Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association

中医药规范研究学会

September-October 2026 Newsletter

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CONTENTS

A. GP-TCM RA Updates 01

A1 Editorials and editorial opinions/news
A2 Letter to editor
A3 Association updates
A4 Member's achievements
A5 Welcome new members
A6 Current Corporate Members/ Institutional Members

B. Report, Story and News 08

B1 Report
- Regional report
- Interest groups report

B2 Feature story- Interview with members or TCM experts
B3 Other hot topics and TCM news

C. Post-Conference Report

D. Recommended Reading and/or Recent Research Highlight 12

E. Upcoming Events and Calendar

F. Resources 16

F1 Journal: call for papers
F2 Research collaboration matching
F3 Research funding opportunities
F4 Career opportunities

G. Early Career Corner 20

G1 Postgraduate Opportunities
G2 Freely Accessible Learning Material
G3 International Conferences
G4 Scholarship
G5 Education program opportunities
G6 Early-career research in the news

H. Public Education and Outreach 33

I. Chinese Materia Medica Highlights 35

Save the Date: 15th GP-TCM RA Annual Meeting in Parma, Italy

We are delighted to announce that the **15th Annual Meeting of the GP-TCM RA** will take place on **27–29 July 2027 at Davines Village in Parma, Italy.**

We warmly invite all GP-TCM RA members, researchers, students, and colleagues worldwide to mark their calendars and join us for this exciting opportunity to exchange knowledge, foster international collaborations, and strengthen our global research community.

Further details regarding the scientific programme, registration, and potential pre-meeting academic activities will be announced in due course.

Save the dates — we look forward to seeing you in Italy in 2027!







ii Dr. Mei Wang visited the Chinese Pharmacopoeia Commission in Beijing

On the 15th October 2026, Mr. SHU Rong, the CPC Secretary and Secretary-General of the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (ChP) Commission, met with Dr. Mei Wang, Chair of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Working Party of the European Pharmacopoeia (TCM WP Eur. Ph.), and the experts, Mr. Erich Andreas Stöger and Professor Wang Xuanbin. Mr. HE Yi, Director of the Division of Chinese Medicines of the ChP and other officials accompanied the meeting with the visiting experts.

Experts from both sides had a full exchange on the methodologies and scientific approaches for development of quality monographs of TCM for the Eur. Ph. and the ChP, and discussed the feasibility of cooperating with the ChP Commission on the scientific issues arising in the development of monograph standards by the TCM WP.



iii GP-TCM RA members attended the World Conference on Traditional Medicine 2026 in Beijing.

李强出席 2026 世界传统医药大会开幕式并致辞

2026-10-17 18:58

2026 年 10 月 17 日上午，国务院总理李强在北京出席 2026 世界传统医药大会开幕式并致辞。

李强表示，正如习近平主席在致 2024 世界传统医药大会的贺信中指出，传统医药是人类文明创造的成果，需要代代守护、传承精华，也需要与时俱进、守正创新。当今时代，传统医药应当如何更好发挥自身作用？结合中国传统医药发展实践，我同大家分享一些体会和思考。

Please see link below for full news:
https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/web/zyxw/202610/t20261017_12042244.shtml

Photographs of GP-TCM RA members attending the meeting:



iii GP-TCM RA members attended the World Conference on Traditional Medicine 2026 in Beijing.





iii GP-TCM RA members attended the World Conference on Traditional Medicine 2026 in Beijing.





Please see link below for full interview:

https://weixin.qq.com/sph/ALMFdCtZ50
https://weixin.qq.com/sph/AUiYz1mfXu

New members of GP-TCM RA (September-October 2026)

Ordinary Members

Chen Zhao	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China
Xiaoshi Liu	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China
Patrícia Dias de Mendonça Rijo	Lusófona University, Portugal
Dennis Chang	Western Sydney University, Australia
Shirley Ngai	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, China
Alberto Carlos Pires Dias	University of Minho, Portugal
Chengxue Qin	Monash University, Australia
Kornkanok Ingkaninan	Naresuan University, Thailand
Wenyuan Shi	Hubei University of Medicine, China
Siyuan Ma	Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, China
Jeremy Y. Ng	McMaster University, Germany

Student Members

Yan Jie Chester Ng	Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Allan Karim Odoch	Hubei University of Medicine, China

Current Corporate Members

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

Current Institutional Members

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

i China's PIONEER Program for NAMs: What It Means for Chinese (and Global) Biotech

by Michael Phelan on October 8, 2026

The US has set the pace in moving drug development beyond animal testing. The FDA's 2025 Roadmap was followed by a Year One progress report in April 2026 and a draft NAMs guidance in March 2026. Streamlined nonclinical guidances now cover monoclonal antibodies and oncology biologics. In September 2026, a rule formally recognised NAMs as nonclinical tests. Behind that sit ISTAND, where the first organ-chip qualification package has just been submitted, and the NIH's Complement-ARIE validation network. In July 2026, China signalled it intends to compete. Its Center for Drug Evaluation (CDE) released draft documents for the "PIONEER Program" (Propel Innovation and Operation of NAMs to Enhance Efficiency in R&D), a five-year pilot to bring New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) such as organoids, organ-chips and in silico models into nonclinical drug evaluation.

China might be starting slightly later than the US, but it could move fast. The program is tied directly to national industrial policy. China clearly intends to shape NAMs regulation to its specific needs and opportunities rather than just copy existing approaches.

I used AI to translate two key documents of the program. Find those translations here:

- Introduction to the Pilot Program for Advancing Research and Application of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) ("Pioneer Program")
- Implementation Framework for the Pilot Program for Advancing Research and Application of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) ("Pioneer Program") (DRAFT)

Note: these are unofficial AI translations and may contain errors.

Please see link below for details:
https://innovapproach.com/2026/10/08/china-nams-pioneer/

ii WHO global research priorities and agenda for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine 2025–2034



Please see link below for details:
https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240124738

iii Global alliance for traditional medicine established in Beijing

Global alliance for traditional medicine established in Beijing

Source: Xinhua Editor: huaxia 2026-10-17 23:31:15

BEIJING, Oct. 17 (Xinhua) -- The Global Alliance for Traditional and Integrative Medicine was established Saturday in Beijing as the first international non-profit, non-governmental scientific organization dedicated to traditional medicine.

The alliance, whose secretariat is based in Beijing, was launched at the World Conference on Traditional Medicine 2026, which opened Saturday.

The alliance aims to promote international exchanges, scientific and technological cooperation, capacity building and common development in traditional, complementary and integrative medicine, helping traditional medicine better contribute to human health.

It has so far attracted 117 organizations and individuals from 19 countries and regions, according to the conference.

Membership includes social organizations, universities, research institutes, healthcare institutions, businesses, experts and youth networks involved in traditional medicine.

The alliance will focus on academic exchanges, scientific research, policy studies, standards and terminology, education and training, young talent development, knowledge protection and sharing, industrial cooperation, and international outreach.

The initiative to establish the alliance was proposed at the World Conference on Traditional Medicine 2024

Please see link below for details:
https://english.news.cn/20261017/ddbf738165a04c24b61ee3b722f71723/c.html

iv Boundless Integration and Innovation: Shaping the Future of Medicine Together — Beijing University of Chinese Medicine Hosts the Future Medicine Forum

融合创新无界 共塑医学未来——北京中医药大学举办未来医学论坛

北京中醫藥大學
Beijing University of Chinese Medicine

北京中医药大学 2026年10月20日 18:06 北京

融合创新无界
共塑医学未来
诺奖得主远道而来
中外院士同台论道
观医学之势，探融合之路
共同擘画面向人类健康的医学新图景

10 月 19 日下午，由北京中医药大学主办、北京中医药大学深圳医院（龙岗）承办的未来医学论坛在良乡校区举行。论坛以“融合创新无界，共塑医学未来”为主题。2013 年诺贝尔化学奖得主、美国国家科学院院士、英国皇家学会院士、美国斯坦福大学教授 Michael Levitt，中国工程院院士、美国医学科学院外籍院士樊代明，中国科学院院士、美国国家科学院外籍院士颜宁，加拿大皇家科学院院士、加拿大麦克马斯特大学杰出教授 Gordon Guyatt，瑞典皇家科学院院士 Dan Larhammar，中国工程院院士、北京中医药大学教授田金洲，深圳市龙岗区卫生健康局党组成员、副局长李海涛，以及来自 11 个国家和地区的院士、大学校长、卫生主管部门负责人及临床专家及师生代表 1200 余人共同参会，学校党委书记王瑶琪，校长唐志书，副校长丁霞、刘存志、张新生等出席论坛。论坛现场见证三项合作协议达成，并发布《2026 未来医学倡议书》。开幕式由副校长丁霞主持。

On the afternoon of 19 October, the Future Medicine Forum, organised by Beijing University of Chinese Medicine and hosted by the Shenzhen Hospital (Longgang) of Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, was held at the Liangxiang Campus. The theme of the forum was ‘Boundless Integration and Innovation: Shaping the Future of Medicine Together’. Michael Levitt, winner of the 2013 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Member of the US National Academy of Sciences, Fellow of the Royal Society, and Professor at Stanford University; Fan Daiming, Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and Foreign Member of the US National Academy of Medicine; Yan Ning, Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Foreign Member of the US National Academy of Sciences; Gordon Guyatt, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and Distinguished Professor at McMaster University, Canada; Dan Larhammar, Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences; Tian Jinzhou, Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and Professor at Beijing University of Chinese Medicine; Li Haitao, Member of the Party Leadership Group and Deputy Director of the Longgang District Health Bureau in Shenzhen; as well as over 1,200 participants, including academicians, university presidents, heads of health authorities, clinical experts, and representatives of staff and students from 11 countries and regions, attended the forum. Wang Yaoqi, Secretary of the University Party Committee; Tang Zhishu, President; and Vice-Presidents Ding Xia, Liu Cunzhi and Zhang Xinsheng, amongst others, attended the forum. The forum witnessed the signing of three cooperation agreements and the launch of the ‘2026 Future Medicine Initiative’. The opening ceremony was chaired by Vice-President Ding Xia.

Please see link below for full news:
https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/SON3Ezle1oOTrXZcHveziw

V University–Industry Collaboration Forum: Navigating Global Regulations to Accelerate Herbal Drug Innovation

6 November 2026 | 9:10 am – 12:15 pm (HKT) | PolyU & Online

GP-TCM RA is pleased to serve as a supporting organization for the upcoming University–Industry Collaboration Forum: Navigating Global Regulations to Accelerate Herbal Drug Innovation, hosted at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University on 6 November 2026.

The forum will bring together international experts from academia and industry to explore global regulatory challenges and opportunities in herbal drug innovation.

We are delighted that three GP-TCM RA BoD members, Prof. Rudolf Bauer, Mr. Abraham Chan and Prof. Simon Lee, together with Interest Group Chair Prof. Jianping Liu, will participate in the forum. Prof. Bauer and Prof. Liu will deliver presentations and join the panel discussion, while Mr. Chan and Prof. Lee will participate as panel members.

Online participation via Zoom and Voov is available, with simultaneous Mandarin interpretation provided.

All GP-TCM RA members are warmly invited to join!

Please scan the QR code on the poster to register.



i Global research funding for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine

Research

Global research funding for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine

Amie Steel,[a] Kirsten Baker,[a] Jon Adams,[a] Hope Foley,[a] Tristan Carter,[a] Sarah Charnaud,[b] Gustavo Martin Rossell De Almeida,[c] Philippe Doo-Kingue,[d] Pradeep Kumar Dua,[e] Pawankumar Ramesh Godatwar,[f] Eunkyung Han,[g] Geraldine Hill,[g] Ossy Muganga Julius Kasilo,[d] Immaculee Mukankubito,[d] Adi Al-Nuseirat,[h] Dorina Pirgari,[i] Anna Laura Ross,[b] João Paulo Souza,[j] Robert F Terry[k] & Geetha Krishnan Gopalakrishna Pillai[l]

Objective To explore the global research funding landscape for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.
Methods We conducted a three-part study to assess the global research funding landscape. First, we searched the Dimensions database and online sources using Microsoft Copilot and Google between 12 November 2024 and 22 January 2025 for relevant grants. Second, we analysed national research infrastructure using World Health Organization (WHO) data, verified by regional contacts (14 January–28 February 2025). Third, we appraised selected funders across WHO regions, evaluating funding schemes for innovation, capacity-building and alignment with traditional medicine paradigms.
Findings We identified 39 927 grants in the Dimensions database, with funding data available for 27 019 grants totalling 24.5 billion United States dollars (US$) for the years 1960 to 2024. Most grants (42.6%; 11 548) were valued under US$ 100 000, and half had a duration of 2–4 years. Cancer and cardiovascular diseases accounted for over half (8385/15 273) of topic-categorized grants, receiving US$ 5.8 billion and US$ 2.2 billion, respectively. Funders were concentrated in the Region of the Americas, and European and Western Pacific Regions. Only seven countries had schemes explicitly funding research for traditional, complementary and integrative medicine. Case study analysis of 40 schemes across 12 countries revealed limited support for traditional medicine paradigms, with few schemes meeting criteria for innovation, capacity-building or sensitivity to traditional knowledge systems.
Conclusion Funding for traditional medicine research remains disproportionately low relative to its global use. Strengthening support from research funding agencies is essential to achieving the goals of the WHO *Global traditional medicine strategy 2025–2034*.

Please see link below for full articles:
https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12578533/pdf/BLT.25.293527.pdf

ii Berberine-Ursodeoxycholate — Bringing Traditional Chinese Medicine to Our World

EDITORIAL

Berberine-Ursodeoxycholate — Bringing Traditional Chinese Medicine to Our World

Authors: Binh Ngo, M.D., and Marc Rendell, M.D. Author Info & Affiliations

Published June 23, 2026 | NEJM Evid 2026;5(7) | DOI: 10.1056/EVIDe2600088 | VOL. 5 NO. 7
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Abstract

This editorial contextualizes the stage 3 double-blind randomized clinical trial evaluating the efficacy of HTD1801 in combination with metformin to improve glycemic control and metabolic markers among patients with type 2 diabetes poorly controlled on metformin alone.

Please see link below for full articles:
https://evidence.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/EVIDe2600088?referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com.hk%2F

iii Can traditional medicines go mainstream?



News Feature | Published: 21 August 2026

Can traditional medicines go mainstream?

Ben Deighton

Nature Medicine **32**, 3100–3103 (2026) | Cite this article

Save article

1729 Accesses | **21** Altmetric | Metrics

Traditional medicine is already used by billions worldwide. Researchers, regulators and the World Health Organization (WHO) are now working to generate acceptable evidence, win regulatory acceptance, and integrate traditional medicines into modern clinical care.

During his more than 20 years of experience as a Chinese medicine rheumatologist in Hong Kongand Macau,Liang Liu sawa constant stream of patients coming to him after failing togetadequate treatment from conventional medicine,fora wide range of conditions fromrheumatoid arthritis to lupus.

Please see link below for full article: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-026-04588-z

iv HTD1801 in Combination with Metformin for Type 2 Diabetes



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

HTD1801 in Combination with Metformin for Type 2 Diabetes

Linong Ji, M.D.,[1] Zhifeng Cheng, M.D.,[2] Jianhua Ma, M.D.,[2] Dexue Liu, M.D.,[4] Xin Zhang, M.D.,[3] Xiaolin Dong, M.D.,[6] Yang Lin, M.D.,[7] Mingming Yang, M.D.,[8] Shenglian Gan, M.D.,[9] Hanqing Cai, M.D.,[10] Xiaomei Wang, M.D.,[11] Yan Liu, M.D.,[12] Xiaoguang Shi, M.D.,[13] Kui Liu, M.D.,[14] Leigh MacConell, Ph.D.,[15] Meng Yu, M.Sc.,[14] and Liping Liu, Ph.D., M.B.A.,[14] on behalf of the SYMPHONY-2 Investigators

Abstract

BACKGROUND HTD1801 is an anti-inflammatory metabolic modulator being developed to treat type 2 diabetes (T2D). The safety and efficacy of HTD1801 as an add-on to metformin among patients with T2D with inadequate glycemic control despite stable metformin use have not been well evaluated.

METHODS This phase 3 double-blind trial included patients with T2D, glycated hemoglobin (HbA1c) 7.0% to 10.5%, fasting glucose levels of 250.5 mg/dl or lower, and stable use of metformin for 8 weeks or more. Patients were randomly assigned 2:1 to receive either HTD1801 1000 mg orally twice daily (n=365) or placebo (n=184) in addition to their prior metformin treatment. The primary end point was change in HbA1c from baseline to week 24. Data on adverse events were collected during this 24-week time frame.

RESULTS The mean HbA1c was 8.6% at baseline and 7.4% at 24 weeks in the HTD1801 group (mean change, −1.2 percentage points; 95% confidence interval [CI], −1.3 to −1.1). The mean HbA1c was 8.5% at baseline and 7.8% at 24 weeks in the placebo group (mean change, −0.7 percentage point; 95% CI, −0.8 to −0.6). The adjusted least-squares mean difference between groups for the change in HbA1c from baseline to week 24 was −0.5 (95% CI, −0.7 to −0.4; P<0.0001). Diarrhea was the most common adverse event (HTD1801, 23.8%; placebo, 1.1%), with three cases in the HTD1801 group graded as severe, and all the other cases being mild to moderate in severity. No patients experienced severe hypoglycemia.

CONCLUSIONS After 24 weeks, HbA1c reduction was significantly greater among patients with T2D taking metformin and randomly assigned to receive HTD1801 versus placebo. A higher proportion of patients in the HTD1801 group experienced mild to moderate diarrhea compared with the placebo group. (Funded by Shenzhen HighTide Biopharmaceutical; ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT06353347.)

Please see link below for full article: https://evidence.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/EVIDoa2500317

v Fulfilling the potential of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine for global health: addressing structural inequities within the research ecosystem

Fulfilling the potential of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine for global health: addressing structural inequities within the research ecosystem

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The latest WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy1 and second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine highlight traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine (TCIM)—a diverse set of practices, products, and care systems—as a cornerstone of global health. TCIM provides essential yet often covert support to formal health systems for what is estimated to be up to 80% of the world's population, particularly in structurally marginalised populations and lower income countries.2 Amid mounting pressures, including ageing populations, rising chronic disease, and health workforce burnout, the need for rigorous TCIM research has never been more urgent.

Please see link below for full article:
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S266677622600061X

vi Phenolic Metabolites as Therapeutics for Chronic Diseases: One Researcher's PAINS Is Another's Translatable Polypharmacology

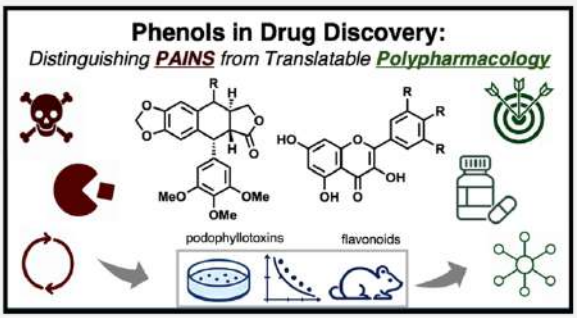
Phenolic Metabolites as Therapeutics for Chronic Diseases: One Researcher's PAINS Is Another's Translatable Polypharmacology

Menny M. Benjamin, Yeun-Mun Choo, Cody F. Dickinson, Marcus A. Tius, Daneel Ferreira, and Mark T. Hamann*

Cite This: https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jnatprod.6c00532 Read Online

ACCESS | Metrics & More | Article Recommendations

ABSTRACT: Phenols, natural and semisynthetic compounds in which a hydroxylated or oxygenated aromatic scaffold is a defining structural feature, occupy a paradoxical position in drug discovery. On the one hand, these compounds are frequently scrutinized for triggering Pan-Assay INterference compoundS (PAINS) structural alerts; on the other, their reported wide-ranging bioactivities support continued evaluation as potential therapeutics, particularly given that several phenolic compounds and mixtures have attained FDA approval for treating diseases ranging from cancers to viral infections. Accordingly, this perspective contrasts concerns raised by PAINS structural alerts with reported broad pharmacological activity and proposes a framework for the rational evaluation as well as the synthetic development of phenolic scaffolds.



KEYWORDS: *phenols, polyphenols, phenolic metabolites, PAINS, polypharmacology, natural products, podophyllotoxins, lignans, proanthocyanidins, flavan-3-ols, flavone glycosides, phlorotannins, synthesis, drug discovery*

Please see link below for full article:
https://pubs.acs.org/jnprdf/article-abstract/doi/10.1021/acs.jnatprod.6c00532/5451497/Phenolic-Metabolites-as-Therapeutics-for-Chronic?redirectedFrom=fulltext

vii Polygonatum sibiricum polysaccharide delays age-related decline and preserves muscle integrity in Caenorhabditis elegans by modulating the daf-2/IIS pathway

International Journal of Biological Macromolecules 362 (2026) 152007

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journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ijbiomac

Polygonatum sibiricum polysaccharide delays age-related decline and preserves muscle integrity in *Caenorhabditis elegans* by modulating the *daf-2*/IIS pathway

Yuxin Liao [b], Hongliang Li [c], Qiong Liu [b], Jia Zhang [b], Jiajie Lin [b], Qiaohui Du [a], Wanqiao He [b], Yongyin Li [d], Zhaoyang Dong [f,*], Xuanbin Wang [e,**], Lei Gao [a,b,***]

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[c] Laboratory of Chinese Herbal Pharmacology, Department of Pharmacy, Renmin Hospital, Hubei Key Laboratory of Wudang Local Chinese Medicine Research, Hubei University of Medicine, 39 Chaoyang Mid Rd, Shiyan, 442000, China
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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
C. elegans
Polygonatum sibiricum polysaccharide
Muscle aging
Longevity
Oxidative stress
IIS signaling pathway

ABSTRACT

Aging is characterized by a progressive decline in muscle strength and mass, posing a significant threat to global quality of life in the absence of effective therapeutic interventions. The edible herb *Polygonatum sibiricum* and its polysaccharide (PSP) have been shown to delay aging in animal models, although the underlying mechanisms remain poorly understood. In this study, we investigated the anti-aging effects of PSP in *Caenorhabditis elegans* (*C. elegans*). Our results demonstrate that PSP reduces oxidative stress, stabilizes mitochondrial function, and preserves sarcomere integrity during aging. Notably, the beneficial effects of PSP were abolished upon silencing of *daf-2*, confirming their dependence on the insulin/IGF-1 signaling (IIS) pathway. Furthermore, *daf-2* silencing eliminated any additional protective effects of PSP, indicating that this pathway is essential for its activity. These findings underscore the potential of PSP-based nutraceuticals in delaying sarcopenia and extending human healthspan.



黄精 黄精根茎 秀丽隐杆线虫

Polygonatum sibiricum （药用部分） *Caenorhabditis elegans*



Please see link below for full article: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijbiomac.2026.152007

i

Journal: *Frontiers in Pharmacology*

Topic	**Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Fatty Liver Disease (MAFLD): Innovative Management Strategies Using Herbal Medicines - Volume II**
Deadline	31 October 2026
Details	https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/77805/metabolic-dysfunction-associated-fatty-liver-disease-mafld-innovative-management-strategies-using-herbal-medicines—volume-ii
Editor(s)	**Wei Peng,** Professor, School of Pharmacy, Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Chengdu, China **Yongmei Xie,** Researcher, State Key Laboratory of Biotherapy and Cancer Center, West China Hospital, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China **Qing Zhang,** Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, United States **Jae Woo Park,** Professor, Michigan Medicine, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, United States

ii

Journal: *European Journal of Pharmacology*

Topic	**Advances in Chinese Medicine: from Mechanism to Clinical Evidence**
Deadline	30 November 2026
Details	https://www.sciencedirect.com/special-issue/332317/advances-in-chinese-medicine-from-mechanism-to-clinical-evidence
Editor(s)	**Dr. Kam Wa CHAN,** Hong Kong Baptist University, HKSAR, China **Prof. Man Sau WONG,** The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, HKSAR, China **Prof. Clara Bik-San LAU,** The University of Hong Kong, HKSAR, China **Dr. Yanfang Xian,** The Chinese University of Hong Kong



iii

Journal: *Frontiers in Pharmacology*

Topic	**Sustainable Sourcing in Ethnopharmacology: Integrating Biodiversity Conservation with Therapeutic Innovation**
Deadline	20 Dec 2026
Details	https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/75814/sustainable-sourcing-in-ethnopharmacology-integrating-biodiversity-conservation-with-therapeutic-innovation
Editor(s)	**Marco Leonti,** Professor, University of Cagliari, Cagliari, Italy **Vivienne L. Williams,** Researcher, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa **Roy Upton,** Founder & Director, American Herbal Pharmacopoeia, Scotts Valley, United State

iv

Journal: *Frontiers in Pharmacology*

Topic	**The Ethnopharmacology of Stimulants in Modern and Traditional Contexts: Research on Psychoactives between Myths and Reality**
Deadline	1 February 2027
Details	https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/78676/the-ethnopharmacology-of-stimulants-in-modern-and-traditional-contexts-research-on-psychoactives-between-myths-and-reality
Editor(s)	**Oliver Grundmann,** Professor, University of Florida, Gainesville, United States **Erin Berthold,** Researcher, University of Florida, Gainesville, United States **Darshan Singh,** Professor, University of Science Malaysia (USM), Penang, Malaysia

v

Journal: *Frontiers in Pharmacology*

Topic	**Genotoxicological Profiling of Ethnopharmacological Agents: Harnessing Traditional Knowledge for Safer Herbal Therapeutics**
Deadline	1 February 2027
Details	https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/78584/genotoxicological-profiling-of-ethnopharmacological-agents-harnessing-traditional-knowledge-for-safer-herbal-therapeutics
Editor(s)	**Fabio Santos,** Researcher, Universidade Federal de São João del-Rei, São João del Rei, Brazil **Raquel Alves Dos Santos,** Researcher, University of Franca, Franca, Brazil **Wilner Martinez,** Researcher, Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable (IIBCE), Montevideo, Uruguay

vi

Journal: *Frontiers in Pharmacology*

Topic	**Ethnopharmacology of Ion-Channel Modulating Cardioprotective Plants**
Deadline	2 February 2027
Details	https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/75990/ethnopharmacology-of-ion-channel-modulating-cardioprotective-plants
Editor(s)	**Arquimedes Gasparotto Junior,** Researcher, Federal University of Grande Dourados, Dourados, Brazil **Emerson Lourenço,** Researcher, Candido Garcia Foundation - UNIPAR, Umuarama-PR, Brazil



Topic	**Underexplored Medicinal Plants — Uncovering the Mechanism behind Lesser Studied Traditional Medical Knowledge**
Deadline	26 March 2027
Details	https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/78571/underexplored-medicinal-plants---uncovering-the-mechanism-behind-lesser-studied-traditional-medical-knowledge
Editor(s)	**Marcin Równicki,** Researcher, Medical University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland **Vikas Kumar,** Researcher, Chandigarh University, Mohali, India



From the editor's desk

This issue at a glance

Early-career researchers face a tight but active job market this autumn. In the United States, a STAT and MassINC Polling Group survey of 989 NIH-funded scientists, run between 28 January and 18 February 2026, found that 81 per cent of junior tenure-track researchers feared that funding disruptions could threaten their tenure prospects. Twenty-nine per cent of them had already applied for positions elsewhere, against 15 per cent of tenured faculty.

Europe, meanwhile, is recruiting. The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026 call closed on 9 September with 21,627 proposals, the highest number the scheme has ever received, for an indicative budget of €399 million and roughly 1,600 fellowships. The European Research Council has widened eligibility for its 2027 Starting Grants to anyone within ten years of the PhD, and the call closes on 14 October 2026.

The research record offers some encouragement too. A study reported by Nature in May 2026, which traced 60 years of work by 12.5 million scientists, found that junior researchers are more likely than veterans to publish work that disrupts their field.

How to use this issue

The pages that follow collect opportunities with deadlines from October 2026 onwards, grouped as in earlier issues of the Early Career Corner. Each entry gives the source link, so readers can check the full terms. Items marked "Closing soon" close within two weeks of publication.

Closing soon		
Chevening Scholarships 2027/28 (UK master's study)	6 October 2026, 11:00 UTC	https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/
Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting 2027, open application	6 October 2026	https://www.lindau-nobel.org/
EMBL International PhD Programme, winter round	12 October 2026, 23:59 CET	https://www.embl.org/about/info/embl-international-phd-programme/application/
ERC Starting Grant 2027	14 October 2026	https://erc.europa.eu/apply-grant/starting-grant
Gates Cambridge, US round	14 October 2026	https://www.gatescambridge.org/apply/timeline/

Source: https://www.statnews.com/2026/03/19/nih-funding-national-researcher-survey-finds-cutbacks-disruptions/
Source: https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/whats-new/news/postdoctoral-fellowships-2026-call-results
Source: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-026-01466-z

Postgraduate opportunities around the world

Funded PhD places continue to open across Europe and Asia this season. Some of the projects below carry full funding for students from any country; others are open all year, so applicants can contact the supervisor before the formal round begins. Check each listing for the funding terms that apply to international applicants.

1. Fully funded PhD places, EMBL International PhD Programme (six sites in Europe)

- Description: The European Molecular Biology Laboratory is recruiting its winter 2026/27 PhD intake for research groups at Heidelberg, Hamburg, Grenoble, Rome, Barcelona and EMBL-EBI near Cambridge. Online screening interviews run from 27 October to 13 November 2026, a virtual panel assessment follows on 1 December 2026, and in-person interviews take place between 25 January and 4 February 2027.
- Requirements: A university degree that would formally qualify the applicant for PhD study in their home country, held or expected before starting at EMBL. Applicants of all nationalities are welcome, and EMBL charges no fee at any stage.
- Application Deadline: 12 October 2026, 23:59 CET. Closing soon. Late applications are not considered. Latest start date: October 2027.
- Contact Information: Apply online @ https://www.embl.org/about/info/embl-international-phd-programme/application/



2. PhD in Mesenchymal Stem Cell-Derived Extracellular Vesicles in Leukaemia Treatment, De Montfort University, UK

- Description: A funded doctoral project, supervised by Dr A. Ude, on the effect of extracellular vesicles derived from mesenchymal stem cells in the treatment of leukaemia.
- Requirements: Listed as funded and open to students worldwide. Entry requirements are set out in the project advert.
- Application Deadline: 30 October 2026.
- Contact Information: Search the project title on FindAPhD @ https://www.findaphd.com/phds/?Keywords=natural+products

3. PhD in Marine Natural Product Research, National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan

- Description: A funded project in marine natural product research supervised by Prof. Y.B.C. Cheng, one of the few natural product PhDs on FindAPhD that is funded for applicants from any country.
- Requirements: Open all year until filled.
- Application Deadline: 12 October 2026, 23:59 CET. Closing soon. Late applications are not considered. Latest start date: October 2027.
- Contact Information: Listing @ https://www.findaphd.com/phds/?Keywords=natural+products



4. PRIMED for Medicinal Chemistry, University of St Andrews, UK

- Description: A medicinal chemistry doctoral project supervised by Prof. J.M. Goss, listed as funded for students worldwide.
- Application Deadline: Open all year until filled.
- Contact Information: Listing @ https://www.findaphd.com/phds/?Keywords=natural+products

Online tools for finding a PhD or postdoc

Search smarter

The platforms below list PhD and postdoctoral openings and also explain funding, applications and life as a doctoral researcher. Most allow filtering by country, subject (for example pharmacology, herbal medicine or natural products) and institution, which makes it easier to find programmes that match a research interest.

• **FindAPhD :**	https://www.findaphd.com/
• **PhD Portal :**	https://www.phdportal.com/
• **EURAXESS Jobs and Funding :**	https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/search
• **Academic Positions :**	https://academicpositions.com/jobs/position/phd
• **ScholarshipDb.net :**	https://scholarshipdb.net/
• **Nature Careers :**	https://www.nature.com/naturecareers
• **jobs.ac.uk (UK and international) :**	https://www.jobs.ac.uk/

Good luck with your search!

Networking remains one of the most reliable routes to a position. Many openings are shared on professional networks before they reach the job boards. The sites below are widely used in the scientific community.

• **LinkedIn :**	https://www.linkedin.com/

To make the most of LinkedIn, keep a current profile that lists publications, methods and conference talks, and post short updates when a paper appears. Pages that regularly repost PhD and postdoctoral openings include:

- jobRxiv, a free job board for science positions: https://jobrxiv.org/
- EURAXESS, the European Commission portal for researcher jobs and funding: https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/
- Nature Careers, for jobs and career advice: https://www.nature.com/naturecareers

• **ResearchGate :**	https://www.researchgate.net/
• **ORCID :**	https://orcid.org/
• **Bluesky (growing academic community) :**	https://bsky.app/

Postgraduate Opportunities

Opportunities in Asia

Hong Kong and Macau offer some of the best-paid doctoral fellowships open to international applicants, and several universities there run strong programmes in Chinese medicine and pharmaceutical sciences.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS) 2027/28

Location: Eight UGC-funded universities, Hong Kong

- **Application Deadline:**
  1 December 2026, 12:00 noon (Hong Kong Time). Applications opened on 1 September 2026.
- **Starting Date:**
  2027/28 academic year

Project Description:

The Research Grants Council will award 400 fellowships for the 2027/28 academic year. Each fellow receives an annual stipend of HK$344,400 (about US$44,150) and a conference and research-related travel allowance of HK$14,400 (about US$1,840) a year, for up to three years.

Participating universities: City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Baptist University, Lingnan University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, The Education University of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and The University of Hong Kong.

Application Requirements:

1. Open to prospective doctoral students of any nationality.
2. Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the chosen university and study full time.
3. Applicants first register on the HKPFS portal, then apply to the PhD programme at the chosen university.

Contact Information:

Website: https://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/rgc/funding_opport/hkpfs/
Application portal: https://cerg1.ugc.edu.hk/hkpfs/InitApplication.jsp

Macau

PhD in Biomedical Sciences, Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences, University of Macau

Location: Institute of Chinese Medical Sciences (ICMS), University of Macau, Macao SAR, China

- **Application Deadline:**
  First batch for doctoral programmes: 23 October 2026. A later batch follows for remaining places.
- **Starting Date:**
  2027/28 academic year

Project Description:

The programme trains researchers in the interdisciplinary fields of Chinese medicine and pharmaceutical sciences. Compulsory courses cover research ethics, research writing, seminars and quality research in Chinese medicine. Students choose one further course from options that include chemistry of natural medicine, drug discovery, advanced pharmacology and advanced pharmacokinetics.

Funding routes include the UM PhD Scholarship, UM PhD Teaching Research Assistant posts and the International Student Scholarship. Postgraduate housing is available.

Application Requirements:

1. A Bachelor's or Master's degree (a Master's degree is preferred).
2. Curriculum vitae, transcripts, a research proposal and two recommendation letters.
3. English: TOEFL iBT 80, IELTS 6.0 or CET-6 430.

Contact Information:

Email: icms.enquiry@um.edu.mo Phone: +853 8822 4685
Programme: https://sklmqcm.um.edu.mo/ycmdbs/ Apply: https://grs.um.edu.mo/

Postgraduate Opportunities

Opportunities in Europe

Europe-wide

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Choose Europe for Science

Location: 16 funded projects, 84 partner organisations in 25 countries

- **Application Deadline:**
  Rolling. Posts appear on EURAXESS from September 2026, each with its own closing date.
- **Starting Date:**
  Set by each recruiting institution

Project Description:

The 16 projects funded under the first Marie Skłodowska-Curie "Choose Europe for Science" call (announced 29 April 2026) pay for postdoctoral employment and training, with a route to longer-term research careers in Europe.

Application Requirements:

1. A doctoral degree. Candidates apply directly to the recruiting institutions, which set field, mobility and language conditions.

Contact Information:

Vacancies: https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/search
Call results: MSCA news, 29 April 2026

Germany

International Max Planck Research School on Cellular Biophysics (IMPRS-CBP)

Location: Frankfurt/Mainz region, Germany (four partner institutions)

- **Application Deadline:**
  Applications for the 2027 cohort are received in December 2026.
- **Starting Date:**
  2027

Project Description:

Fully funded PhD positions in structural biology, biophysics and computational science (cryo-EM, cryo-ET, super-resolution microscopy, NMR, mass spectrometry, X-ray crystallography), with three laboratory rotations before the thesis project is chosen.

Application Requirements:

1. A strong academic background, an interest in cellular biophysics and readiness to work in an international team.

Contact Information:

Website: https://imprs-cbp.mpg.de/call-for-applications

Freely Accessible Learning Material

Free online courses

Introduction to Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis (Johns Hopkins University, Coursera)

A six-module course taught by Tianjing Li and Kay Dickersin, taking about two weeks at ten hours a week. Learners can enrol for free; a certificate is optional and paid, with financial aid available.

- https://www.coursera.org/learn/systematic-review

WHO EMRO training package for systematic reviews

A free package from the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, arranged in basic, advanced and supplementary levels. It combines online courses, handbooks and recorded webinars, with basic modules taking one to two hours.

- https://www.emro.who.int/evidence-data-to-policy/training-package/systematic-reviews.html

AuthorAID online courses in research writing (INASP)

AuthorAID runs free online courses and self-study material on writing and publishing research, aimed mainly at researchers in low- and middle-income countries.

- https://www.inasp.info/project/authoraid-online-research-communication-training

Galaxy Training Network

A free, community-built library of 531 hands-on bioinformatics tutorials across 35 topics, including 41 on proteomics, 10 on metabolomics and 25 on transcriptomics. All material is released under a CC BY 4.0 licence, so it can be reused in teaching.

- https://training.galaxyproject.org/



Freely Accessible Learning Material

Interesting reading

Podcasts and reading

Podcasts are an easy way to pick up career advice during lab work or travel. The three below speak directly to PhD students and early-career researchers.

Working Scientist *Nature Careers*

Short weekly episodes from Nature's careers desk. Recent episodes include advice from Sonali Majumdar on how to thrive in science after moving abroad, and a conversation with Itai Yanai and Martin Lercher on "night science", the creative side of research that helps when a project stalls.

- https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/working-scientist/id270216511

Confessions of an Early Career Researcher *Hosted by Dr Leonie Smith*

Candid conversations about the years after the PhD: funding applications, short contracts, imposter syndrome, publishing and rejection, and finding community and wellbeing in academia.

- https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/confessions-of-an-early-career-researcher/id1810465751

Beyond the Thesis with Papa PhD *Hosted by David Mendes, PhD*

Interviews with PhD holders who have built careers in industry, government, entrepreneurship and science communication. Episodes are in English and French.

- https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/beyond-the-thesis-with-papa-phd/id1474039999

Early-career researchers do more "disruptive" science than veterans

Nature, 7 May 2026. A report on research covering 60 years of output from 12.5 million scientists, which found that junior researchers are more likely to produce work that reshapes a field.

- https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-026-01466-z

Towards a research renaissance: Empowering early career researchers through mentored AI use

PLOS Biology, 2026. An essay on how supervised, mentored use of AI tools could support researchers at the start of their careers.

- https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3003917

Attending an international conference is one of the best ways to meet other researchers, present work and hear about results before they are published. Many large meetings also run sessions, travel awards or reduced fees for students and early-career scientists.

76th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting (Physiology/Medicine), Lindau, Germany, 27 June to 2 July 2027

Young scientists can meet Nobel Laureates for a week of lectures and small-group discussion. There are two routes to a place. The open application runs from 8 September to 6 October 2026 (closing soon). Nominations through an Academic Partner institution run from 15 September to 27 October 2026.

- https://www.lindau-nobel.org/
- https://napers.lindau-nobel.org/napers/application#/application

75th International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA), Lisbon, Portugal, 29 August to 1 September 2027

Held jointly with SPFito at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon, under congress presidents Patricia Rijo and Helena Gaspar. Abstract deadlines and young researcher support will be posted on the congress website.

- https://ga-online.org/events/75-ga-congress-lisbon-portugal-29-august-to-1-september-2027/
- https://ga2027.events.chemistry.pt

Recently held: the 14th Annual Meeting of the GP-TCM Research Association, Singapore, 7 to 9 July 2026

The meeting took place at the NTU School of Biological Sciences, Nanyang Technological University. News and reports from the Association are posted on its website.

- https://www.ntu.edu.sg/tcm/talks-events/search-talks-events/detail/2026/07/07/default-calendar/the-14th-annual-meeting-of-the-gp-tcm-ra
- https://www.gp-tcm.org/index.php/news/

Conference finders

Searchable calendars for upcoming meetings in Chinese medicine, natural products and the wider biomedical sciences.

- https://conferenceindex.org/conferences/traditional-chinese-medicine
- https://ga-online.org/events/
- https://www.worldconferencealerts.com/

Apply for funding

i

ERC Starting Grant 2027 (European Research Council). For researchers within 0 to 10 years of completing the PhD, of any nationality, who will host the project in an EU member state or associated country. Awards are worth up to €1.5 million over five years, with up to €1 million more for justified costs such as equipment. In the 2026 round, 421 of 4,807 proposals were funded (8.8 per cent).

Deadline: 14 October 2026.

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

ii

Humboldt Research Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers (Germany). A monthly fellowship of €3,000 for 6 to 24 months at a host institute in Germany, open to researchers in any discipline who completed the doctorate within the last four years. The next application window opens on 15 November 2026, with selection in July 2027. Each window closes once 800 applications have been received, so early submission is advisable.

Details: https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/humboldt-research-fellowship

iii

Wellcome Early-Career Awards (UK). Salary plus up to £400,000 in research expenses, usually over five years, for researchers ready to develop an independent research identity. Applicants generally have no more than three years of postdoctoral experience. There is no fixed deadline, but applications submitted by 28 October 2026 are assessed under the current location rules, and new geographical requirements apply from 29 October 2026.

Details: https://wellcome.org/research-funding/schemes/wellcome-early-career-awards



iv

Gates Cambridge Scholarships 2027/28 (UK). Full-cost scholarships for students from outside the UK taking a PhD or postgraduate course at the University of Cambridge. Round 1, for US citizens living in the US, closes on 14 October 2026. Round 2, for all other applicants, closes on 8 December 2026 or 6 January 2027 depending on the course.

Details: https://www.gatescambridge.org/apply/timeline/

v

DAAD Doctoral Programmes in Germany. A monthly scholarship of €1,400 for a full doctorate in Germany, for up to four years. Applicants need a Master's degree completed no more than six years before the deadline and must not have lived in Germany for more than 15 months. Deadlines differ by country of origin, so applicants should check the entry for their country in the DAAD scholarship database.

Details: https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/21148-scholarship-database/?detail=57135739

vi

TWAS-FAPESP Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme for Developing Countries (Brazil). Postdoctoral fellowships at research institutions in the State of São Paulo for researchers from developing countries, in all areas of the natural, applied and social sciences.

Deadline: 1 April 2027.

Details: https://twas.org/opportunity/twas-fapesp-postdoctoral-fellowship-programme-developing-countries

vii

Chevening Scholarships 2027/28 (UK). UK government awards for a one-year master's degree, covering tuition, a monthly living allowance and return airfare. Applicants need at least 2,800 hours of work experience and must return home for two years after the award.

Deadline: 6 October 2026, 11:00 UTC. Closing soon.

Details: https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/

Research degree programmes in Chinese medicine and the biomedical sciences now taking applications for the 2027/28 intake. Applicants to Hong Kong programmes can also apply for the Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (deadline 1 December 2026).

i

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



Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Chinese Medicine

Application rounds for 2027/28: first round closes 1 December 2026; second round closes 15 April 2027. Some departments set earlier internal dates.

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

ii

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



PhD in Chinese Medicine

Programme details and 2027/28 admission information are on the School website.

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

iii

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



Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences

First batch deadline for doctoral programmes: 23 October 2026. See the full entry in section G1.

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

iv

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



MPhil and PhD in Chinese Medicine

Programme details and 2027/28 admission information are on the School website.

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

US funding cuts weigh hardest on junior scientists (STAT, 19 March 2026)

A STAT and MassINC Polling Group survey of 989 NIH-funded researchers in 45 states found that 81 per cent of junior tenure-track scientists were concerned that funding disruptions could threaten their tenure prospects, and 62 per cent were very concerned. Twenty-nine per cent of tenure-track respondents had applied for jobs elsewhere, and 58 per cent of all respondents had slowed hiring in their labs.

Source: https://www.statnews.com/2026/03/19/nih-funding-national-researcher-survey-finds-cutbacks-disruptions/

America's scientists look abroad, and Europe recruits (Fortune, 28 September 2026)

Fortune reports that 49 per cent of American STEM professionals in their twenties would consider moving abroad. Europe's "Choose Europe for Science" package is worth €500 million, and US applications for ERC Starting Grants rose from 116 to 169.

Source: https://fortune.com/2026/09/28/americas-scientists-are-looking-abroad-can-european-business-cash-in/

Record demand for Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellowships (European Commission, 11 September 2026)

The 2026 call received 21,627 proposals, the most in the scheme's history, for about 1,600 fellowships. Results are expected in mid-February 2027. The United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, France and Germany were the most popular host countries.

Source: https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/whats-new/news/postdoctoral-fellowships-2026-call-results

Early-career researchers lead the shift to AI-first discovery (Springer Nature, 20 July 2026)

A Springer Nature survey with 10,480 responses from 117 countries found that about 48 per cent of researchers with under three years of experience use AI often to gather information and edit papers, against about 34 per cent of those with more than 20 years of experience. Use stays lower for tasks that need human judgement, such as peer review.

Source: https://group.springernature.com/de/group/media/press-releases/early-career-researchers-lead-shift-towards-ai-first-discovery/52988132

ERC Starting Grants 2026: 421 awards from 4,807 proposals (University of Oxford news)

The 2026 round funded 8.8 per cent of applicants with grants of up to €1.5 million each. Oxford's announcement profiles four of its own awardees, in economics, biology, psychiatry and English.

Source: https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2026-08-25-exceptional-early-career-researchers-awarded-2026-european-research-council

Seen on social media

On X: University of Macau opens 2027/28 postgraduate applications

The University of Macau (@UM_1981) announced on X that its postgraduate programmes are open for the 2027/28 academic year, with first-batch deadlines of 23 October 2026 for doctoral programmes and 3 December 2026 for master's programmes.

Source: https://x.com/UM_1981/status/2084240140579618933

Academic Bluesky keeps growing (Science)

Science has reported on researchers who have moved their professional networking to Bluesky and on what the platform does well and less well for scholarly discussion. Many early-career researchers now keep profiles on both Bluesky and LinkedIn.

Source: https://www.science.org/content/article/academic-bluesky-grows-researchers-find-strengths-and-shortcomings

Accounts and pages worth following

• **EURAXESS (jobs and funding) :**	https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/
• **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions :**	https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/
• **European Research Council :**	https://erc.europa.eu/
• **Nature Careers :**	https://www.nature.com/naturecareers
• **Global Young Academy :**	https://globalyoungacademy.net/
• **TWAS opportunities :**	https://twas.org/opportunities/deadlines

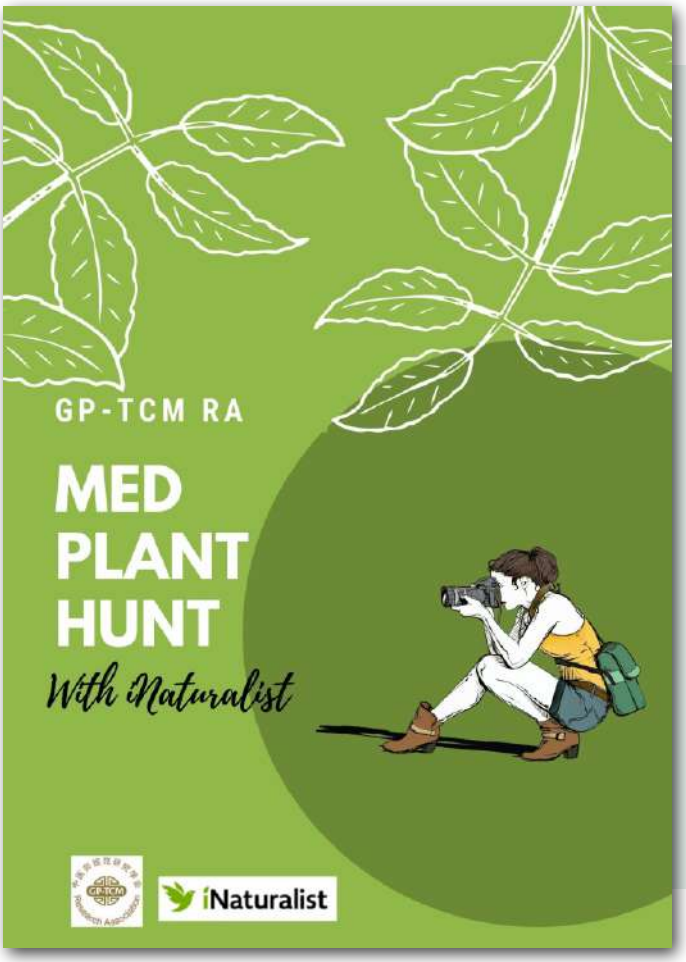
Share your news with us

Students and early-career members are welcome to send in vacancies, awards, conference reports and short profiles for the next issue of the Early Career Corner.

Some of the information was kindly provided by **Mr. Allan Karim Odoch,** a master's student at Hubei University of Medicine.



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
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Lily (*Lilium brownii* var. *viridulum*, Liliaceae, 百合 , left) and
tiger lily (*Lilium lancifolium*, Liliaceae, 卷丹 , right)





Official in Chinese pharmacopoeia, the dried fleshy bulb of lily (*Lilium brownii* var. *viridulum*), or tiger lily (*Lilium lancifolium*), or coral lily (*Lilium pumilum*, 山丹) is known as the Chinese medicinal baihe (lilii bulbus). Sweet, slightly bitter and cold in properties, lilii bulbus nourishes yin, moistens the lung, stops coughing, clears the heart, and calms the spirit. It is indicated for dry lung or lung-heat coughs, consumptive cough due to lung yin deficiency, as well as lily bulb disorder (百合病), manifested as mental disorientation, irritability, insomnia, and palpitations due to heart *yin* impairment.

Lily bulb (*Lilium brownii* var. *viridulum*) is believed to be superior in quality and thus preferred for both medicinal and culinary purposes. Tiger lily bulb (*Lilium lancifolium*) dominates the current herbal market because of its large-scale production. Coral lily bulb (*Lilium pumilum*) is rarely circulated in the current herbal market.

百合

盘中常见伴西芹
色白香甜举箸频
浊酒三杯才落肚
方知此物亦安神

卷丹

株高过米遍神州
翻卷彤花墨迹留
腋下珠芽如遇见
清心润肺便无忧

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).

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Lily (*Lilium brownii* var. *viridulum*, Liliaceae, 百合 , left) and tiger lily (*Lilium lancifolium*, Liliaceae, 卷丹 , right)





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