

April - May 2012 Joint Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association & The FP7 GP-TCM Consortium

As from this Issue, this Newsletter will be renamed the **GP-TCM Research Association & FP7 GP-TCM Consortium Joint Newsletter**. By November 2012, these Joint Newsletters will be replaced by the **GP-TCM Research Association Newsletters**. We thank you for your continued support!

Press Release on the Official Launch of the GP-TCM Research Association

In Chinese:

- *Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences*
http://www.sibs.cas.cn/xwzx/zhxw/201205/t20120511_3576025.html
- *Shanghai Administration Bureau of NGOs*
<http://stj.sh.gov.cn/big5/Info.aspx?ReportId=e20e68a3-1b3c-4918-b9ea-1e82cace8800>
- *Other*
http://big5.wiki8.com/History_537.html

In English:

- *The GP-TCM Association homepage*
<http://www.gp-tcm.org/2012/04/about-association/>
- *King's College London*
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/newsevents/news/newsrecords/2012/04April/New-association-for-good-practice-in-Chinese-medicine-research.aspx>
- *Healthcanal*
<http://www.healthcanal.com/alternative-therapies/28480-Traditional-Chinese-medicine-research.html>
- *AsianScientist*
<http://www.asianscientist.com/topnews/gp-tcm-association-2012/>

In German:

- *University of Graz*
http://www.uni-graz.at/newswww/newswww_detail.htm?reference=240648
- *Austrian Press Agency*
http://www.zukunftwissen.apa.at/cms/zukunft-wissen/fti-und-wissenschaft/topnews_einzel_rss.html?id=CMS1334666113658
- *Österreich Journal*
http://www.oe-journal.at/index_up.htm?http://www.oe-journal.at/Aktuelles!/2012/0412/W3/51704uniGraz.htm
- *Kleine Zeitung*
<http://www.kleinezeitung.at/steiermark/graz/graz/2997682/grazer-steht-europaeischer-tcm-forschungsgesellschaft-vor.story>

In French

- *Université Libre de Bruxelles*
<http://web2.ulb.ac.be/actulb/index.php?article=2342>

In Russian:

- *St. Petersburg Institute of Pharmacy*
<http://www.ipharm.sp.ru/>

For more information, visit the **GP-TCM Research Association webpage** <http://www.gp-tcm.org/association/>



The 1st GP-TCM Research Association Board of Directors Face-to-face Meeting held in Leiden, Netherlands on 15th April 2012.



Board of Directors of the GP-TCM Research Association Prof. Monique Simmonds, Prof. Peter Hylands (Treasurer), Prof. Nicola Robinson (Public Relations), Dr. Tai-Ping Fan (Secretary-General), Prof. Rudolf Bauer (President), Dr. Qihe Xu (Deputy Secretary-General), Prof. Vivian Wong, Prof. Rob Verpoorte, Prof. Kelvin Chan and Prof. Pierre Duez met on 15th April 2012 in Leiden, the Netherlands.

The Lifespan of the FP7 GP-TCM Project Extended to 31st October 2012:

Dear members and friends of the FP7 GP-TCM Project: The Coordination Office (CO) of the project is pleased to inform you that, following an earlier request to the European Commission from the CO, the project duration has been extended for 6 months. That will bring the project completion date to 31st October 2012. For registered FP7 GP-TCM Consortium members, you can download the updated FP7 GP-TCM Annex I via the project website: <http://www.gp-tcm.org/documents/>

In the next 6 months, the Consortium will focus on completing remaining scheduled deliverables, dissemination activities, further publications and grant application preparations, while continuing to support the GP-TCM Research Association. There will be no additional funding provided by the Commission during the extended period. However, any surplus from the GP-TCM grant can be used for relevant project

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activities. If in doubt, please do not hesitate to contact the CO and/or your finance department. Thank you!

The GP-TCM Final Conference: The Final Conference of the GP-TCM Consortium took place on the historic premises of a medieval abbey - Rolduc - in Kerkrade, the Netherlands on 12th – 13th April 2012. The Rolduc Conference Centre (<http://www.rolduc.com/>) is one of the well-known Dutch conference venues and attracted more than 70 beneficiary and non-beneficiary partners as well as key stakeholders. Among the special guests were Dr. Xiaopin Wang (王笑频 Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine (SATCM) and Dr. Jijun Xing (邢继俊 Deputy Director, China Science & Technology Exchange Center of Ministry of Science & Technology (MOST)) and Prof. Geoffrey Burnstock, FRS (Autonomic Neuroscience Centre, University College Medical School, UK).

The meeting was a closed-door event, where WP-focused presentations and interactive discussion sessions took place. There were welcome speeches and introductions from Dr. Xiaopin Wang and Dr. Jijun Xing, who restated the support from the Chinese government to the FP7 GP-TCM Consortium and introduced their views on TCM research programmes within and outside China. Qihe Xu presented GP-TCM Project Officer Dr. Alexandru Costescu's (the European Commission) message to the attendees and invited Dr. Wang to join Dr. Xing in the Advisory Board of the FP7 GP-TCM project. Dr. Wang gladly accepted the invitation.



Group photo of participants of the GP-TCM Final Conference at Rolduc Conference Centre in Kerkrade, the Netherlands, 12th-13th April 2012

During the scientific sessions, representatives of each WP gave succinct overview of their WP's progress over the past three years with a special emphasis given to their 3rd year activities and achievements, and future directions of research. These were complemented by each WP's reports on challenges faced and experienced gained, as well as plans for the remaining 6 months of the project.

Furthermore, other detailed discussion sessions were held allowing the participants to focus on a number of key issues including future funding opportunities and the establishment of the GP-TCM Research Association (<http://www.gp-tcm.org/association/>). The meeting participants were also updated about the publication of the GP-TCM Special Issue in the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* and were provided with the electronic copies of all articles. On 14th April 2012, after successful conclusion of the meeting, the participants were given an opportunity to take part in an excursion to Floriade 2012 (World Horticultural Expo in Venlo) en route to Leiden.

The GP-TCM Congress: After the successful completion of the project's Final Conference in Kerkrade, the public dissemination event "the GP-TCM Congress" took place in Leiden, the Netherlands on 16th – 18th April 2012. The main objective of the Congress was to disseminate the results of the project by bringing together the project partners, external stakeholders and public. After the registration and reception in National Museum of Natural History *Naturalis* on 15th April, the Congress was opened on 16th April by the Coordinator of GP-TCM Consortium Dr. Qihe Xu, with the official launch of the GP-TCM Research Association by its Inaugural President Prof. Rudolph Bauer.



Dr. Alexandru Costescu and GP-TCM members on the way to GP-TCM Congress Centre – Gorlaeus Laboratories



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Dr. Alexandru Costescu, GP-TCM Project Officer at the European Commission, outlined Horizon 2010 – the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020).



Prof. Jan van der Greef (Gorlaeus Laboratories, University of Leiden) gave an illuminating presentation on the importance of a holistic approach using systems biology to study Chinese medicine. The most important news was that he and his team (SU BioMedicine BV, TNO) in close collaboration with Chinese counterparts have been able for the first time to register a traditional Chinese medicine “Diao Xin Xue Kang capsules” 地奧心血康膠囊 (see Item 3 of Recommended Readings on p. 6) with the Dutch registration authorities and thus opening the way into Europe!



Dr. Shwu-Huey Liu of PhytoCeutica Inc. gave a comprehensive overview on R&D and clinical trial of PHY906 as an adjuvant to chemotherapy in the USA (see Item 3 of Members' News on p. 5).



Subsequent lectures by invited speakers (in alphabetical order, Prof. Xiaodong Cheng, Prof. Wei Ding, Prof. Pierre Duez, Dr. Tai-Ping Fan, Prof. Gerhard Franz, Prof. Peter Hylands, Dr. Werner Knöss, Prof. Nicola Robinson, Dr. Jandirk Sendker, Prof. Monique

Simmonds, Prof. Claudia Witt, and Dr. Youping Zhu) focused on the state-of-the-art in their respective fields.

At the Open Members Meeting of the GP-TCM Research Association, President Rudolph Bauer introduced its bylaws, management structure, Board of Directors, objectives, website, membership, special interest groups, future meetings and other activities, etc. As a result of successful fund-raising by Secretary-General Tai-Ping Fan, Treasurer Peter Hylands announced that all existing GP-TCM members would be offered free membership for 2012. In closing, the President invited congress delegates to sign membership application forms, and urged them to advertise the Association in their personal network. [Membership information and application form will soon be available on [http://www.gp-tcm.org/association/membership/.](http://www.gp-tcm.org/association/membership/)]



Reception and dinner at Faculty Club of Leiden University for speakers and sponsors of the GP-TCM Congress

On the 2nd day, there was a short but lively workshop on “Roadmap to evidence-based traditional medicine”. Representing the Dutch Society against Quackery, Prof. Marinus Vermeulen gave a presentation “How did the concept of meridians survive?” He reviewed the development of Western medicine, in which major paradigm shifts occurred, and asked when such changes happened in TCM. In response, Prof. Peter Hylands presented “Can the new technologies help explain and understand TCM?” The consensus was the need for evidence-based medicines. The GP-TCM network is exactly focused on this and particularly on defining the good practices to generate reliable and reproducible data for registration of Chinese herbal products.

Besides the invited speakers, a series of short lectures and posters around the theme of traditional medicine were presented showing that a new generation of scientists is involved in some exciting aspects of traditional medicine research.

Apart from all the science, there were ample opportunities for the 130-plus participants to socialise during the reception in the historic Town Hall of Leiden, where they were warmly greeted by the Mayor of Leiden, drs. Henri Lenferink, and Dean of Faculty of Science, Leiden University, Prof. dr. Sjoerd Verduyn

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Lunel. On the last day, there was a most enjoyable congress dinner - beach BBQ party in Katwijk.



The Mayor of Leiden, drs. Henri Lenferink, and the Dean of Faculty of Science, Leiden University, Prof. dr. Sjoerd Verduyn Lunel hosted a reception for GP-TCM Research Association BoD members and GP-TCM Congress delegates in the Town Hall

In recognition of their generous financial support of the GP-TCM Congress, 8 organisations have been offered corporate membership of the GP-TCM Research Association. They are (in alphabetical order): Capital Medical University, China; Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan; Chengdu University of TCM, China; China Medical University, Taiwan; CMC Tasly Group BV, the Netherlands; Hailan Pharmaceuticals, Macau; Shanghai University of TCM, China; Taiji Pharmaceuticals, China.

With the generous support from co-organisers and sponsors, the Secretariat was able to offer grants of €500 to 16 students and young investigators. They were: Orchidea Rachmaniah (The Netherlands), Herman van Wietmarschen (The Netherlands), Evelien Rozema (Austria), Liu Ying (China), Cheng Xiaolan (China), Han-Kuei Wu (China), Valerian Bunel (Belgium), Leocadie Kamagaju (Belgium), Ya-Chin Chang (Taiwan), Alan Koo (Hong Kong), Lillian Nordahl (UK), Lee-Hsin Shaw (Taiwan), Ming-Tsang Wu (Taiwan), Wan-Ling Chang-Liao (Taiwan), Sharleen Cheng (Taiwan), Anthony Booker (UK).



The GP-TCM Final Conference, the GP-TCM Congress and the GP-TCM Research Association were highlighted by the Phoenix TV news (in Chinese):

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQ4QJRfLmqk&feature=youtube_gdata_player

The GP-TCM e-MSM

The 16th and 17th e-MSM Teleconferences: The management team has organised two e-MSM teleconferences on 22nd March and 3rd April 2012, respectively. These teleconferences brought together 14 e-MSM members (including all WP leads) and provided a platform to discuss number of key issues before the final consortium events in the Netherlands. The following subjects were covered during both meetings: (i) Consortium deliverables, (ii) the GP-TCM Special Issue update, (iii) extension of GP-TCM's lifetime, (iv) GP-TCM Research Association activities, and (vi) the Final Conference and GP-TCM Congress updates.

The Appointments and Labour Division of the FP7 GP-TCM Consortium

1. Welcome Dr. Xiaopin WANG 王笑频, Director-General, Department of International Cooperation, State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China, to join the Advisory Board, which is co-chaired by Professor Brian Clark and Professor Yung-Chi Cheng. Warmest congratulations, Xiaopin!

2. Welcome Dr. Jun JIA to be appointed WP8 Assistant Coordinator! Prof. Wei Ding, Assistant Coordinator of WP8 (Acupuncture & Moxibustion) was recently assigned a very demanding new post as the interim chair of Department of Medical Genetics in his University (China Capital Medical University, CCMU). He recommended that Jun, the WP8 secretary who has been extensively involved in the WP8 coordination actions in the past three years, to succeed his position. Wei will continue to serve as an active member of WP8 until the end of the project. Wei's request and recommendation were discussed and approved by the WP8 Co-Coordinators Prof. Xiaomin Wang (CCMU, China) and Prof. Nicola Robinson (LSBU, UK). We thank Wei for his excellent contribution to the GP-TCM project in the past three years and warmly welcome Jun to take on the job as Assistant Coordinator of WP8! **Warmest congratulations to Jun and Wei!**

Members' Activities

1. Delegation of Chengdu University of TCM visited King's College London (KCL)

A delegation of 16 members led by Professor XinJian FAN 范昕建, President of Chengdu University of TCM,

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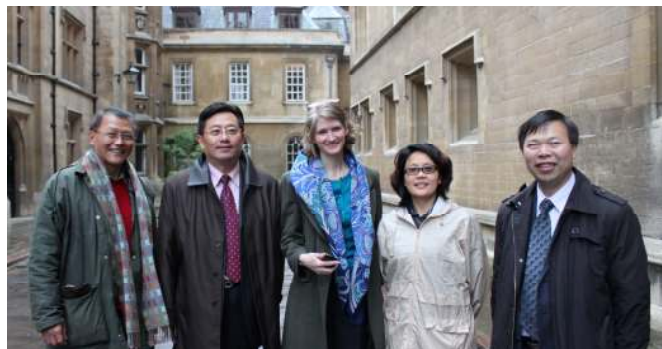
a non-beneficiary member of the FP7 GP-TCM Project and a sponsor of the GP-TCM Congress held in Leiden, 15th-18th April 2012, visited KCL, the coordinating institution of the FP7 GP-TCM Project. Vice Presidents in charge of Health Schools and Health Partners (Prof. Robert Lechler) and international collaborations (Prof. Keith Hoggart) joined King's GP-TCM principal investigators Prof. Peter Hylands (WP4 Coordinator), Prof. Bruce Hendry (Senior Coordination Officer) and Dr. Qihe Xu (WP10 Coordinator) to meet the delegation. The two parties introduced each other's strengths and strategic priorities and discussed the possibility to sign a Memorandum of Understanding at the institutional level.

On page 5, there are a group photo at the main campus of KCL and a scene of discussion on another campus.



2. Delegation of Chengdu University of TCM visited University of Cambridge

The Chengdu delegation also visited University of Cambridge on 22nd and 23rd April. At this follow-up visit since September 2009, President Xinjian Fan, Prof. Junguo Duan 段俊国 and their colleagues had a cordial meeting with Dr. Jennifer Barnes, FRSA (Pro-Vice-Chancellor for International Strategy and President of Murray Edwards College). On the scientific front, the delegation were engaged in research-based discussions with Dr. Tai-Ping Fan (Dept of Pharmacology; GP-TCM Deputy Coordinator and Secretary-General of GP-TCM Research Association), Prof. Daan Frenkel ForMemRS (Head of Dept of Chemistry), Prof. Robert Glen and Dr. Andreas Bender (Unilever Centre for Molecular Informatics), as well as Prof. Antonio Vidal-Puig of Institute of Metabolic Science at Addenbrooke's Hospital, and Dr. Stephen Charnock-Jones of Dept of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, The Rosie Hospital.



3. Chinese Medicine Goes Under the Microscope: Professor Yung-Chi Cheng, Co-Chair of the FP7 GP-TCM Consortium, tells *Wall Street Journal* his story of research and development of PHY906 from a traditional formula, Huang Qin Tang 黄芩汤.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304177104577313821796467932.html>



Scutellaria baicalensis
Baikal skullcap 黄芩

Paeonia lactiflora
Chinese peony 芍药



Glycyrrhiza uralensis
Chinese licorice 甘草

Ziziphus jujuba
Chinese jujube 大枣

Scientists studying a four-herb combination discovered some 1,800 years ago by Chinese herbalists have found that the substance enhances the effectiveness of chemotherapy in patients with colon cancer. The mixture, known in China as huang qin tang, has been shown in early trials to be effective at reducing some side effects of chemotherapy, including diarrhea, nausea and vomiting. The herbs

also seem to bolster colon-cancer treatment: Tests on animals with tumors have shown that administering the herbs along with chemotherapy drugs restored intestinal cells faster than when chemo was used alone.

PHY906 is a rare example of a plant-based product used in traditional folk medicine that could potentially jump the hurdle into mainstream American therapy. A scientific team led by Yung-Chi Cheng, an oncology researcher at Yale University, and funded in part by the National Cancer Institute, is planning to begin Phase II clinical trials to study PHY906's effectiveness in people with colon cancer.

"What Dr. Cheng is doing is keeping [the herbal combination] as a complex entity and using that as an agent," says Josephine Briggs, head of the federal National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, which is helping fund some of the PHY906 research. "It's polypharmacy," or the equivalent of several drugs being administered at once.

4. The 8th Bencao Reading Club was held in mid-January 2012 in Hong Kong: Bencao Reading Club was founded in Feb. 2011 in Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU), aiming to share experiences in reading Compendium of Materia Medica (*Bencao*) and stories behind words in the ancient book. Starting from only a few members, the club has held activities in Hong Kong, Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Chengdu and its membership has grown constantly to be more than 50 as it stands (see photo). Professor Zhongzheng Zhao (non-beneficiary member of WP1, the FP7 GP-TCM Project) made a speech entitled *Innovation should be built on the source of Bencao*. He illustrated the importance of Chinese material medica classics such as *Bencao* by introducing how Professor TU Youyou's Lasker Medical Research Awards winning discovery of artemisinin was enlightened by the records of the ancient book. He also shared his overseas experiences with students and young researchers. A number of other senior scientists also attended the 8th Bencao Reading Club.

Funding opportunities

FP7 People: 2013 Orientation Paper Published

The European Commission has published the draft 2013 Work Programme for the FP7 People programme.

It should be noted that this draft edition, called an Orientation Paper, is a working document which has not yet been endorsed by the Commission. Indicative budgetary information has been removed and contents are still subject to change.

The final version of the 2013 People Work Programme is expected to be published in around early to mid-July 2012.

As in previous years, the Work Programme includes the

following schemes:

- Initial Training Networks (ITN)
- Intra-European Fellowships (IEF)
- International Outgoing Fellowships (IOF)
- International Incoming Fellowships (IIF)
- Career Integration Grants (CIG)
- Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways (IAPP)
- International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)
- Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes (COFUND)
- Researchers' Night (NIGHT)

Access to all FP7 documents:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_documentation

Recommended Readings

1. Working programme of HMPC for 2012-2015

http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Work_programme/2011/12/WC500119957.pdf

2. EMA outlines herbal starting material quality requirements

<http://www.in-pharmatechnologist.com/Materials-Formulation/EMA-outlines-herbal-starting-material-quality-requirements>

3. Di'ao Xinxuekang was registered as a traditional herbal drug in the Netherlands

http://www.cb-g-meb.nl/CBG/en/human-medicines/actueel/First_Authorisation_of_Traditional_Herbal_Medicine_from_outside_the_European_Union/default.htm

http://www.most.gov.cn/dfkj/sc/zxdt/201203/t20120330_93475.htm

<http://finance.sina.com.cn/roll/20120405/014911747157.shtml>

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2012-04/19/content_15085573.htm

4. Nature News: China's budget backs science

English: <http://www.nature.com/news/china-s-budget-backs-science-1.10209>

中文 <http://www.ebiotrade.com/newsf/2012-3/2012314113055889.htm>

5. Science Translational Medicine paper on Data-driven prediction of drug effects and interactions.

Sci Transl Med. 2012 Mar 14;4(125):125ra31. Tatonetti NP, Ye PP, Daneshjou R, Altman RB.

<http://stm.sciencemag.org/content/4/125/125ra31>

6. Nature News: Screen uncovers hidden ingredients of Chinese medicine (seized by Australian Customs)

<http://www.nature.com/news/screen-uncovers-hidden-ingredients-of-chinese-medicine-1.10430>

中文 <http://www.ebiotrade.com/newsf/2012-4/2012415124638193.htm>

中文 http://www.wxrb.com/node/news_yaowen/2012-4-24/EI4EIK69G291874.html

7. PNAS report: Aristolochic acid-associated urothelial cancer in Taiwan

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2012/04/03/1119920109.abstract>

中文 <http://www.ebiotrade.com/newsf/2012-4/2012410144119714.htm>

8. Simulations vs. Cells in ADME/Tox:

http://www.dddmag.com/products/2011/10/simulations-vs-cells-adme/tox?et_cid=2604552&et_rid=45532557&linkid=http%3a%2f%2fwww.dddmag.com%2fproducts%2f2011%2f10%2fsimulations-vs-cells-adme%2ftox

9. Indian Government looks to use 3rd party audits for drug quality.

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http://www.livemint.com/2012/04/10225714/Govt-may-allow-thirdparty-aud.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter&goback=%2Fegde_3572130_member_107417825

10. Research article at PLoS Genetics Journal: Deep Sequencing of Plant and Animal DNA Contained within Traditional Chinese Medicines Reveals Legality Issues and Health Safety Concerns.

<http://www.plosgenetics.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pgen.1002657>

11. EDQM - Pharmeuropa 24.2: the issue is now complete and will be open to public enquiry until 30 June 2012. <http://pharmeuropa.edqm.eu/home/>

12. ESIM - Excellence in Integrative Medicine Research Award: The European Society of Integrative Medicine (ESIM) is announcing a new and innovative award “Excellence in Integrative Medicine Research Award”. This international prize will recognize innovative and performing scientific projects in the field of integrative medicine (cooperation of conventional and complementary medicine, including its bioregulatory aspects). Two different categories will be rewarded with 10,000 Euro each: one focusing on basic research, and the other focusing on clinical research. Deadline for manuscript submission is 31st May 2012. Please contact esim@charite.de for further information.

13. Cannabis and Cancer Treatment

Cannabis Science moves forward with IND process as a topical cannabis product proves successful in skin cancer treatment.

http://www.nutraceuticalsworld.com/contents/view_online-exclusives/2012-04-30/cannabis-and-cancer-treatment

Future Meetings:

1. Science Council Seminar: Acupuncture for Integrated Pain Management (London, UK, 4th July 2012): One-day conference to explore the evidence for acupuncture, its use for pain, potential mechanisms and its application within the UK NHS for integrated pain management.

http://www.collegeofmedicine.org.uk/sites/default/files/acupuncture_4jul12_programme_v6_flyer.pdf

2. The Hong Kong International Integrative Medicine Conference and Chinese Medicine in Geriatrics (Hong Kong, China, 6th -8th July 2012), which is jointly organised by the Hospital Authority, Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Association for Integrative Medicine (HKAIM), Hong Kong, China. Please visit the conference website for further information: <http://www.hacmk.org.hk/hkiic.nsf/home?readform>

3. The 2nd Forum on Sino-European Cooperation and Development of TCM and Munich Forum on Cooperation in Research, Practice and Education of TCM (Munich, Germany, 20th -21st July 2012), which is jointly organised by The Competence Centre for Complementary Medicine and Naturopathy (CoCoNat), Germany, and the World Federation of Chinese

Medicine Societies. Please visit the conference website for further information: <http://www.mucforumtcm.com/en>.

4. The 11th Meeting of Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine (CGCM) will be held in Macau on 21st– 23rd August 2012 (a pre-meeting will be held on 20th August). The Meeting is organized by Macau University of Science and Technology. It provides a platform for regulatory-industrial-academic exchanges and potential research collaborations, on various frontiers of TCM among worldwide CGCM members and guests. Abstract submission for poster presentations is now open for all CGCM members and invited guests. Abstract Submission deadline is 31st May 2012. Please visit CGCM website for further details. <http://www.tcmmedicine.org/>

5. The 2012 Shanghai International Conference on TCM and Natural Medicine will be held on 20th - 21st October 2012 in Riverfront Business Hotel in Shanghai. Hosted by Modern Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Industry Office of Shanghai Municipality, the conference theme is “Modernization and Internationalization of TCM”. For more information and online registration, please visit <http://www.s-tcm.com/english.html?jdfwkey=hurkb1>



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