowledge that can be built upon, on other scientists and on publishers for the screening of scientific studies, on publishers for the dissemination of their work and on funding agencies and universities for support. Universities and funding agencies rely on scientists for evaluating the work of their peers and on the state and society for their funding. Private-sector firms rely on universities to educate a knowledgeable workforce. The state and society rely on scientists to produce knowledge that will improve well-being and state security. Etzkowitz and Leydesdorff formalized certain aspects of this web of relationships in their 'triple helix' model of knowledge-based economic development (11).

The success of this model could be in jeopardy if some stakeholders fail to contribute fairly to the tasks assigned to them. Due to the increasing scale and scope of the scientific enterprise, the degree to which stakeholders contribute to the system is now increasingly evaluated by potentially misleading proxies (12, 13) such as the h-index (14), journal impact factor, university rankings, and scientific prizes. Nonetheless, these proxies have quickly become targets for evaluation of institutional and personal impact, resulting in increasing competition and growing inequality in how resources and rewards are

Author contributions: R.A.K.R., J.A.B., T.S., and L.A.N.A. designed research; R.A.K.R., S.S.H., and L.A.N.A. performed research; R.A.K.R. and L.A.N.A. contributed new reagents/analytic tools; R.A.K.R., S.S.H., and L.A.N.A. analyzed data; and R.A.K.R., S.S.H., J.A.B., T.S., and L.A.N.A. wrote the paper.

The authors declare no competing interest.

This article is a PNAS Direct Submission. D.A. is a guest editor invited by the Editorial Board.

[1]To whom correspondence may be addressed. Email: jennifer.byrne@health.nsw.gov.au, thomas.stoeger@northwestern.edu, or amaral@northwestern.edu.

This article contains supporting information online at https://www.pnas.org/lookup/suppl/doi:10.1073/pnas.2420092122/-/DCSupplemental.

Published August 4, 2025.

viii Mapping the application of artificial intelligence in traditional medicine: technical brief

Overview

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to the capability of algorithms integrated into systems and tools to learn from data so that they can perform automated tasks without explicit programming of every step by a human. This technical brief offers insight into the rapidly evolving AI for health landscape and how it might be utilized in Traditional Medicine (TM). Regional and global examples are presented to show how AI is currently being used in TM to support evidence-informed decision-making and policy-making to improve health systems and universal health coverage (UHC). The document was developed by leveraging the findings of a literature review and supplementing this with knowledge and inputs captured during the conceptualization process with experts from the Topic Group on AI and Traditional Medicine (TG-TM) under the ITU-WHO Focus Group on Artificial Intelligence for Health (FG-AI4H).

WHO TEAM

Digital Health and Innovation (DHI), WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (TMC)

EDITORS

World Health Organization & International Telecommunication Union.

REFERENCE NUMBERS

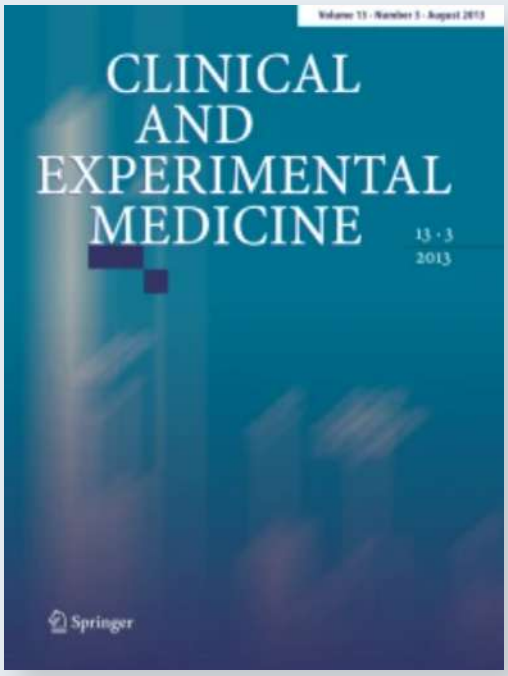
ISBN: 978-92-4-010766-3

Mapping the application of artificial intelligence in traditional medicine: technical brief

Detail: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240107663

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,** Clinical Medical College at Southwest Medical University, Luzhou, China **Ke Xu,** Chongqing University Affiliated People's Hospital **Guanhu Yang,** Beijing University of TCM and Ohio University



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

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

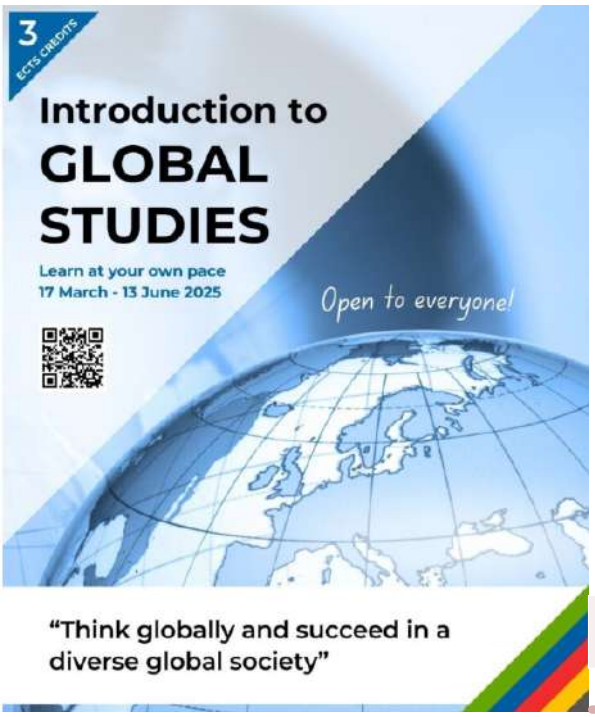
- https://www.youtube.com/@functionalmetabolomics/videos

(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

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

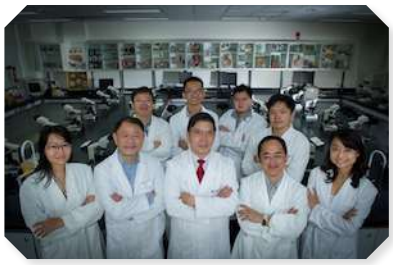
Euraxess – Belgium : Where you can find different funding opportunities for doctoral, post-doctoral, early career or internship in Belgium.

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

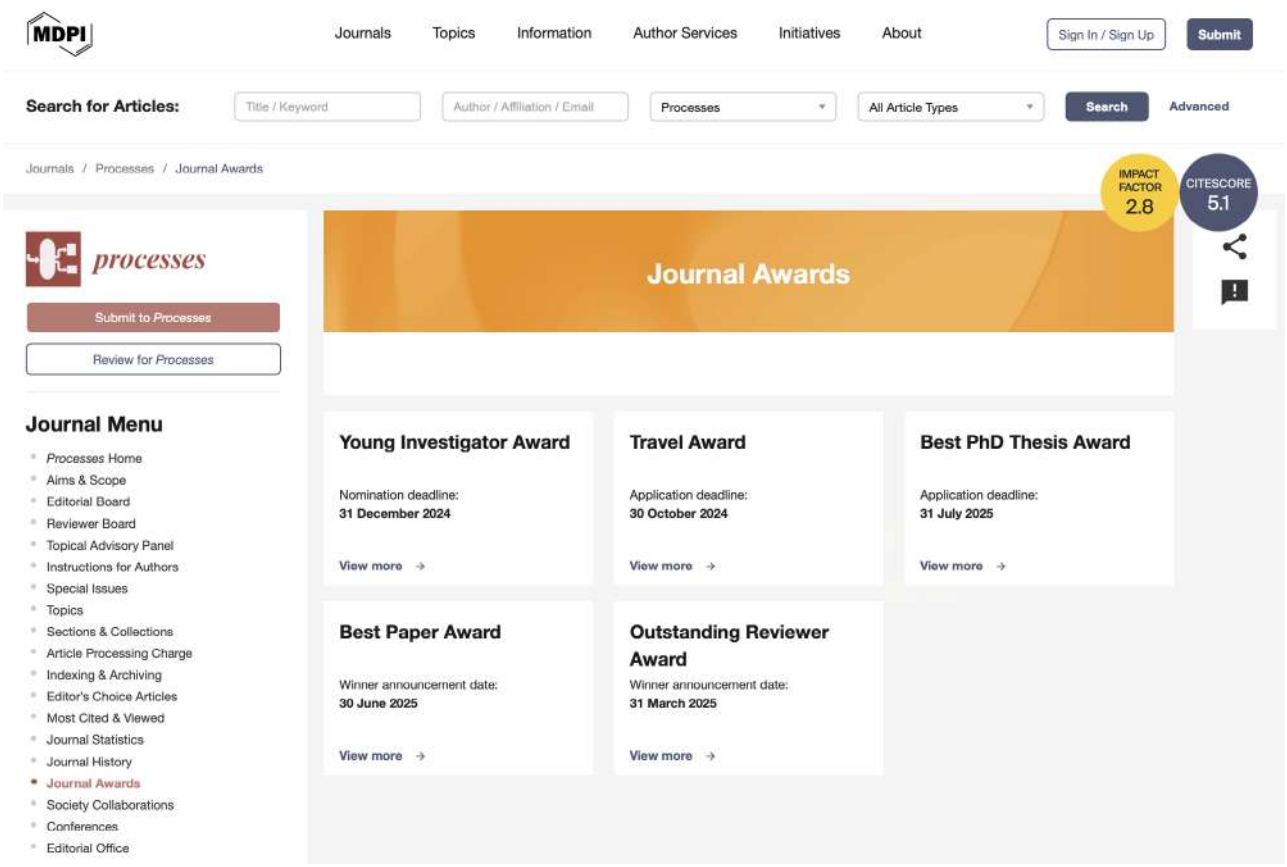
Details: https://scm.hku.hk/Views/Programme/English-MPhilPhD.html

ii

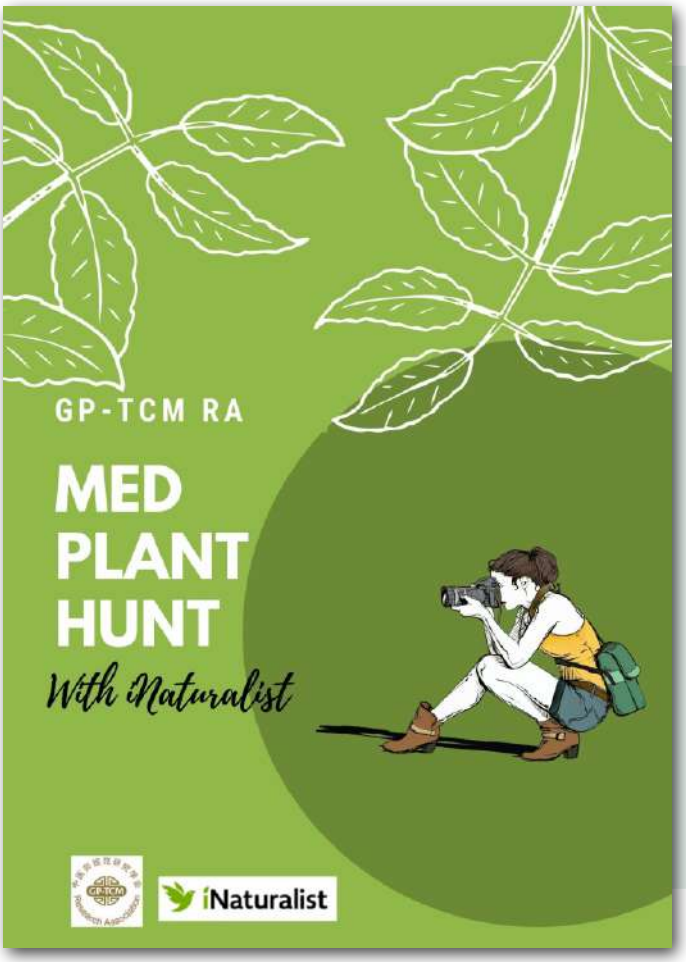
Journal Award by *Processes*

processes

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



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

Costus (*Aucklandia lappa*, Asteraceae, 云木香 , left) and elecampane (*Inula helenium*, Asteraceae, 土木香 , right)

Native to Indian Himalayas, *Aucklandia lappa* has been cultivated in China (such as in Yunnan province) since 1920s. Official in current Chinese Pharmacopeia, the dried root is the common Chinese medicinal *muxiang* (aucklandiae radix). Pungent, bitter, and warm in properties, *muxiang* promotes the movement of *qi* and alleviates pain. It is indicated for syndromes of spleen and stomach *qi* stagnation with such symptoms as epigastric or abdominal distention and pain, liver and gallbladder *qi* stagnation with such symptoms as hypochondriac or abdominal distention and pain, and jaundice. It is also an important Chinese medicinal for the treatment of tenesmus.

Native to Europe, North America, and China (such as Xinjiang province), *Inula helenium* is extensively cultivated in China (such as in Hebei province). Official in current Chinese Pharmacopeia, the dried root is known as the Chinese medicinal *tumuxiang* (inulae radix). In Chinese *materia medica*, functions and indications of *tumuxiang* are believed to be similar to that of *muxiang*. However, as a western herb as well, the underground part of elecampane is stated to have expectorant, antitussive, diaphoretic, and bactericidal properties. It is indicated for bronchial catarrh, cough associated with pulmonary tuberculosis, and dry irritating cough in children.

Attention should be paid to the scientific names of *muxiang*. *Aucklandia lappa* is treated as a synonym of *Aucklandia costus* (according to https://www.iplant.cn/) and the latter a synonym of *Dolomiaea costus* (according to https://powo.science.kew.org/).

云木香

株高两米未超群
暗紫花开疑作邻
香起云川飘九域
健脾消食入方频

土木香

矮株一见叶长圆
总是相逢西北端
枝上黄花迷蝶舞
遣方入药助胎安

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/Ecu1HczRHsBHuQa_LaBM5QwB1PEkCPBDgXwXSHY9P23QMA?nav=eyJyZWZlcnJhbEluZm8iOnsicmVmZXJyYWxBcHAiOiJPbmVEcml2ZUZvckJ1c2luZXNzIiwicmVmZXJyYWxBcHBQbGF0Zm9ybSI6IldlYiIsInJlZmVycmFsVmlld1R5cCI6InZpZXciLCJyZWZlcnJhbFZpZXciOiJNeUZpbGVzTGlua0NvcHkifX0&e=danozx

Costus (*Aucklandia lappa*, Asteraceae, 云木香 , left) and elecampane (*Inula helenium*, Asteraceae, 土木香 , right)

The July-August 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/Ecu1HczRHsBHuOa_LaBM5QwB1PEkCPBDgXwXSHY9P23QMA?nav=eyJyZWZlcnJhbEluZm8iOnsicmVmZXJyYWxBcHAiOiJPbmVEcmI2ZUZvckJ1c2luZXNzIiwicmVmZXJyYWxBcHBQbGF0Zm9ybSI6IldlYiIsInJlZmVycmFsTW9kZSI6InZpZXciLCJyZWZlcnJhbFZpZXciOiJNeUZpbGVzTGlua0NvcHkifX0&e=danozx

Back to content page