

GP-TCM Newsletter (10<sup>th</sup> October 2007-5<sup>th</sup> June 2008)

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[Edited by Qihe Xu, MD, PhD]

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## GP-TCM Newsletter (05-06-08)

### Consortium Business

**1. Acting Consortium Coordinator, New Assistant Consortium Coordinators and GP-TCM Newsletter Editors:** Dr Qihe Xu, the GP-TCM Coordinator, will visit China **from 28th June to the 21st July**. A tele-conference was attended by Dr Qihe Xu, the Deputy Coordinator **Dr Alberto Dias (Portugal)**, Consortium member **Dr Hani El-Nezami** and Consortium Expert **Dr Tai-Ping Fan** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and the following agreements have agreed: (i) during Qihe's absence in the aforementioned period of time, **Dr Alberto Dias (Portugal) will serve as Acting Consortium Coordinator** of GP-TCM, supervising activities of the whole consortium, the Management Team and liaison with the European Commission. For any consortium business, please contact Alberto directly: [albertocpdias@gmail.com](mailto:albertocpdias@gmail.com); (ii) after publishing 23 issues of GP-TCM Newsletters in the past 8 months, Dr Qihe Xu has decided to retire from the position as Editor-in-chief of GP-TCM. **Dr Hani El-Nezami and Dr Tai-Ping Fan have kindly agreed to take the appointment as Editors-in-chief**. Hani has contributed significantly to the past issues of GP-TCM Newsletters in the recent weeks and Tai-Ping is a very experienced editor as he is the founding Editor-in-chief of the journal *Angiogenesis*; (iii) foreseeing the importance of communications and publications in the future, **Dr Hani El-Nezami and Dr Tai-Ping Fan are also appointed to the position of Consortium Assistant Coordinators**. **Warm congratulations and many thanks to Alberto, Hani and Tai-Ping for taking the challenge!**

<http://www.bio.uminho.pt/Default.aspx?tabid=8&pageid=336&lang=pt-PT>

<http://www.phar.cam.ac.uk/ri/fan.html>

[http://www.hku.hk/biosch/AcademicStaff\\_ap.html](http://www.hku.hk/biosch/AcademicStaff_ap.html)

**2. GP-TCM Newsletters October 2007-5 June 2008:** As the retiring editor of the GP-TCM Newsletter, Dr Qihe Xu would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support in the past 8 months. Since October 2007, we have altogether published issues, which are now collated as an independent attachment, for your reference.

**3. Schedules of future GP-TCM Newsletters (Planned by Dr Hani El-Nezami):** June 19; July 3, 17, 31; August 14, 28; Sept 11, 25; Oct 9, 23; Nov 6, 20; Dec 4, 18. If you have any info to share within the consortium, please send your info to Hani and Tai-Ping at least 1 day before the releasing dates: Hani El-Nezami <elnezami@hkucc.hku.hk> and Tai-Ping Fan <tpf1000@cam.ac.uk>. Thank you!

**4. Welcome Professor Alexander Molassiotis to join GP-TCM as a Consortium Expert dedicated to WP6 (led by Dr George Lewith) and WP8 (led by Prof Xiaomin Wang)! Prof. Alex Molassiotis is Professor of Cancer & Supportive Care at the University of Manchester, Frances Bloomberg International Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto, Canada, and Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Oncology Nursing. He studied TCM (particularly acupuncture) at the TCM Universities of Chengdu and Nanjing in China. He is a leader in complementary therapies research, particularly acupuncture, has a large number of relevant publications in medical journals and currently has a programme of research with acupuncture, acupressure and herbs in the management of various cancer symptoms and side effects, including fatigue, mucositis and chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, running large and/or multicentre clinical trials in this area. **Congratulations, Alex!****

<http://www.nursing.manchester.ac.uk/staff/AlexMolassiotis>

**5. Welcome Professor Jianping Liu to join GP-TCM as a Consortium Expert dedicated to WP6 (led by Dr George Lewith. **Congratulations, Jianping!****

### Letters to the Editors

**1. Meeting on grapes and wine organized by Prof Alberto Dias (Portugal) and colleagues:**

<http://cost858.bio.uminho.pt/organization.html>

**2. Prof Monique Simmonds (UK):** “Dear Qihe, Are you going to getting a conference call/ meeting together for the EU consortium or do you expect us all to get out teams together via email etc?” **Reply from Qihe:** “We will receive feedback from EC in the end of this weekend and work further on the revision and signature of the contract with EU in the coming weeks. Based on the progress of the grant approval, I will contact all consortium lead before my departure for China in the end of this month to discuss plans for each WP. All the information will be updated in future GP-TCM Newsletters”

## Research on Acupuncture

## Research on Chinese herbal medicines

## New Methodology

### Next Issue:

The next GP-TCM Newsletter will be published in two weeks time, on the 19<sup>th</sup> June. This will be the first issue co-edited by Tai-Ping and Hani and feedback from European Commission will be featured...Please do support. Thank you!

Thanks for contributions from Dr Hani El-Nezami (China), Prof Alberto Dias (Portugal), Prof Monique Simmonds (UK), Prof Alex Molassiotis (UK) and Prof Jianping Liu (China). If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail Hani El-Nezami <elnezami@hkucc.hku.hk> and Tai-Ping Fan <tpf1000@cam.ac.uk>. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu (UK), Dr Tai-Ping Fan (UK), Dr Hani El-Nezami (China) and Prof Alberto Dias (Portugal)

## Breaking News

**1. SOS: National mourning in China and invitation of kind help from Europe:** The GP-TCM Consortium is sincerely horrified and saddened to hear of the strongest earthquake (7.9-magnitude) since 1950 had struck China on Monday the 12th May 2008. We do hope that families and friends of our China partners have no loss during the disaster. Sadly, the death toll has already exceeded 50,000, with 30,000 missing, over 220,000 people injured and millions of people made homeless. While the Chinese people are conducting a massive rescuing effort, many people in other countries and international organisations like the Red Cross are also trying hard to help. Importantly, the disaster is not at all only about these astonishing numbers, to know more updated information about the disaster, please visit:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/7397838.stm>

If you wish to support the rescue and relief effort, please do so by visiting the following website:

[http://www.redcross.org.uk/donatesection.asp?id=81125&entrypoint=31872\\_googlead2\\_china](http://www.redcross.org.uk/donatesection.asp?id=81125&entrypoint=31872_googlead2_china)

A poem written by a mum for kids killed in the disaster is also introduced to you as an appendix because we are deeply touched and believe that you will think it deserves reading too.

**We are incredibly vulnerable in the violent force of Nature; united we stand stronger ...**

## Consortium Business

**1.** CCMU, IMPLAD and SIAMM have e-mailed me the English translation and notary certificates of all official documents on legal entity of their institutions. Many thanks!

**2. Welcome Professor Kenneth Muir (University of Nottingham, UK) to join GP-TCM as a Consortium Expert dedicated to WP6 (led by Dr George Lewith)!** Professor Muir is Professor of Epidemiology working in cancer research for over 30 years, with excellent expertise in coordinating clinical studies. His main research interests are in the clinical, molecular and genetic epidemiology of cancer, musculo-skeletal disease and healthy ageing and he is the leader of the Nottingham UK-China Collaboration on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NUCCAM) Programme. He sits on the Preparatory Committee/Expert Committee of the “International TCM Programme for Cooperation in Science and Technology” of Chinese Ministry of Science & Technology and his research on anti-cancer Chinese medicine has recently been supported by Innovation China UK. **Congratulations, Prof Muir!**

[http://www.nuccam.ac.uk/kenneth\\_muir.htm](http://www.nuccam.ac.uk/kenneth_muir.htm)

[http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/phme/staff/k\\_muir.html](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/phme/staff/k_muir.html)

**3. Dr Youping Zhu:** “What's called Bofutsushosan in Japan is called Fangfeng Tongshen San (防风通圣散) in China, which is a more well known name in the TCM community for this commonly used herbal formula traditionally used for flu and colds with strong fever and chills, headache, dizziness, sore throat, bitter taste in the mouth, thirsty, constipation, and dark urine, urticaria and skin lesions with exudation. If you search Fangfeng Tongshen San in Pubmed, you get just one hit whereas with Bofutsushosan, you get 11. This is a question (nomenclature) that has been addressed if one wants to find all relevant literatures on Chinese herbs and herbal formulas. Without this knowledge, one may miss most literature about Chinese herbal formulas as is the case with Fangfeng Tongsheng San. Just my initial personal thought on this issue. Hope we can have more detailed discussions in the consortium and develop a strategy to tackle this when the actual work kicks off.”

This is a feedback to editors regarding the Number 8 Leading News On TCM Research in the GP-TCM Newsletter (08-5-08): <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&p>

**4. News from Prof Ian A. Sutherland,** Director, Brunel Institute for Bioengineering, Brunel University, the founder Chairman of the UK Consortium for the Globalisation of Chinese Medicines (UKCGCM): The 8th Consortium for the Globalisation of Chinese Medicines (CGCM) International Conference will be held in the UK, being hosted by Nottingham University in August 2009.

## Research on Acupuncture

1. **A must read on The Nature of Acupuncture Points and Meridian** by Dr Charles Shang, Department of Medicine, Harvard Medical School: <http://www.acupuncture.com/education/theory/mechanismacu.htm>
2. **A most recent review: Acupuncture: What Underlies Needle Administration**  
<http://ecam.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/nen002v1>
3. **The biofield hypothesis: its biophysical basis and role in medicine.**  
<http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/abs/10.1089%2F10755530260511711>
4. **Relationship of acupuncture points and meridians to connective tissue planes.**  
<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/101521787/PDFSTART>
5. **Electrical correlates of acupuncture points**  
<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/iel5/10/4120969/04120984.pdf?tp=&isnumber=&arnumber=4120984>
6. **New device to map skin electric fields: A useful tool to investigate acupuncture points?**  
<http://content.karger.com/ProdukteDB/produkte.asp?Aktion=ShowPDF&ArtikelNr=000094704&Ausgabe=232112&ProduktNr=224242&filename=000094704.pdf>

## Research on Chinese herbal medicines

1. **Effect of a proprietary Magnolia and Phellodendron extract on stress levels in healthy women: a pilot, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial**  
<http://www.nutritionj.com/content/7/1/11>
2. **Impact of complementary treatment of breast cancer patients with standardized mistletoe extract during aftercare: a controlled multicenter comparative epidemiological cohort study.**  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18383896?ordinalpos=6&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed\\_ResultPanel.Pubmed\\_RVDocSum](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18383896?ordinalpos=6&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum)
3. **Potential Interactions of Drug–Natural Health Products and Natural Health Products–Natural Health Products among Children**  
[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=ArticleURL&\\_udi=B6WKR-4R2XD2F-3&\\_user=10&\\_rdoc=1&\\_fmt=&\\_orig=search&\\_sort=d&\\_view=c&\\_acct=C000050221&\\_version=1&\\_urlVersion=0&\\_userid=10&md5=4f2b970b8b73d2da8e3023e8e8b4011b](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6WKR-4R2XD2F-3&_user=10&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&_view=c&_acct=C000050221&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=10&md5=4f2b970b8b73d2da8e3023e8e8b4011b)
4. **Radix astragali and orthostatic response: a double-masked crossover study.**  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18309905?ordinalpos=14&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed\\_ResultsPanel.Pubmed\\_RVDocSum](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18309905?ordinalpos=14&itool=EntrezSystem2.PEntrez.Pubmed.Pubmed_ResultsPanel.Pubmed_RVDocSum)
5. **Evaluation of botanicals for improving human health**  
<http://www.ajcn.org/cgi/content/full/87/2/472S>
6. **Chinese medicinal herbs for acute bronchitis**  
<http://mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD004560/frame.html>

Thanks for contributions from Prof Kenneth Muir (UK), Dr Youping Zhou (Netherlands), Dr Hani El-Nezami (China), Dr Qihe Xu (UK), Prof Ian A. Sutherland (UK) and Dr Jing Deng (UK). If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail us. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu (UK) and Dr Hani El-Nezami (China)

## Grab My Hand, My Child

by A Tearful Mum  
in Memory of All the Children Died in the Sichuan Earthquake

Grab my hand, my sweetheart  
The road to heaven is so dark  
Mum is afraid that you may  
Stumble or fall along the way  
Please hold my hand tight  
Let mum walk by your side

I am so scared, Mamma  
The road to heaven is so dark  
The school's rubble has blocked out the light  
I can't reach your hand or say good night

To God you go, my sweetheart  
You will be carefree on the path  
No more endless homework to do  
No more pressure put on you  
Just remember how I sent you  
off to school this morning and smiled  
Now I promise to collect you  
from school every day, my child

Mum, please don't be worried  
Though the road to heaven is a bit crowded  
With so many classmates around  
We can feel safe and sound  
With so many mums welcoming us to the sky  
We say to each other "Don't cry"  
Anyone's mum is also our mum  
Anyone's child is also these mums' child  
Since you can no longer kiss me good night  
Give your love to children who've survived

Mum, do not cry for me  
Your tears will not help, you see  
On my road up to the Sky  
I'll feel you and Dad nearby  
I will remember, Mum  
What you and Dad look like  
Mum, keep our promise  
We'll meet in the next life

(Translated by Dr Jing Deng and friends in London, the UK)

孩子快抓紧妈妈的手  
——为地震死去的孩子们而作

作者：流泪

孩子，快  
抓紧妈妈的手  
去天堂的路  
太黑了  
妈妈怕你  
碰了头  
快  
抓紧妈妈的手  
让妈妈陪你走

妈妈  
怕  
天堂的路  
太黑  
我看不见你的手  
自从  
倒塌的墙  
把阳光夺走  
我再也看不见  
你柔情的眸

孩子  
你走吧  
前面的路  
再也没有忧愁  
没有读不完的课本  
和爸爸的拳头  
你要记住  
我和爸爸的模样  
来生还要一起走

妈妈  
别担忧  
天堂的路有些挤  
有很多同学朋友  
我们说  
不哭  
哪一个人的妈妈都是我们的妈  
妈  
妈妈  
哪一个孩子都是妈妈的孩子  
没有我的日子  
你把爱给活的孩子吧  
妈妈  
妈妈  
你别哭  
泪光照亮不了  
我们的路  
让我们自己  
慢慢的走  
妈妈  
我会记住你和爸爸的模样  
记住我们的约定  
来生一起走！

**Consortium Business:**

**1. Revised Annex I and the online registration forms submitted! Please note the following revision:** Some WP members are asking to clarify the role of WP leads, Consortium Experts and related funding issues. After discussion within the Management Team and consulting senior scientific officers and EC officers, the following clarification has been made and the related description at page 53 of the Annex I has been revised: *“WP leads, including WP Coordinators, Deputy WP Coordinators and Assistant WP Coordinators, will be responsible for managing the activities within their work packages. Consortium Experts, who are at the Assistant or Deputy Coordinator level in ability and profile, will be invited by the Management team to join the consortium to address strategic needs of the consortium and to balance the views of each WP. WP leads are appointed by the management team and should follow the advice of the management team and serve the strategic needs of the whole consortium, in addition to encouraging, organising, modulating and impartially collating discussions among all WP members and Consortium Experts. The WP leads are expected to seek input from all Consortium members and experts outside their institutions, keeping frequent consultation with the scientific and technical advisory committees, rather than only working on their own or with their preferred collaborators, so that planned deliverables are made and milestones met. In particular, WPs (except WP9) will lead one kick-off meeting followed by quarterly conference calls. The WP9 will organise the Final Conference at which the European Society of TCM Research will be founded. WP Assistant Coordinators are expected to serve as corresponding persons for their WPs. Costs for face-to-face meetings will be awarded under the names of the WP Coordinators and the costs for communications and literature review will be awarded under the name of each WP member. Consortium Experts will not be awarded money for communications and literature review- their involvement is regarded as voluntary and “Honorary”. However, they will be invited to the relevant WP kick-off meetings and the Final Conference, with expenses covered by the meeting budgets. In order to ensure the success of the consortium as a whole, the management team reserves the right to adjust leadership of WPs if significant failure is deemed inevitable due to unexpected reasons. Should this happen, the funding awarded to each WP would be re-arranged according to the leadership changes.”*

**2. For beneficiaries in Beijing and Shanghai,** including BUCM, SCCMU, IMPLAD, SIAMM and SUTCM: Could you please e-mail the English translation and notary certificates of all official documents on legal entity of your institution to qihe.xu.xu@kcl.ac.uk by the 15<sup>th</sup> May?

**3. Welcome Dr Hani El-Nezami (China) and Prof Alberto Dias (Portugal)** to be appointed editors of the GP-TCM Newsletter!

**4. Welcome Dr Tai-Ping Fan (University of Cambridge), one of our GP-TCM newsletter recipients to join GP-TCM as a Consortium Expert dedicated to WP4 (led by Prof Peter Hylands).** Dr Fan is Head of the Angiogenesis & TCM Laboratory at Department of Pharmacology, University of Cambridge and is Honorary Professor of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (Beijing). He is the Founding Editor of the journal *Angiogenesis* and sits on the Preparatory Committee/Expert Committee of the “International TCM Program for Cooperation in Science and Technology” of Chinese Ministry of Science & Technology. He is also a key organiser of the **TCM Week in the UK** to be held in London in late July 2008. Attached to this Newsletter please an introduction of Dr Fan’s work entitled “Unlocking Nature’s biochemical secrets”.

[http://www.erbi.co.uk/pooled/articles/BF\\_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF\\_NEWSART\\_296886](http://www.erbi.co.uk/pooled/articles/BF_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF_NEWSART_296886)

<http://www.phar.cam.ac.uk/ri/fan.html>

**5. Welcome Professor Sue Watson (University of Nottingham, UK) to join GP-TCM as a Consortium Expert dedicated to WP5 (led by Prof Javier Luci-Cazana)!** Professor Watson is Scientific Director of the University business unit, PRECOS, which performs pre-clinical oncology research for academics and industry. She has worked in the field of cancer pharmacology and drug development since 1987 and heads a major UK in vivo oncology imaging & tumour modelling research unit. She has been involved in pre-clinical development of cancer agents leading to successful clinical trial authorisation in both the UK and US (IND) and has published more than 90 peer-reviewed publications including those in *Nature Reviews* and *Lancet*. She is a member of an NCRI sub-group Committee tasked with updating and re-writing national

guidelines for in vivo cancer research. In 2004 she was awarded the Bayliss and Starling National award from the British Society of Gastroenterology for outstanding contributions to the field. She has held a Home Office project licence since 1991 and has been recently awarded a major research grant by Innovation China UK to develop anti-cancer drugs from herbal derivatives.

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/dpco/Personnel.htm#SW>

6. Welcome **Professor Elizabeth M Williamson (University of Reading, UK)** to join GP-TCM as a **Consortium Expert** dedicated to **WP4 (led by Prof Xinmin Liu)**! Prof Williamson is Professor of Pharmacy and Director of Pharmacy Practice. She is Member of the British Pharmacopoeia Commission, UK Dept of Health, Chair of BPC Expert Advisory Group for Herbal and Complementary Medicines, and Editor-in-Chief of Phytotherapy Research. She is an expert in research of herbal medicine drug-drug interactions and has just sent off to the Pharmaceutical Press the manuscript for a new book, Stockley's Herb-Drug Interactions. In addition, Prof Williamson was a leader of another bid for the same FP7 funding and has offered to share details of her 'Safety' work package with GP-TCM.

[http://www.reading.ac.uk/pharmacy/staff/williamson\\_e.htm](http://www.reading.ac.uk/pharmacy/staff/williamson_e.htm)

### Leading News On TCM research:

1. Contribution from **Prof Xiaomin WANG, Prof Wei Ding and Prof Jun Jia (WP8, CCMU, Beijing)**: On 12<sup>th</sup> April 2008, the first department of ITCMWM ever established in a medical school specialised in western medicine has been founded in one of the GP-TCM participant institution, China Capital Medical University (CCMU). The staff of the department are leading ITCMWM doctors recruited from 14 hospitals in Beijing, headed by Professor Wang BaoEn, a distinguished ITCMWM expert. The newly-established department draws the blueprint to train top-level doctors in an ITCMWM specialty, to establish a clinical-based ITCMWM laboratory with the initial investment of 10 million RMB, to foster young academic leaders in some key research areas.

2. Chinese Pharmaceutical Outlook 2008-2023:

[http://www.bioportfolio.com/cgi-bin/acatalog/info\\_20.html](http://www.bioportfolio.com/cgi-bin/acatalog/info_20.html)

3. Black tea may beat diabetes

<http://chinesemedicineneeds.com/2008/03/03/black-tea-may-beat-diabetes/>

4. 'Happy tree' yields a cancer-fighting drug

<http://chinesemedicineneeds.com/2008/03/05/happy-tree-yields-a-cancer-fighting-drug/>

5. Precious herb 'Tin Ma' fights depression

<http://chinesemedicineneeds.com/2008/03/02/precious-herb-fights-depression/>

6. Germans search for new anti-cancer drugs from TCM

<http://chinesemedicineneeds.com/2008/02/24/germans-search-for-new-anti-cancer-drugs-from-tcm/>

7. Biophytum sensitivum (L.) DC inhibits tumor cell invasion and metastasis through a mechanism involving regulation of MMPs, prolyl hydroxylase, lysyl oxidase, nm23, ERK-1, ERK-2, STAT-1, and proinflammatory cytokine gene expression in metastatic lung tissue.

<http://ict.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/7/1/42>

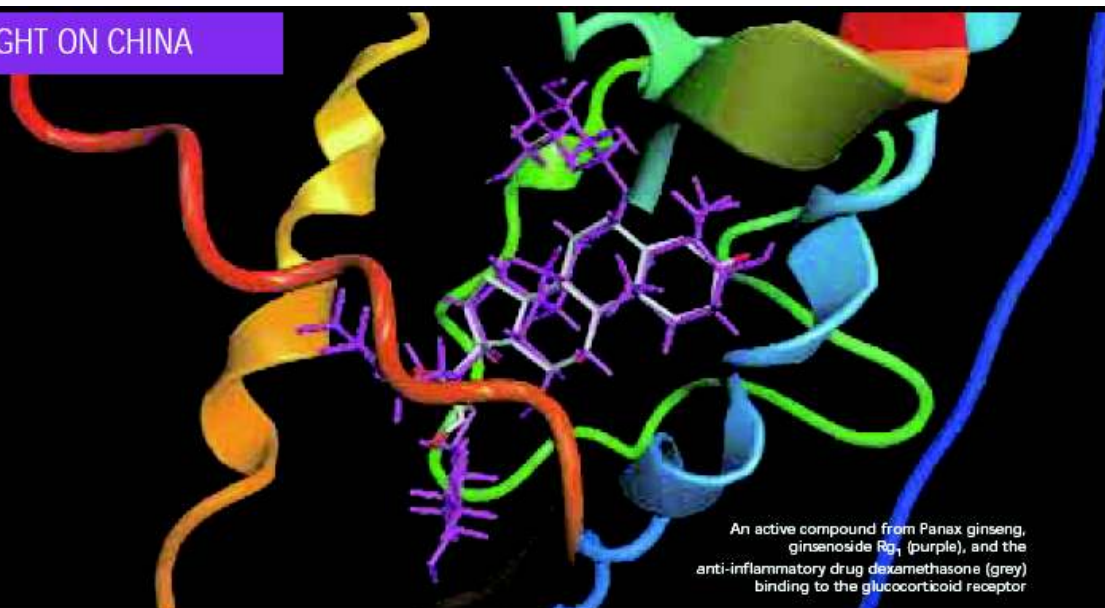
8. Bofutsushosan, an Oriental Herbal Medicine, Attenuates the Weight Gain of White Adipose Tissue and the Increased Size of Adipocytes Associated with the Increase in Their Expression of Uncoupling Protein 1 in High-Fat Diet-Fed Male KK/Ta mice

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&pubmedid=18385834>

Thanks for contributions from all Management team members, Dr Tai-Ping Fan (UK), Prof Sue Watson (UK), Prof Elizabeth Williamson (UK), Prof Xiaomin Wang and Dr Jun Jia (China), Dr Hani El-Nezami (China) and Dr Paul Bangor (UK). If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail us. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu (UK) and Dr Hani El-Nezami (China)





An active compound from Panax ginseng, ginsenoside Rg<sub>1</sub> (purple), and the anti-inflammatory drug dexamethasone (gray) binding to the glucocorticoid receptor

Research led by the Department of Pharmacology is discovering the drugs of tomorrow from traditional Chinese medicine.

## Unlocking Nature's biochemical secrets

Almost every culture has its distinct herbal traditions, each with its indigenous plants and unique practices. But one premise unites them all – herbs have remarkable properties that make them potentially powerful medicines. In Britain, this rich history was given credence in 1511 by the *Herbalists Charter of Henry the VIII*, which stated that anyone 'having knowledge and experience of the nature of herbs, roots and waters' was allowed to provide care. In China, practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) began to compile formulations in compendia more than 2000 years ago. Today, TCM is enjoying a revival, thanks to several international initiatives to validate the power of TCM as a preventive medicine and as a cure for chronic diseases.

Fascinated by the ground-breaking work in the 1990s of dermatologists and TCM practitioners using Chinese herbs in the treatment of steroid-resistant eczema, Dr Tai-Ping Fan embarked on a quest to transform the art of TCM into a rigorous evidence-based science of healthcare and well-being. Ten years on, his team in the University's Department of Pharmacology is now working on a interdisciplinary programme to discover new medicines from plants.

### The good and the evil of *materia medica*

An incredible 400,000 combinations of 10,000 plant and animal extracts plus minerals make up the formulations of

TCM known today. Chinese doctors are guided by holistic principles and often prescribe a cocktail of *materia medica* (*fufang*) with the aim of promoting synergistic interactions among constituents yet minimising their adverse/toxic effects. In fact, such a practice of polypharmacy has now become a popular approach for modern-day drug formulations: some 'All-in-One' products for the relief of cold symptoms, for example, contain a mixture of paracetamol (to treat headache, shivers and pains), phenylephrine (blocked nose and sinuses) and guaifenesin (chesty coughs). Establishing which are the active ingredients and which are the toxins, and determining how they work, is key to the renaissance of TCM as a means of drug discovery.

### Yin and Yang in ginseng

Dr Fan's research has focused on the time-honoured herb ginseng (*Panax*), a commonly used nutraceutical (a food extract that has medicinal effects) and one of the most important components of TCM. Various attributed with benefits such as improving alertness, inducing well-being and reducing pain, ginseng has been shown in recent times to aid wound healing and treat tumours. But, perplexingly, the plant seems to act both by promoting the growth of blood vessels (angiogenesis) in wounds and by inhibiting it in tumours. How can it accomplish such opposing activities?

*'In these days of huge international pharmaceutical companies and modern high-powered methods of drug development, it is worth recalling how much we owe to compounds discovered in the natural world through folk medicine.'*

Professor Peter McNaughton,  
Head of the Department of  
Pharmacology

Using pure molecules extracted from the plant, Dr Fan led an international team of researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Gaubius Laboratory in The Netherlands, Hong Kong Baptist University and the University of Cambridge to study this phenomenon. By determining ginseng's chemical fingerprint (the chemical 'signature' of molecules that distinguishes one compound from another) and purifying its components, the team has reconstructed what is happening to the blood vessels at both the cellular and molecular level.

### Not all ginseng is the same

One of the principal findings of the study is that not all types of ginseng are the same: the source is vitally important. A mass spectrometric compositional analysis of American, Chinese, Korean and Sanqi ginseng revealed distinct fingerprints, especially in the ratio between the two most prevalent constituents, the 'sterol ginsenosides' Rg<sub>1</sub> and Rb<sub>1</sub>. Crucially, if the ginseng has Rg<sub>1</sub> as the dominant constituent it promotes angiogenesis, and if Rb<sub>1</sub> is dominant it exerts an opposing effect. For the first time, the ambiguity in the effects of ginseng on vascular pathophysiology had been explained by the specific make-up of each variety.

Working with Professor Ricky Wong at Hong Kong Baptist University, the research has taken a step further. Homing in on the molecular interactions happening inside the blood vessel cells, the research has confirmed precisely how ginseng works. Rg<sub>1</sub> binds to a steroid receptor (glucocorticoid receptor), which then stimulates blood vessel growth by upregulating a growth factor; by contrast, Rb<sub>1</sub> binds another type of steroid receptor (estrogen receptor), which then inhibits blood vessel growth through a different pathway.

These discoveries highlight the potential benefits of the components of ginseng for drug development. They also raise important implications for TCM and regulations that standardise herbal therapy: incorrect identification and misuse of herbal species can result in severe consequences and extreme care must be taken that the right herbs are prescribed for the right condition.

### Herbs for health

These new aspects of angiogenesis research are providing important clues for the development of novel drugs to treat diseases in which angiogenesis plays a role, including rheumatoid arthritis, heart disease, psoriasis, chronic wounds and cancer. Working closely with Dr Rik van Veen in the Department of

Pharmacology, Dr Fan aims to discover herbal activities for the reversal of multi-drug resistance in cancer chemotherapy. A further collaboration is studying other herbs commonly used in TCM for the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular conditions such as hypertension and stroke (*Salvia miltiorrhiza*, or danshen), and gynaecological disorders such as irregular periods and endometriosis (*Angelica sinensis*, or dong guai). This project brings together expertise from many departments: Professor Steven Ley (Department of Chemistry), Dr Stephen Charnock-Jones (Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology), Dr Bertie Göttgens (Department of Haematology), and Professor Kevin Brindle and Dr Richard Farndale (Department of Biochemistry).

### Modernising Chinese medicine

The multifactorial nature of chronic diseases is one of the most significant problems in drug discovery today. Orally active Chinese medicine *tufang* represents a golden opportunity for drug discovery: each herb contains many active ingredients and is essentially an enormously complex chemical cocktail with medicinal properties that modern pharmaceuticals cannot yet reproduce. Internationally, drug discovery researchers are increasingly turning to TCM. One of the most ambitious of these projects was announced only recently: the 'Herbalome Project' at the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics in China is embarking on a 15-year study using high-throughput screening, toxicity tests and clinical trials to identify the medicinal constituents of herbal preparations.

In Britain, Dr Fan has assembled a consortium of experts from the University of Cambridge, the Needham Research Institute in Cambridge, the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Brunel University, Bradford University, the London School of Pharmacy, and Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. In collaboration with Chinese government agencies, academic institutions and enterprise, they aim to illuminate the science underpinning TCM theories and practice, and deliver solutions for new avenues of healthcare.

Cambridge is well placed to become an international centre for systematic investigations and modernisation of Chinese medicine in the future. By drawing together expertise and resources across the University and neighbouring institutions, and forming joint ventures with pharmaceutical and biotech companies, the power of modern science will continue to unlock Nature's biochemical secrets.



NEEDHAM RESEARCH INSTITUTE, CAMBRIDGE. PHOTO: KEITH HERTFELD

Preparing traditional Chinese medicine; illustration from *Handbook of the Supplement to Leigong's Methods of Preparing Medicine* (c.1590s)



Dr Tai-Ping Fan

For more information, please contact the author Dr Tai-Ping Fan (tpf1000@cam.ac.uk) at the Department of Pharmacology.

## GP-TCM Newsletter (24-04-08)

### Consortium Business:

- 1. Urgent! To be qualified to receive EU funding, the following institutions and companies have to register them with EU as a legal entity:** [4 \(BUCMP\)](#), [5 \(CCMU\)](#), [6 \(IMPLAD\)](#), [7 \(SIAMM\)](#), [8 \(SUTCM\)](#), [9 \(UHK\)](#), [10 \(AB\)](#), [12 \(FIDMD\)](#), [19 \(CMC\)](#), [23 \(UHRC\)](#), [24 \(AHCS\)](#) and [25 \(PP\)](#), by (i) filling in the related registration forms that Mr Ron Irwin has sent out recently and directly e-mailing (scanned documents) to Dr Maria Psimenopoulou (EC): [maria.PSIMENOPOULOU@ec.europa.eu](mailto:maria.PSIMENOPOULOU@ec.europa.eu). Please forward the e-mail to both me and Mr Ron Irwin.
- 2. EC has invited us to negotiate and the online access information has been received:** To open the negotiation, please follow this link: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/nef/>  
Project number: 223154. Access key will be sent to you in a separate e-mail, if required. I am now preparing the negotiation documents and you will be contacted if contribution from you is needed.
- 3. The GP-TCM Newsletter calls for editors:** Any interested consortium members and external experts are welcome. The newsletter editors will be expected to play important roles for our future GP-TCM website too. To show your interest, please e-mail Dr Qihe Xu: [qihe.xu@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:qihe.xu@kcl.ac.uk)
- 4. Dr Werner Knöss (WP2, Germany) is invited by WHO and Chinese authorities to lecture in China in May 2008.** The 1st lecture is in Beijing to cover the regulatory situation of TCM medicinal products in Europe and specific problems with requirements on quality, efficacy and safety. The second lecture will be held in Guangzhou and is mostly addressed to scientists who intend to do research on the efficacy of medicinal products from TCM considering also European standards.
- 5. Dr Werner Knöss also raised another question:** “During the review procedure of our application it was suggested (by the review panel) to reduce the number of participants. I hope that your intention during negotiations will be to keep all participants within the consortium. I can follow the reasons as far as administration is concerned, but on the other hand also the participants with small grants contribute a substantial value of man power to the network. Consequently, the status of a participant would be much better to justify the continuation of the contribution within the institution itself.” **Thanks, Dr Werner Knöss! I have exchanged opinions with EC and other management team members. We will do exactly as you suggested!**
- 6. Dr Stephen Minger (WP10) visited Prof Chenghai Liu, Prof Ping Liu and Dr Xiaoling Wang (WP8) of the Shanghai University of Chinese Medicine on the 4<sup>th</sup> April.** In a workshop entitled **TCM and stem cells**, they have exchanged opinions on the following issues: (i) stem cell, neurological disorders and related legislation issues (Stephen); (ii) the difference and similarity of individualised therapy in TCM and Western medicine (Ping); (iii) anti-fibrotic and stem cell-regulating TCM (Chenghai); (iv) effects of TCM on bone marrow-derived liver stem cells (Xiaoling).
- 7. Welcome Prof Kenneth Muir, Prof Sue Watson and Dr Jin Xu of the University of Nottingham (UK) to our GP-TCM Newsletter!** Introduction to their groups and assignment of their positions in the consortium will be revealed in the next issue of the GP-TCM Newsletter.



### Leading News On TCM:

- 1. Screening traditional Chinese medicines against estrogen receptors  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ :**  
[http://www.promega.com/cnotes/cn020/cn020\\_09.pdf](http://www.promega.com/cnotes/cn020/cn020_09.pdf)

## 2. Chinese herbal medicine for primary dysmenorrhoea

[http://mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD005288/pdf\\_fs.html](http://mrw.interscience.wiley.com/cochrane/clsysrev/articles/CD005288/pdf_fs.html)

## 3. The mushroom that could beat cancer

<http://thescotsman.scotsman.com/health/The-mushroom--that-.3984832.jp>

## 4. Acupuncture is gaining credibility in medical circles, but is the evidence convincing?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/main.jhtml?xml=/health/2008/04/21/hacu121.xml>

## 5. Acupuncture prevents hot flushes in women who are being treated with the anti-oestrogen tamoxifen following surgery for breast cancer

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/104607.php>

## 6. Traditional acupuncture may ease migraines

[http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyid=2008-04-11T161424Z\\_01\\_COL158349\\_RTRIDST\\_0\\_HEALTH-ACUPUNCTURE-MIGRAINES-DC.XML](http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?type=healthNews&storyid=2008-04-11T161424Z_01_COL158349_RTRIDST_0_HEALTH-ACUPUNCTURE-MIGRAINES-DC.XML)

### Leading News On Methodology, especially Functional Genomics:

1. **Nature Publishing Group presents a collection on microRNAs and cancer**, which includes original Research and Review articles, as well as Research Highlights from *Nature Genetics*, *Nature Reviews Genetics* and *Nature Reviews Cancer*. The collection is freely available until September 30th, 2008, thanks to the support from Exiqon.

[http://www.nature.com/focus/microrna\\_cancer/index.html](http://www.nature.com/focus/microrna_cancer/index.html)

2. **High-throughput automation of multiplexed cell-based Assays for viability and cytotoxicity:** [http://www.promega.com/cnotes/cn020/cn020\\_26.pdf](http://www.promega.com/cnotes/cn020/cn020_26.pdf)

3. **The NIH-sponsored Protein Structure Initiative (PSI) has launched an online resource that will enable scientists from across biomedical disciplines to easily access a wealth of information about proteins and to speed discovery about these molecules.**

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/102879.php>

4. **Applied Biosystems SOLiD System added To Beijing Genomics Institute's next generation sequencing technologies:** <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/104733.php>

5. **Comparative genomics of nucleosome positions provides a powerful means for understanding how the organisation of chromatin and the transcription machinery co-evolve:** <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/nature06929.html;jsessionid=74B062C19C35BE6353CFCFF56867CE80>

6. **Compound library management made easy**

<http://www.laboratorytalk.com/news/mie/mie152.html>

### Further Readings:

1. **Language: One of the differences that we must respect and one of the barriers that we have to overcome together:** <http://www.the-scientist.com/2008/4/1/13/1/>

2. **Online bookstore dedicated to TCM (in English) recommended by Prof Bo-Ying Ma:** [http://www.chinesemedicinetimes.com/section/11/1/book\\_shop/28830c60ba136c403e5a899bb20c7cf3](http://www.chinesemedicinetimes.com/section/11/1/book_shop/28830c60ba136c403e5a899bb20c7cf3)

Thanks for contributions from **Dr Maria Psimenopoulou (EC)**, **Dr Werner Knöss (Germany)**, **Dr Stephen Minger (UK)**, **Prof Chenghai Liu**, **Prof Ping Liu** and **Dr Xiaoling Wang (China)**, **Prof Mo-Ying Ma (UK)**. If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD, PhD, at KCL

**Consortium Business:**

**1. Prof Xiaomin Wang, Prof Wei Ding and Dr Jun Jia (WP8) has kicked off their WP literature review** by introducing Prof Wang's earlier work on acupuncture and neurodegenerative diseases. They will report literature review outcomes on application of high-content technologies for acupuncture researches in the future.

**A. Electro-acupuncture improves behavior and upregulates GDNF mRNA in MFB transected rats:** This study investigated the role of low and high frequency electro-acupuncture (EA) stimulation on rotational behavior of Parkinson's disease rat model lesioned by medial forebrain bundle transaction. Data confirmed that high frequency EA stimulation (100 Hz) improved the rotational behavior and up-regulated the glial cell line-derived neurotrophic factor (GDNF) mRNA in the brain. It suggests that an increase in the content of endogenous nourishment of GDNF may contribute to the effectiveness of EA in the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12821804>

**B. Long-term high-frequency electro-acupuncture stimulation prevents neuronal degeneration and up-regulates BDNF mRNA in the substantia nigra and ventral tegmental area following medial forebrain bundle axotomy:** This study found that chronic high-frequency electro-acupuncture is effective in halting the degeneration of dopaminergic neurons in the substantia nigra and up-regulating the levels of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) mRNA in the subfields of the ventral midbrain. It indicated that activation of endogenous neurotrophins by EA may be involved in the regeneration of the injured dopaminergic neurons, which may underlie the effectiveness of EA in the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12480178?dopt=Abstract>

**2. Meeting information contributed by Dr Youping Zhu (WP1, Netherlands):**

**A. Drug Information Association (DIA) 20th Annual Euro Meeting, 3-5 March in Barcelona.** This year's DIA Annual EuroMeeting devoted several sessions to herbal medicine. As you can see in the attached program, TCM is a significant part of these sessions.

**B. Passport to Export Workshop for Chinese TCM companies, 27-28 March in Shanghai.** Passport to Export, a workshop sponsored by regional governments in the Netherlands (West Holland) and China (Shanghai Pudong) were held in Shanghai on 27 and 28 March in Shanghai. Speakers are experts in drug development, regulatory affairs and drug safety, and officials from the Dutch Medicines Evaluation Board. The audience are Chinese TCM company managers, export/import trade association representatives and SFDA officials.

**C. The World Health Organization (WHO) Congress on Traditional Medicine** is to be held in Beijing. In a recent correspondence with Dr Zhu, Dr. Xiaorui Zhang of WHO said: "*WHO Congress on TM will be illustrated in WHO website very soon. Your association may like to inform your members about this WHO Congress and encourage interested members to visit the website.*"

<http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/traditional/en/index.html>

**3. Science at the Frontier: Hybrid cells - monsters or miracles?**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2007/may/17/genetics.health1?qusrc=rss&feed=uknews>

<http://news.scotsman.com/latestnews/Hybrid-cells--monsters-or.3907115.jp>

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/03/26/europe/EU-MED-Britain-Embryology-Bill.php>

**4. Journals of Research Tools:**

Nature Protocols: <http://www.nature.com/nprot/index.html>

Free subscription to Nature Methods: <http://www.nature.com/nmeth/index.html>

<http://www.sunbeltfs.com/forms/NH/subscribe.asp?eid=E84NME>

**Leading News On TCM:**

1. Antidepressant Chinese herbal medicine applying for clinical trial in Finland  
<http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080406/BUSINESS/804060318/1003>
2. Canadian-Chinese Collaboration to discover new anti-diabetic drugs  
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/101921.php>
3. Sweet Results For Diabetes From Constituents Of Bitter Melon: Published in *Chemistry & Biology*.  
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/102007.php>
4. Pet acupuncture does have its points  
[http://www.projo.com/health/content/lb\\_pets\\_acupuncture\\_nyt\\_photo\\_04-06-08\\_QM9BU9J\\_v11.ee7c05.html](http://www.projo.com/health/content/lb_pets_acupuncture_nyt_photo_04-06-08_QM9BU9J_v11.ee7c05.html)

#### Leading News On Functional Genomics:

1. Omics Gate: Unlocking the Secrets of Protein Profiling  
<http://www.genengnews.com/articles/chitem.aspx?aid=2338&chid=2>  
Proteomics revolution at Pronota brings us a step closer to personalised medicine  
[http://marketing.appliedbiosystems.com/mk/get/BIOMARKERR\\_CS\\_BELGIUM](http://marketing.appliedbiosystems.com/mk/get/BIOMARKERR_CS_BELGIUM)  
Free Courses for Mass Spec Web Based Training  
<http://www.appliedbiosystems.com/service/training/course.cfm?productID=1141&submit=G et+Courses>
2. Researchers identify six more genes that may be linked to type 2 diabetes.  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/scienceNews/idUSL2889400920080330>  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2008/mar/31/medicalresearch.genetics>  
<http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=614030>
3. The Open Biosystems Open Access RNAi Program  
<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080326/clw057.html?v=101>
4. Individualised Functional Foods Still A Decade From The Shelves  
<http://www.nutraingredients-usa.com/news/ng.asp?n=83999-nutrigenomics-nutrigenetics>  
<http://www.nutraingredients-usa.com/news/ng.asp?id=82599>
5. In Situ Live Cell Manipulation To Enable Potential Breakthroughs In Regenerative Medicine  
<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080312/law010.html?v=101>
6. The Global RNAi Market is Projected to Grow at 25.6% Compounded Annually From 2005 to 2012  
<http://www.centredaily.com/business/technology/story/451697.html>

#### Further Readings:

1. Alternative medicine gets \$1.7m extra research boost in Australia  
<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/story/0,25197,23479921-23289,00.html>
2. China Medicine Corporation Announces Record Profit  
<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080327/cnth020.html?v=27>
3. Aida Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Acquires High-Level Research Institute in China  
<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080327/clth008.html?v=101>

Thanks for contributions from **Dr Youping Zhu (Netherlands)**, **Prof Xiaomin Wang (China)**, **Prof Wei Ding (China)**, **Dr Jun Jia (China)**, and **Dr Stephen Minger (UK)**. If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD, PhD, at KCL

## GP-TCM Newsletter (27-03-08)

### Consortium Business:

- 1. The official timeframe for the GP-TCM Consortium:** Attached at the end of this newsletter (2 pages).
- 2. Invitation of contribution to GP-TCM Newsletters:** Any info is welcome!
- 3. Welcome Prof Xinmiao Liang to join WP2 as an external expert:** Prof Peter Proksch (on behalf of WP2) and Dr Qihe Xu (on behalf of the GP-TCM) welcome Prof Xinmiao Liang, Laboratory of Multi-Component Chinese Medicine, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics Chinese Academy of Sciences to join the WP2 of GP-TCM as one of the up to three external experts of WP2. Prof Liang will be expected to contribute to all future WP2 activities, including meetings and teleconferences. For the exciting “herbalome” programme led by Prof Liang in Dalian, please again refer to the recent report in the journal Science. Prof Xinmiao Liang and his colleague Dr Qing Xu have already been collaborating with a few GP-TCM Consortium members, including Prof Peter Hylands and Dr Qihe Xu. **Congratulations!**  
<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/319/5864/709?ijkey=RRh3ASK25IDUQ&keytype=ref&siteid=sci>.  
[http://news.xinhuanet.com/tech/2008-02/14/content\\_7601444.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/tech/2008-02/14/content_7601444.htm) (In Chinese)
- 4. Welcome Dr Stephen Minger to join WP10 as an external expert:** As the Coordinator of GP-TCM and its management team (WP10), I welcome **Dr Stephen Minger** to join us as an external expert! Due to Stephen’s wide contact worldwide, especially with parliaments and governments (on stem cell research therapies and also on TCM), he is well positioned to serve as an Ambassador of GP-TCM and adviser to the Coordinator. **Congratulations!**  
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/biohealth/research/wolfson/sminger.html>  
[http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/women/body\\_and\\_soul/article3374893.ece](http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/body_and_soul/article3374893.ece)  
[http://news.xinhuanet.com/world/2008-02/18/content\\_7624064.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/world/2008-02/18/content_7624064.htm) (In Chinese)

### Leading News:

- New drug development from Chinese medicine published in PNAS and featured in Nature China  
<http://www.nature.com/nchina/2008/080326/full/nchina.2008.64.html>
- Clinical trial published in Br J Dermatol highlighted by BBC: Chinese medicine 'eases eczema'  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7291783.stm>
- Animal studies published in JCI: Curcumin, a constituent of curry, inhibits heart fibrosis and failure  
<http://www.news.utoronto.ca/bin6/080311-3691.asp>
- State Administration of TCM: China will expand its national campaign to promote TCM  
<http://www.interfax.com/4/376827/news.aspx>
- High-content cell-based screening of herbal compounds?  
<http://www.nature.com/nchembio/journal/v4/n2/abs/nchembio.2007.59.html;jsessionid=2E052FA8D0BC94440017892CC7499F91>  
<http://www.nature.com/nchembio/journal/v4/n1/abs/nchembio.2007.53.html>
- Acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine for the treatment of infertility:  
[http://www.metro.co.uk/news/newsfocus/article.html?in\\_article\\_id=119960&in\\_page\\_id=65](http://www.metro.co.uk/news/newsfocus/article.html?in_article_id=119960&in_page_id=65)
- Effects of acupuncture on rates of pregnancy and live birth among women undergoing in vitro fertilisation: systematic review and meta-analysis  
<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/336/7643/545>
- China orders tighter controls on heparin  
<http://dailynews.muzy.com/news/ll/english/10064735.shtml>
- Healing power from animal products (Common toad in this case)  
<http://everythinglubbock.com/content/fulltext/?cid=5788>

Thanks for contributions from **Dr Ilrola Eerola (EC), Dr Manuel HALLEN (EC), Prof Peter Proksch (Germany), Prof Xinmiao Liang (China), and Dr Stephen Minger (UK)**. If you have any info, including your own or others’ work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome. Qihe Xu, MD, PhD, at KCL



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE GENERAL

Directorate F – Health  
**The Acting Director**

Brussels, 14 March 2008  
MH/jcf F.1(2008)D/519663

Dr. Qihe Xu  
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- Strand  
UK - WC2R 2LS London  
qihe.xu@kcl.ac.uk

**Specific Programme “Cooperation” – Theme “Health”**

**Call identifier: FP7-HEALTH-2007-B**

**Proposal No: 223154**

**Acronym: GP-TCM**

Dear Dr. Qihe Xu,

I am pleased to inform you that the proposal entitled: "Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research in the Post-genomic Era" has been favourably evaluated by the Commission services with the help of independent experts.

You will find attached a copy of the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) on your proposal (in Annex I to this letter) which may contain recommendations to be taken into account in the negotiations and in the description of work (if appropriate a copy of the Ethical Review Report will be sent later on which may also contain recommendations to be taken into account).

The ESR reflects the comments of the independent experts and their advice to the Commission on the proposal. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission or its services.

The Negotiation Mandate, which is the Commission's assessment of the issues to be addressed when negotiating the grant agreement, is included in Annex II to this letter.

Following the evaluation, and on the basis of the Negotiation Mandate, it is estimated that the maximum Community financial contribution could be up to 995.100 Euro for a period of up to 36 months. Please note that, as indicated in the Negotiation Mandate, you are expected to make some changes to the technical content (description of work which will form the future Annex I to the Grant Agreement) and also to the financial aspects of your proposal identified during the evaluation.

Accordingly, the Commission services wish to proceed to negotiations for a Grant Agreement on your proposal.

Shortly after this letter you will receive an electronic invitation by email to access the IT tool NEF for updating and submitting information in the Grant Agreement Preparation Forms (GPFs).

The GPFs are standard forms that collect the information that the Commission needs in order to prepare the Grant Agreement and gather programme-wide statistical information.

Please check that the information given is correct, let us know of any errors as soon as possible and begin to collect any missing information. The GPFs must be completed by all participants (including those not requesting any funding).



The related description of work (which will form the future Annex I of the Grant Agreement) shall be based on the proposal submitted but updated if necessary. Annex I of the Grant Agreement must be sent to the Commission address indicated in point 4 of the Negotiation Mandate.

In addition, please note that the negotiations for the Grant Agreement must be completed before 10/10/2008, as specified in the Negotiation Mandate, for those proposals to be finalised in 2008.

Nevertheless, all negotiations of the FP7- HEALTH- B Call are scheduled to be finalised by the end of March 2009 at latest.

Failure to respect this deadline will be considered by the Commission as a wish not to enter into the negotiations for a Grant Agreement and therefore to withdraw your proposal. In such a case, the Commission will initiate the procedures to reject your proposal.

This letter should not be regarded under any circumstances as a formal commitment by the Commission to provide financial support as this depends, on the satisfactory conclusion of negotiations for a grant agreement and the internal completion of the formal selection process.

Please inform the other participants of the current situation, and contact the persons indicated under point 4 of the Negotiation mandate (annex II) should you need further details concerning drafting the description of work of your proposal, or concerning financial and administrative issues.

Other important and useful documents needed for the preparation of the Grant Agreement can be found at the web addresses listed below.

Yours Sincerely,



Manuel HALLEN  
Acting Director

Encl.: Evaluation summary report (Annex I) (not sent with e-mail version; was already provided with initial information letter of 14/02/2008; sent with paper version of this letter sent by postal mail today 14/03/08)  
Negotiation Mandate (Annex II)

#### USEFUL DOCUMENTS

Available at [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc\\_en.html#guidance](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/find-doc_en.html#guidance) :

- Negotiation Guidance Notes
- Model Grant Agreement and its annexes and any special conditions that could apply
- Guide to Financial Issues relating to FP7 indirect actions
- Rules to ensure consistent verification of the existence and legal status of participants, as well as their operational and financial capacities, in FP7 indirect actions
- The Checklist for a Consortium agreement for FP7 projects
- The Guide to intellectual Property Rules for FP7 projects
- The Guidance notes on audit certification

FP7 Grant Agreement Negotiation: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/negotiation/>

Available at [http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/sme-techweb/index_en.cfm) : The SME Tech Web

## GP-TCM Newsletter (13-03-08)

### Consortium Business:

**1. Bi-weekly GP-TCM Newsletter:** Reduction in frequency but not in quality.

**2. The timeframe for the GP-TCM Consortium:** Dr Qihe Xu has received an invitation to a half-day information meeting for negotiation of grant agreements for the "Health" Theme of Framework Programme 7. Since King's College London is very familiar with all the procedures Dr Xu is not advised to attend the meeting. However, Based on the communications with **Dr. Iiro Eerola**, the timeframe for the next steps of negotiation and initiation of the consortium funding will be as follows: (i) Invitation for technical proposals by the end of March; (ii) 4-5 weeks (April and May) are allowed for the Consortium to draft the technical proposals; (iii) EU will give feedback within 2-3 weeks of time and second version of the technical proposal will be submitted (May-June); (iv) final funding decision will be made after some negotiation communications during Summer 2008; (v) the realistic time for officially starting consortium activities will be around September 2008. **Please note this important timeframe and be patient.** Thank you!

**3. Welcome Dr Andrew Flower** (University of Southampton, UK) to join us as a Newsletter Recipient and an Honorary Assistant Coordinator of WP6 to assist **Dr George Lewith** and **Prof Bruce Hendry**, side by side with **Dr Dan Jiang**. Andrew has been a practitioner of CHM since 1992. He is a past President of the Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine and currently advise the European Herbal and Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association on research related issues. He is now doing a PhD at Southampton University, which has involved in establishing CHM consensus guidelines for good practice, a Cochrane systematic review of Chinese language papers on endometriosis, and a double blind RCT exploring the role of individualised CHM decoctions in the treatment of endometriosis.

**4. Handling of literature:** In response to Dr Jandirk Sendker's inquiry, Prof Pierre Duez (WP) recommends Endnote:" For biblio purposes, we use EndNote which a very powerful biblio manager: search in remote databases, organization of biblio, nice integration in Word, output formatting according to a huge number of journals,... I would strongly recommend it"

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EndNote>

**5. Two most cited books on Chinese herbs (in English):**

(i) *Chinese Materia Medica: Chemistry, Pharmacology and Applications* (in English) by **Dr You-Ping Zhu** (WP3, Assistant WP Coordinator). The herbs are categorised based on the theories of Traditional Chinese medicine and modern pharmacology. Based on Google Scholar, this book has been cited 83 times (preview available).

<http://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=Ht9X7ElgAG8C&oi=fnd&pg=PP11&dq=The+Pharmacology+of+Chinese+Herbs&ots=7VnnmvqG37&sig=YUNXRgdd2uLMvsTZ5MeejVJfaTA#PPP1,M1>

[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m0HKP/is\\_1\\_29/ai\\_73711427](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0HKP/is_1_29/ai_73711427)

<http://www.pefots.com/board.php>

<http://www.ecctcm.com/>

(ii) *The Pharmacology of Chinese Herbs* (in English, Chinese symbols for Chinese terms provided) by Prof Kee Chang Huang. It describes the chemical composition, pharmacological actions, toxicity, and therapeutic value of 473 herbal substances of China. The herbs are categorised based on the theories of Western medicine and modern pharmacology. Based on Google Scholar, this book has been cited 275 times (preview available).

[http://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=xKGxTcF8u-sC&oi=fnd&pg=PR5&dq=chinese+medicine&ots=AqeOIs1Q6t&sig=qU44E\\_8jtyrJx7eXVweo\\_VdnXzU](http://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=xKGxTcF8u-sC&oi=fnd&pg=PR5&dq=chinese+medicine&ots=AqeOIs1Q6t&sig=qU44E_8jtyrJx7eXVweo_VdnXzU)

<http://www.chipsbooks.com/pharchin.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kee\\_Chang\\_Huang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kee_Chang_Huang)

**6. The London Chinese Medicine Week Exhibition to be held in July 2008:** On March 4, 2008, Consortium members **Dr Qihe Xu** and **Dr Dan Jiang**, as well as our external expert **Prof Bo-ying Ma** were invited to advise on the event at the Chinese Embassy. The event will be hosted by the Royal Society of Medicine, London, in July 2008. Details will be updated in future newsletters.

### Leading News:

1. The first Confucius Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the world opened in London:  
<http://www.london-se1.co.uk/news/view/3167>  
<http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/hsc/about/confucius.shtml>  
[http://en.ce.cn/National/Education/200802/26/t20080226\\_14644164.shtml](http://en.ce.cn/National/Education/200802/26/t20080226_14644164.shtml)
2. Chinese researchers claim Comoros malaria success  
<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L11820493.htm>
3. Recent report in PNAS: Chinese medicine applauded for leukemia treatment  
[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008-03/12/content\\_6527924.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2008-03/12/content_6527924.htm)
4. Global Nutraceuticals Market to Cross US\$187 Billion By 2010, According to a New Report by Global Industry Analysts, Inc.  
[http://www.prweb.com/releases/nutraceuticals\\_dietary/herbal\\_supplements/prweb720873.htm](http://www.prweb.com/releases/nutraceuticals_dietary/herbal_supplements/prweb720873.htm)
5. Traditional Medicine: Identifying Potential Cancer Treatments Of Herbal Origin  
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080304120755.htm>  
<http://www.newkerala.com/one.php?action=fullnews&id=30897>

### Further Reading:

1. British Ministry Warns of Poor Practices in Herbal Medicine Sector  
<http://www.turks.us/article.php?story=BritishMinistryWarnsofPoorPractice>
2. Agreement Will Strengthen Collaborative Efforts To Improve The Quality And Safety Of Medicines And Foods In China and USA  
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/99849.php>
3. TCM clinic in a state hospital, the first of its kind in any European countries:  
<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90782/6362765.html>
4. International hospital in the USA implements traditional Chinese medicine  
<http://biz.yahoo.com/iw/080225/0366146.html>
5. National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine  
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/98993.php>
6. Kunming Pharma to set up international marketing company  
<http://www.interfax.com/4/369968/news.aspx>
7. Gingko may boost memory - if you remember to take it  
<http://www.nutraingredients-usa.com/news/ng.asp?n=83586-gingko-biloba-memory>
8. Chinese gene experts search for answers on diabetes  
<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/rtrs/20080224/tts-uk-china-genes-ca02f96.html>
9. Trends: Acupuncture brings relief to some animals  
<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local/news-article.aspx?storyid=103239&ref=rss>
10. Acupuncture may improve pregnancy rates  
<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local/news-article.aspx?storyid=103228&ref=rss>
11. Are herbal supplements supplements safe?  
<http://www.oregister.com/life/supplements-herbal-herbs-1598900-squeezeoc-href>
12. Traditional Chinese medicine to help Yao recover faster  
<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90779/90867/6367042.html>
13. Inside Medicine: Alternative medical therapies deserve to be studied further  
<http://www.sacbee.com/health/story/766453.html>

Thanks for contributions from Dr Ilrola Eerola (EC), Dr Nikolett Molnar (EC), Prof Pierre Duez (Belgium), Dr You-Ping Zhu (Netherlands), Dr Dan Jiang (UK) and Dr Andrew Flower (UK). If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD, PhD, at KCL

## GP-TCM Newsletter (28-02-08)

### Consortium Business:

**1. Bi-weekly GP-TCM Newsletters** As we might have to wait for up to 3 months before we get the final notification of the FP7 application outcome, after discussing with some GP-TCM members, we have decided to slow down a bit of our steps. From now on, our GP-TCM Newsletter will be released on a bi-weekly, rather than weekly basis. **Please pay special attention not to miss these important newsletters!**

**2. Handling of literature** Dr Jandirk Sendker (WP2, Germany, [sendker@gmx.net](mailto:sendker@gmx.net)) raised an important question: "As I just made some literature work for WP2, I wondered if there will be a central literature database/collection for GP-TCM. If so, it may be useful to know if there are already some standards defined which I should follow (Database software, primary keys, file names...). If there is something for me to consider, please advice." What's your idea?

**3. Invitation and appointment of external experts** Dr Jandirk Sendker also raised another important question: "Regarding the invitation of external experts to our work-package: how is the procedure to make it official?" The Answer is: The Consortium Coordinator (Dr Qihe Xu) recommends to the WP leaders or the WP leaders recommend to the Consortium Coordinator. Certainly communications or interviews might be required. If both Consortium Coordinator and the WP Coordinator agree with the appointment, decisions of invitation can be made. The appointment will be made by the Consortium Coordinator upon receipt of a full academic CV and all contact details by the Consortium Coordinator. Remember, based on the application, funding for only three external experts are provided. Therefore, these limited vacancies are very prestigious and should be taken very seriously.

### Leading news:

**1. Contribution from Helen Sheridan (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland):** The EMEA/HMPC guideline on the assessment of genotoxic constituents in herbal substances/preparations is currently released for public consultation. Please find below a link to the document. Link to guideline on the assessment of genotoxic constituents in herbal substances/preparations:

<http://www.emea.europa.eu/pdfs/human/hmpc/10707907en.pdf>

For information all HMPC guidelines can be found through the below link:

<http://www.emea.europa.eu/htms/human/hmpc/hmpcguide.htm>

**2. Dr Qihe Xu** will held a face-to-face meeting with **Dr Jian Li, Prof Jianzhao Niu and Prof Jifeng Wang** (Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, WP4, 5) in the coming months to discuss collaborations on anti-fibrotic herbal medicine research. This project is jointly supported by the Royal Society (UK) and the China Scholarship Council (CSC).

**3. From G-spot to acupoint: Can we prove their existence?**

<http://www.newscientist.com/channel/being-human/mg19726444.100-ultrasound-nails-location-of-the-elusive-g-spot.html>

### Further reading:

**1. HSA issues warning against illegal Chinese medicine** (Channel NewsAsia, 14/02/08)

<http://sg.news.yahoo.com/cna/20080213/tap-328572-231650b.html>

**2. Renowned Chinese Herbs R&D Specialist Joins China Health Resources** (Xinua, 13/02/08)

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080213/cnw008.html?v=24>

**3. Renhuang Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Retains CCG Elite** (SciDev.net, 14/02/08)

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/080214/cnth012.html?v=43>

Thanks for contributions from **Dr Jandirk Sendker (Germany), Dr George Lewith (UK), Dr Helen Sheridan (Ireland), Prof Jianzhao Niu (China)** and **Prof Jifeng Wang (China)**. If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD, PhD, at KCL

## GP-TCM Newsletter (21-02-08)

### Must-read for consortium members:

**1. The Aim of GP-TCM:** To review the current status of TCM research, identifying problems and proposing potential solutions by applying functional genomic approaches; to provide guidelines and priority areas for future research and funding; to establish the European Society of TCM Research during this project and keep it running autonomously to continue the guidance and coordination of EU-China collaboration on TCM research. **You are encouraged to read the original proposal and start to think seriously about our next steps. Any suggestions and advice are welcome.**

**2. The Foremost Principles of GP-TCM:** We MUST make the best use of this valuable funding by running this consortium in a **democratic and coordinated** way. In such an international group dealing with such a topical issue, it is not difficult to foresee any difficulties and differences among our members, their governments and peoples. **We MUST respect these differences** and try our best to understand others and make ourselves understood. **We must learn from one another and there is NO room for individualism and extreme nationalism in this consortium.**

**3. Preparation of future teleconference:** I suggest all consortium members and newsletter recipients to register Skype and let me know your Skype ID. My Skype ID is xqh1999. [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)

**4. All WPs are strongly encouraged to plan WP exercises** by nominating the top 10 publications (2007) in your related areas, as WP4 did. Your recommended top 10 lists can be published in our future newsletters.

### Leading news:

**1. Welcome Prof Xinmiao Liang and Dr Qing Xu**, Laboratory of Multi-Component Chinese Medicine, Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics Chinese Academy of Sciences to join us as GP-TCM Newsletter recipients. For their excellent work on Herbalome in Dalian, aiming at screening the constituents of TCM in 15 years, please read most recent reports in the journal Science (08/02/08).

<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/319/5864/709?ijkey=RRh3ASK25IDUQ&keytype=ref&siteid=sci>.

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/tech/2008-02/14/content\\_7601444.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/tech/2008-02/14/content_7601444.htm) (In Chinese)

**2. Welcome Dr Stephen Minger**, a leading scientist in human stem cell research based at King's College London to join us as a GP-TCM Newsletter recipient. Dr Minger is the Senior Editor of the journal Regenerative Medicine (<http://www.futuremedicine.com/loi/rme>) and one of the two co-organisers of the popular London Regenerative Medicine Network (<http://www.regenmednetwork.com/>). For a story about him and his interest in Chinese herbs, please read the most recent article published in The Times (16/02/08).

[http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life\\_and\\_style/women/body\\_and\\_soul/article3374893.ece](http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/body_and_soul/article3374893.ece)

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/world/2008-02/18/content\\_7624064.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/world/2008-02/18/content_7624064.htm) (In Chinese)

**3. Prof Xinmin Liu** (Coordinator, WP3, IMPLAD, China) shares recent policy publications from the Ministry of Science and Technology, China on TCM research and EU-China Collaboration with all consortium members. You can read the original publications **in Chinese and their English versions** translated by **Miss Yuen Fei Wong** (KCL): **Most updated MOST Policy.pdf**.

In addition, in reply to Prof Duez's call for collaboration on Sharen (*Fructus Amomi*) and Doukou (*Fructus Amomi rotundus*) Prof Liu has expressed his willingness and passion to collaborate.

**4. Prof Peter Hylands** (Coordinator, WP4, KCL, UK) has recently been awarded an Innovation China UK project on TCM to establish comprehensive database of TCM. <http://www.icukonline.org/index.shtml>

Thanks for contributions from **Prof Xinmiao Liang (China)**, **Dr Qing Xu (China)**, **Dr Stephen Minger (UK)**, **Prof Peter Hylands (UK)**, **Prof Xinmin Liu (China)**, **Miss Yuen Fei Wong (UK)**, **Dr Shouming Zhong (UK)** and **all those who have kindly offered your feedback to my last Newsletter (Congratulations.doc)**. If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD, PhD at KCL

## GP-TCM Newsletter (Valentine's Day Edition)



1. **Rose and a successful FP7 grant: Valentine's present couldn't be better.** Our bid for the FP7 Coordination grant has achieved the highest score and will be funded soon (Please keep this information confidential before we receive the official letter within 10 days)! I sincerely thank you all for all the support that you have generously offered in the past 6 months and I am looking forward to work more closely with you in the coming two years. In the weeks to come we will discuss with EC about more details. In the meantime, I would like to suggest you to read our proposal again and tell me your thoughts about our next steps including any necessary revisions. If you would like to suggest any HIGHLY QUALIFIED external experts to join us as GP-TCM Newsletter contributors and recipients, please advise. The above Valentine's present was provided by **Dr. Iiro Eerola**, European Commission. Let's welcome Dr Eerola to join us as a GP-TCM recipient! **Happy Valentine's Day!**

[http://www.123greetings.com/events/valentines\\_day/happy/valentine73.html](http://www.123greetings.com/events/valentines_day/happy/valentine73.html)

2. Welcome **Prof Bo-Ying Ma** (Xinglin Postgraduate College of TCM, London, UK), President of The Federation of Traditional Chinese Medicine (UK) and Chairman of Pan-European Medical Consultants Society of TCM to join us as a Newsletter recipient! Prof Ma is a Life-Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine (UK) and is a legendary Western medicine graduate, medical historian, TCM practitioner, author and TCM political and social activist. Invited by Dr Qihe Xu, Prof Ma delivered an extremely stimulating speech at King's College London entitled *History and principles of TCM* on the 13th Feb 2008. **Handout (in English) attached. Also attached is a commentary by Prof Ma on the most recent merger of flagship TCM businesses and the termination of TCM legislation in the UK (in Chinese).** For more information about Prof Ma and his views published in leading journals and public media, please visit:

<http://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=Bo-Ying+Ma&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

<http://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=马伯英中医&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

<http://scitech.people.com.cn/GB/5097436.html>

<http://www.1911.cn/bbs/dispbbs.asp?boardID=31&ID=55127&page=5>

3. **Course of acupuncture may raise success of IVF treatment by 65%**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7233500.stm>

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-acupuncture\\_08feb08,0,713244.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-acupuncture_08feb08,0,713244.story)

4. **Classical TCM theory series: Treat disease before it arises**

<http://www.paradigm-pubs.com/catalog/detail/JinGui>

5. **To celebrate in your lab? Here is the song to choose. Enjoy!**

<http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=7uafUVNkuzg>

### Further reading

#### 1. Acupuncture and infertility

<http://commercialappeal.com/news/2008/jan/21/looking-east-m/>

<http://www.americanpregnancy.org/infertility/acupuncture.htm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/1933901.stm>

#### 2. Herbal medicines: The history and today

<http://www.herbpalace.com/alternative-medicine/herbal-medicine.html>

Thanks for contributions from Dr **Dr. Iiro Eerola** (EC), **Prof Lucio-Cazana** (Coordinator, WP5, Spain) and **Prof Bo-Ying Ma** (UK). Info introduced here does not represent the view of the GP-TCM Consortium. If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD & PhD

## GP-TCM Newsletter (Spring Festival 2008)



**GP-TCM wishes you and your family a Happy Chinese New Year!**

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/home/winopen.html>

### Leading news:

**1. Prof Pierre Duez (WP1 and 3) has been nominated as an expert in the European Pharmacopoeia TCM group.** This group is to implement Chinese Pharmacopoeia monographs into the European Pharmacopoeia (Eur. Ph.), namely to adapt the monographs and tests to Eur. Ph. standards. His team has been assigned the following herbs: (i) Sharen (Fructus Amomi; fruit of Amomum; species: Amomum villosum; Amomum longiligulare); (ii) Doukou (Fructus Amomi rotundus; round cardamon fruit; fruit of Amomum kravanh; Amomum compactum). Please contact Prof Duez directly if you can help him in the following aspects: (i) information on possible falsifications/adulterations of these 2 herbs (other Amomum; Alpenia sp); (ii) samples of authentic Sharen, Doukou and possible adulterants. In order to verify / propose norms, he would need testing samples from different origins.

**2. Scientists in Europe, USA and China jointly launched 1,000 Genomes Project,** which will involve sequencing the genomes of at least 1,000 people worldwide to create the most detailed and medically useful picture of human genetic variation yet.

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2008-01/24/content\\_6416775.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2008-01/24/content_6416775.htm)

**3. Animal rights group calls to respect rats in Year of the Rat: Animal rights and animal drugs**

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/02/04/asia/AS-GEN-China-Rats.php>

**4. China: Inspectors promise to improve drug safety**

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/6349692.html>

**5. Drug extracted from Chinese herb pay a central role in fighting malaria:** Rwanda and Ethiopia cut malaria deaths in half

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90782/90880/6349902.html>

**6. The paper of the week:** Study Of Fu-Zheng-Jie-Du-Decoction action on PTEN expression in hepatocellular carcinoma

<http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/14/108.asp>

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-01/wjog-hdf011608.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-01/wjog-hdf011608.php)

### GP-TCM special focus on the Chinese New Year

**1. TCM research in the EU as overseas Chinese students keep breaking records**

[http://newsweaver.co.uk/kings\\_staff/e\\_article001004927.cfm?x=bc64c6m,b6Jnl1Vv,w](http://newsweaver.co.uk/kings_staff/e_article001004927.cfm?x=bc64c6m,b6Jnl1Vv,w)

[http://newsweaver.co.uk/kings\\_staff/e\\_article001004925.cfm?x=bc64c6m,b6Jnl1Vv,w](http://newsweaver.co.uk/kings_staff/e_article001004925.cfm?x=bc64c6m,b6Jnl1Vv,w)

**2. Chinese food in the festival season**

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2008-01/30/content\\_6429224.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2008-01/30/content_6429224.htm)

**3. Why is this new year the Year of the Rat?**

<http://www.123chinesenewyear.com/new-year-of-rat/>

Thanks for contribution from Prof Duez (Belgium) and other colleagues. If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD & PhD

## GP-TCM Newsletter (01-02-08)

The 7<sup>th</sup> February 2008 is the Chinese New Year.  
I wish all GP-TCM consortium members and recipients of the GP-TCM Newsletter  
A very happy and prosperous New Year of the Rat!

### Leading news:

**1. So far, no news is good news:** I have recently contacted Dr Iiro Eerol, who is in charge of our FP7 grant application at European Commission. The date for announcing the outcome is the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

**2. The 2008 National Conference on the TCM Work (China):** Vice Premier is confident about the future of traditional Chinese medicine:

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90785/6344796.html>

**3. Focus of British and Chinese media:** Medicinal plants at risk of extinction

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7196702.stm>

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/6317263.html>

**4. “Functional genomics” in the focus of Science:**

<http://www.sciencemag.org/feature/plus/sfg/>

<http://www.functionalgenomics.org.uk/>

[http://www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human\\_Genome/research/function.shtml](http://www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human_Genome/research/function.shtml)

<http://ihome.cuhk.edu.hk/~b400559/>

<http://pevsnerlab.kennedykrieger.org/wiley/index.html>

<http://www.sciencemag.org/feature/plus/sfg/education/glossaries.dtl>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional\\_genomics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functional_genomics)

**5. China-EU relationship in the focus:**

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90780/91342/6323716.html>

**6. International Society for Chinese Medicine (ISCM) and its institutional members:**

<http://www.iscm.org.mo/en/member.php>

### Interesting further reading

**1. Wisdom on herbal medicine research from India: High-throughput screening of herbal medicines:**

See attachment Herb-2.pdf

**2. Herbs in European History**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/dna/h2g2/A3420497>

**3. Breakthrough in study of new forms of anti-depression Chinese medicine:** Lyophilized syringin powder for injection

<http://au.biz.yahoo.com/080122/43/1kqyp.html>

Thanks for contribution from **Dr Eerol** (EC), **Dr Balasubramanyam** (India). If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD & PhD



## GP-TCM Newsletter (25-01-08)

### Leading news:

1. **2007 Papers on bioavailability, metabolism and in vivo pharmacology of herbal medicines** recommended by **Dr Hani El-Nezami** (WP3, WP4; Hong Kong/Finland): Attached.

2. **Drug discovery from Chinese herbal medicines in the post-genomic era:**

<http://ieeexplore.ieee.org/iel5/4272484/4272485/04272591.pdf?arnumber=4272591>

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/apl/edc/2007/00000002/00000007/art00007;jsessionid=q2h7em6uir9g.alexandra>

3. **Free Chinese-English translation online tools:**

<http://www.drdict.com/>

[http://www.google.com/language\\_tools](http://www.google.com/language_tools)

[http://www2.worldlingo.com/en/products\\_services/worldlingo\\_translator.html](http://www2.worldlingo.com/en/products_services/worldlingo_translator.html)

<http://www.tepson.com/free-chinese-translation.htm>

[http://www.appliedlanguage.com/free\\_translation.shtml](http://www.appliedlanguage.com/free_translation.shtml)

4. **Welcome Dr Tai-Ping Fan to join us as a recipient of the GP-TCM Newsletters.** Dr Fan is Head, Angiogenesis & TCM Laboratory at Department of Pharmacology, University of Cambridge and is Honorary Professor of Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (Beijing). He is the Founding Editor of the journal *Angiogenesis*, a key member of the recent UK-China joint adventure on TCM research in Cambridge, and sits on the Preparatory Committee/Expert Committee of the “International TCM Program for Cooperation in Science and Technology” of Chinese Ministry of Science & Technology.

[http://www.erbi.co.uk/pooled/articles/BF\\_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF\\_NEWSART\\_296886](http://www.erbi.co.uk/pooled/articles/BF_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF_NEWSART_296886)

<http://www.phar.cam.ac.uk/ri/fan.html>

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/101769/>

### Interesting further reading:

1. **Plants are the ultimate energy provider.** In science and biology textbooks, **plants** are described as the **primary producer** since it's plants that convert solar energy into biological energy, which is further passed on to animals. Based on this theory of **food chain** or **food web**, all animals are classified into 3 categories: Animals that eat only plants are called herbivores or **primary consumers**; animals that eat only animals are called carnivores or **secondary consumers**. As for human beings, we are omnivores, eating both plants and animals, but after all, all the energies are originally from plants and the Sun.

[http://www.arcytech.org/java/population/facts\\_foodchain.html](http://www.arcytech.org/java/population/facts_foodchain.html)

2. **Plants provide more than energy and the traditional “nutrients” like minerals and vitamins.** One of the facets that are often overlooked is that some plants provide no bioavailable energy but they provide “defence molecules”, as described by **Prof Brigitte Kopp** in the last issue of our Newsletter. Our recent work support the idea that many herbal compounds such as flavonoids might have little value in providing energy but they are very potent in preventing TGF- $\beta$ 1-induced organ scarring, in addition to their role in preventing ageing, cancer, etc. Thus, in addition to the traditional nutrients, plants also provide other compounds essential to human health, although we do not normally think that they are “nutrients”. Thus, it seems safe to conclude that plants, including medicinal plants (herbs), are actually the ultimate provider of our ability to fight against diseases. **Dr Xingwang Wu**, PhD, the co-founder of Dr & Herbs, one of the biggest TCM shop chains in the UK, claims: “**You are what you eat!**”

<http://yawye.org/>

<http://www.dranderbs.com/bbs/>

<http://www.dranderbs.com/bbs/viewthread.php?tid=199&fpage=4>

Thanks for contribution from **Dr Hani El-Nezami (Hong Kong)**, **Dr Tai-Ping Fan (UK)** and **Dr Xingwang Wu (UK)**. If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD & PhD

## GP-TCM Newsletter (17-01-08)

### Leading news:

1. Since New Year 2008, **Prof Brigitte Kopp** (WP2 Deputy Coordinator & WP1 Participant, University of Vienna, Austria) has been elected **President of Society for Medicinal Plant Research (SMPR)**, SMPR is also known as GA and is an international, neutral and independent association of scientists from research institutions of universities and companies as well as other interested people engaged in the advancement of research and science in the field of medicinal plants, natural bioactive compounds and phytotherapy. We believe that Prof Kopp's exciting new position will significantly strengthen our consortium as a team. **Warm congratulations, Prof Kopp!**

[http://www.ga-online.org/about\\_executive\\_en.html](http://www.ga-online.org/about_executive_en.html)

2. **Papers of the Year 2007: In Vitro Pharmacology of Chinese Herbal Medicines:** Thanks to the input by **Prof Hylands** (UK), **Prof Vollmar** (Finland), **Dr Bosisio** (Italy), **Dr Xu** (UK) and **Dr El-Nezami** (China), the Work Package 4 is pleased to recommend the top 10 papers published in 2007 in the defined area of in vitro pharmacology of Chinese herbal medicines to all the GP-TCM Consortium (**Attached**).

3. **Funding opportunities:** In late 2007, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a \$100 million commitment toward a new initiative to support innovative global health research.

<http://www.gcgh.org/NewsEvents/MediaCenter/Grand+Challenge+Explorations+Press+Release.htm>

4. **Welcome Dr Kaicun Zhao to join us as a recipient of the GP-TCM Newsletters.** Dr Zhao is a renowned TCM academic experienced in pharmacology studies of herbs. He is a Senior Lecturer in the first ever UK TCM teaching programme at the Middlesex University in London and is Chairman of the Professional Conduct Committee of the Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ATCM), UK.

<http://www.atcm.co.uk/about1.htm>

### Interesting further reading:

#### 1. In silico pharmacology for drug discovery

<http://www.nature.com/bjp/journal/v152/n1/full/0707306a.html;jsessionid=3D3A96EB40EF67BC85059A260AC6B1F8>

#### 2. Genomic screen nets hundreds of human proteins exploited by HIV

[http://web.med.harvard.edu/sites/RELEASES/html/011008\\_elledge.html](http://web.med.harvard.edu/sites/RELEASES/html/011008_elledge.html)

#### 3. Experts' view in focus: Prof. Brigitte Kopp (WP1 & 2), University of Vienna, Austria

- *"The most efficient strategy for finding chemical tools or drugs is often mistaken for the most effective strategy"* (Lipinsky C and Hopkins A). The HTS/ combinatorial chemistry approach has itself proven to work efficient. It still remains to show also to work effective.

- Most pharmaceutical drugs have been discovered in terrestrial plants and microbes (Cragg and Newman, 2001). Apparently, specific toxins provide an evolutionary advantage, because many of the bioactive compounds in plants seem to play a role in defence mechanisms.

- The chemical process of natural product lead discovery works by extraction, bioassay guided fractionation and finally isolation of the bioactive compound. This is a time-consuming and elaborate work. Therefore, it is necessary to implicate techniques that allow rapid identification of already known compounds (de-replication) to avoid multiplication of efforts.

- Another major bottleneck is the isolation of active components of extracts. Often the target compounds represent less than 1% by weight of the crude extract, and the approach remains highly experimental. Although advances in separation technology, such as HPLC and capillary electrophoresis have had a major impact on resolving power, often the purification step is rate-limiting.

Thanks for contribution from **Prof Kopp, Prof Hylands, Prof Vollmar, Dr Bosisio** and **Dr El-Nezami**. If you have any info, including your own or others' work or interesting views to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD & PhD

## GP-TCM Newsletter (10-01-08)

### Leading news:

1. Experts agree global **language of Traditional Chinese Medicine**

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/6329763.html>

2. Welcome **Dr Jane Qiu** to be a recipient of GP-TCM Newsletters. Dr Qiu is a productive writer and commentator specialised in science, technology and China-related issues. GP-TCM is pleased to introduce her inspiring articles on TCM research published in **Nature series of journals** in 2007:

Qiu J. 'Back to the future' for Chinese herbal medicines. *Nat Rev Drug Discov.* 6:506-7(2007). **Attached.**

Qiu J. Traditional medicine: A culture in the balance. *Nature* 448, 126 - 128 (2007).

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v448/n7150/full/448126a.html>

Qiu J. China plans to modernize traditional medicine. *Nature* 446, 590 - 591 (2007).

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v446/n7136/full/446590a.html>

To read more of her stories and publications please visit:

<http://www.janeqiu.co.uk/>

3. **Dr Hani El-Nezami**, Assistant Coordinator of WP3 and WP9, has started a new full time appointment at the University of Hong Kong after the New Year. He will remain affiliated with his home university in Finland and thus his old contact details at the University of Kuopio will remain valid. In addition, you are advised his new contact details in China: Dr Hani El-Nezami, Associate Professor, University of Hong Kong, School of Biological Sciences, S5-13 Kadoorie Biological Sciences Building, Pokfulam, Hong Kong SAR, China. Tel: +85222990835; Mobile: +85297783943; Fax: +8522559 9114; Email: elnezami@hkucc.hku.hk. **His joint appointments in China and Europe will have a positive impact on his role in the consortium to promote EU-China Collaborations.**

4. Do you know? Your **literature PUBMED search** can be automatically limited to the **complementary and alternative medicine (CAM)** subset of PubMed.

<http://nccam.nih.gov/camonpubmed/>

### Interesting further reading:

1. A World-wide Overview of the Legal Status of Traditional Medicines: Compiled by WHO, 2001.

[http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2001/WHO\\_EDM\\_TRM\\_2001.2.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2001/WHO_EDM_TRM_2001.2.pdf)

2. Herbal Medicines Today: Clinical and Research Issues

[http://ecam.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/4/suppl\\_1/37](http://ecam.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/full/4/suppl_1/37)

3. The Need for High-Throughput Screening of Herbal Medicine with Special Reference to Diabetes

[balusignal.googlepages.com/herbal.pdf](http://balusignal.googlepages.com/herbal.pdf)

4. Nothing to Sneeze at: High-throughput Handling of Echinacea Samples for MALDI-TOF MS

<http://www.biotech-online.com/newsletter/index15.2.html>

5. Top 10 Herbal Remedy in the USA 2003

[http://www.postgradmed.com/issues/2003/08\\_03/garg.htm](http://www.postgradmed.com/issues/2003/08_03/garg.htm)

### Coming feature:

WP4 of GP-TCM is about to introduce **the top 10 recommended publications on *in vitro* pharmacology of Chinese herbal medicine research** in the next issue of GP-TCM Newsletter.

Thanks for contribution from **Dr Hani El-Nezami, Dr Jin Qiu** and **Miss Qin Hu (KCL)**. If you have any info, including your own or others' work to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD & PhD

## **GP-TCM Newsletter (02-01-08)**

### **The New Year Edition**

#### **Leading news:**

1. **Breakthrough of the Year 2007: Human Genetic Variation:** Commentary from *Science*.  
<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/318/5858/1842>

Online references on human genetic variation and its implications in health and diseases:

[http://www.sciencemag.org/sciext/btoy2007/breakthrough\\_links.html#breakthroughlinks](http://www.sciencemag.org/sciext/btoy2007/breakthrough_links.html#breakthroughlinks)

2. **Tips on Rejuvenating Traditional Chinese Medicine by Prof XU Jialu**, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, P. R. China

In English: <http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90780/91345/6322182.html>

In Chinese: [http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrbhwb/html/2007-12/17/content\\_34030976.htm](http://paper.people.com.cn/rmrbhwb/html/2007-12/17/content_34030976.htm)

About the author: [http://chinavitae.com/biography/Xu\\_Jialu%7C418](http://chinavitae.com/biography/Xu_Jialu%7C418)

3. **WHO Group Meeting on Evidence Based Traditional Medicine:** Prof **Xinmin Liu** (IMPLAD, China), the Coordinator of WP3, attended a WHO Group Meeting on Evidence Based Traditional Medicine as a WHO expert in traditional medicine. The meeting was organised by Dr. Xiaorui Zhang, the WHO coordinator of traditional medicine and was hosted by United Arab Emirates. More than 20 experts from China, USA, UK, Austria and Japan attended the meeting. Interested to know more details of this meeting? Please read the attached documents provided by Xinmin.

4. **Progress in Portugal:** Dr **Alberto Dias** (University of Minho, Portugal), the Deputy Coordinator of GP-TCM, has already compiled and contacted all the possible partners in Portugal that can give inputs to our network. As he said, "the process here in Portugal is already "oiled" and if we will get the grant the flow of information is optimised".

5. **New recipients of the GP-TCM newsletter:** Welcome Prof **LIU Ping**, Vice President of Shanghai University of TCM (SUTCM) and Prof **WU Dunxu**, Former Dean of the Basic Research College, SUTCM, as recipients of our Newsletter. Prof Liu is a leading figure in TCM treatment of liver fibrosis and has several new drugs approved for clinical use or in active clinical trials. Prof Wu is a veteran TCM practitioner and scientist, and is the Editor-in-chief of the most popular textbook on experimental TCM, which is widely used by postgraduate students in the field of TCM in China.

#### **Interesting further reading**

1. In celebration of the long tradition in medicinal plant research at **KCL**, the 2008 Christmas card designed by KCL is featured by the illustration of *helleborus niger*, also known as **Christmas Rose**, which was published in the book "Medicinal Plants" coauthored by two KCL scientists in 1880.

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/content/1/c6/03/11/49/Christmascard2007.pdf>

2. Medicine of China's **Ethnic Minorities** Faces Challenge Ahead

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90782/6323122.html>

3. Chinese Herbal Medicine Not to Be Used in '08 Olympics

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-12/08/content\\_7218981.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2007-12/08/content_7218981.htm)

4. **Acupuncture** Used in Bypass Surgery

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/6328138.html>

Thanks for contribution from **Dr Alberto Dias and Prof Xinmin Liu**. If you have any info, including your own or others' work to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Qihe Xu, MD & PhD

## GP-TCM Newsletter (19-12-07)

### Leading news:

5. Welcome Dr Philippe Vialatte, the European Commission Officer in charge of International Collaborations, to join our GP-TCM mailing list:

Message from Dr Vialatte (19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2007): “Dear Qihe, Many thanks for your very kind message. Let me also convey to you my very best wishes for Christmas and for a fruitful new year, particularly for the strengthening of EU-China cooperation in TCM. And congratulations for your extremely informative newsletter. May I ask you to include my name on the distribution list please? Best regards, Philippe.”

6. One of our Spanish consortium members, Dr Maria Laura Garcia Bermejo, who is a participant of both WP4 and WP5, gave birth to a lovely son several weeks ago. Let's send our best wishes to her and her family. Well done, Laura!

7. Dr Qihe Xu met Prof George Lewith, Coordinator of WP6 and participant of WP8, in London on the 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2007. We both agreed that we should unite and work towards closer collaborations whether or not we are the final winner of the FP7 bid.

### Interesting further reading: System biology in TCM research

1. Connecting genes to metabolites by a systems biology approach.

<http://www.pnas.org/cgi/reprint/101/27/9949.pdf>

2. Gene-to-metabolite networks for terpenoid indole alkaloid biosynthesis in *Catharanthus roseus* cells

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/picrender.fcgi?artid=1459402&blobtype=pdf>

3. Integrating genomics and metabolomics for engineering plant metabolic pathways.

[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=ArticleURL&\\_udi=B6VRV-4FM9MRN-1&\\_user=121727&\\_rdoc=1&\\_fmt=&\\_orig=search&\\_sort=d&view=c&\\_acct=C000010000&\\_version=1&\\_urlVersion=0&\\_userid=121727&md5=1728f1c40b2ee82e0103f210d98a2595](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6VRV-4FM9MRN-1&_user=121727&_rdoc=1&_fmt=&_orig=search&_sort=d&view=c&_acct=C000010000&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=121727&md5=1728f1c40b2ee82e0103f210d98a2595)

Thanks for contribution from Dr Kirsi-Marja Oksman-Caldentey (Finland), Dr Philippe Vialatte (European Commission), Prof George Lewith (UK) and Dr Maria Laura Garcia Bermejo (Spain). If you have any info, including your own or others' work to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

This is the last issue of our GP-TCM Newsletter in 2007. I wish that it brings you a merry Christmas, a happy New Year and a prosperous 2008. See you soon!

Yours sincerely,

Qihe Xu, MD & PhD

## GP-TCM Newsletter (11-12-07)

### Leading news:

1. GP-TCM consortium members Dr Hani El-Nezami (University of Kuopio/University of Hong Kong) and Dr Chenghai Liu (Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, SUTCM) have started active collaboration. They recently submitted a joint grant application to the World Cancer Research Fund on challenging the immune responses against hepatitis C virus. Dr El-Nezami visited SUTCM, from 20th-25th October and ran a workshop on grant writing with a special focus on international funders.

2. “Anti-fibrotic Traditional Chinese Medicines”, a book edited by Consortium member Prof. Jianzhao Niu (Beijing University of Chinese Medicine), has recently been published in China. Consortium members Dan Jiang and Qihe Xu contributed a chapter entitled “In vitro models of fibrosis: Anti-fibrotic herbal medicines revisited”.

3. New China-UK Collaborative adventure launched in Cambridge in the UK:

[http://www.erbi.co.uk/pooled/articles/BF\\_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF\\_NEWSART\\_296886](http://www.erbi.co.uk/pooled/articles/BF_NEWSART/view.asp?Q=BF_NEWSART_296886)

4. Dr Chen Zhu’s speech on the 28<sup>th</sup> December Meeting on TCM in Beijing (in Chinese):

<http://www.moh.gov.cn/newshtml/20701.htm>

It echos his earlier speech that we introduced in our Newsletter in late October: “China's health minister calls for more respect to traditional Chinese medicine” (in English)

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90782/6285225.html>

### Interesting further reading: Computerised TCM research

1. Computational methods for Traditional Chinese Medicine: A survey

<http://portal.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1322589.1323042&coll=GUIDE&dl=GUIDE&CFID=15151515&CFTOKEN=6184618>

2. Phytochemical informatics of traditional chinese medicine and therapeutic relevance

<http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/sample.cgi/jcis8/2007/47/i06/pdf/ci700155t.pdf?isMac=991790>

3. Virtual screening of Chinese herbs with Random Forest.

<http://pubs.acs.org/cgi-bin/sample.cgi/jcis8/2007/47/i02/pdf/ci600289v.pdf?isMac=523498>

Thanks for contribution from **Dr Hani El-Nezami**, **Prof Jianzhao Niu**, **Dr Dan Jiang** and **Prof Peter Hylands**. If you have any info, including your own or others’ work to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me. Reports on collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Qihe Xu, MD & PhD

**GP-TCM Newsletter**  
**(05-12-07)**

Dear all,

1. Prof Peter Hylands and Dr Dan Jiang attended a very high-profile and well-attended international meeting on traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) held in Beijing in the end of November 2007.

[http://www.efbiced.com/Event/Beijing2007\\_ForumII/Files/Programme-TCM-Most-20071128.pdf](http://www.efbiced.com/Event/Beijing2007_ForumII/Files/Programme-TCM-Most-20071128.pdf)

2. An important official document published in the Rome meeting on TCM: on June 28, 2007.

<http://216.239.59.104/search?q=cache:tV769FBTGVUJ:uit.no/getfile.php%3FPageId%3D1492%26FileId%3D932+Traditional+Chinese+Medicine+Beijing+Conference&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&client=safari>

3. Chinese Vice-Premier calls for innovation in TCM:

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90785/6311360.html>

4. A TCM health care project, advocating disease prevention, was started in Guangzhou, capital city of south China's Guangdong Province.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90782/90880/6312160.html>

**Interesting further reading:**

1. Is Traditional Chinese Medicine science?

<http://coombs.anu.edu.au/SpecialProj/ASAA/biennial-conference/2006/Paton-Michael-ASAA2006.pdf>

2. A lucky Western doctor learning Traditional Chinese Medicine for 5 years in China

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bjweekend/2007-11/08/content\\_6240052.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bjweekend/2007-11/08/content_6240052.htm)

3. Herbalists allowed to practise in some qualified drug stores in 10 pilot cities and counties in China

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2007-11/08/content\\_6238688.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2007-11/08/content_6238688.htm)

If you have any news/info to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me.

Reports on interaction and collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Qihe Xu, MD & PhD

**GP-TCM Newsletter  
(191107)**

Dear all,

1. Our Consortium member Dr Dan Jiang (djiang52@hotmail.com) was one of the main organisers of the Association of TCM (UK) Annual General Meeting, which was held in London on the Remembrance Day (11/11/07) in London. Dr Qihe Xu was one of the invited speakers.

Programme attached: P2.

2. Our Consortium member Prof Huangan Wu is one of the main organisers of a national meeting on acupuncture, to be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November in China. Interested parties please contact Prof Wu directly: wuhuangan@citiz.net.

Programme attached: P3.

3. Our Consortium member Prof Peter Hylands and Qihe Xu attended the Innovation China UK Project Launch Event in London. Prof Peter Hylands (peter.2.hylands@kcl.ac.uk) introduced his work in the meeting.

Programme attached: P4.

If you have any news/info to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me.  
Reports on interaction and collaboration among consortium members are particularly welcome.

Yours sincerely,

Qihe

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Chairman, Chinese Life Scientists Society in the UK  
Vice-President, Chinese Academy of Life Sciences in the UK



**The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine (UK)  
Annual General Meeting 2007**

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007, Sunday  
**Time:** 9:30 am – 4:30 pm  
**Venue:** Old Cinema, Regent Street Campus of Westminster University  
309 Regent Street, London, W1B 2UW  
(Nearest tube station: Oxford Circus)

**Agenda**

**Morning: Academic Seminar, chaired by Shu Lan Tang**

9: 30 am: Registration  
10:00 am: **Searching for Anti-fibrotics from Herbs** By Dr Qihe Xu  
10:40 am: Discussion  
10:50 am: **Differential Diagnosis of Common Skin Conditions (with picture demonstration)**  
By Dr Zhi Qiang Zhu  
11:30 am: Discussion  
11:40 am: Tea Break & Exhibition  
12: 20 pm: **Can Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicines Be Used Safely with Conventional Drugs?**  
By Prof. Elizabeth M. Williamson  
1: 05 pm: Discussion

Lunch: 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm: Sandwich lunch

**Afternoon: Annual General Meeting chaired by Ji Dong Wu**

2:15 pm: Council's Annual Report by Huijun Shen  
2:50 pm: Update of regulation by Ming Cheng  
3:20 pm: ATCM Finance Report by Yu Han  
3:30 pm: Tea Break & Exhibition  
4:00 pm: Motion and vote on life honorary membership  
4:10 pm: PETS Award  
4:15 pm: Free talk  
4: 40 pm: End

**Mu Sen Cao Photograph Exhibition**

**Li Ren Yuan & Kan Wen Ma Chinese Calligraphy Exhibition**

**These two exhibitions will be held in the meeting hall, accompanied by**

**Chinese Medicine Products and Books Fair**

with several TCM whole-sellers and booksellers.

**National symposium on clinical and experimental techniques of acupuncture-moxibustion  
and inheritance and creation of moxibustion**

**Secretary-general:** Wu Huan-Gan Dong Gui-Rong

**Thesis:** Inheritance and creation of techniques of moxibustion and advance of acupuncture research

**Date:** 30th November to 2nd December 2006, lasting 3days.

**Location:** Fenghuang manor, (77-1 South Jiefang Road, Jiaojiang district, Taizhou City, Zhejiang province, P.R.China)

**Sponsored by:** Branch association of techniques of needling and moxibustion, China Association of Acupuncture and Moxibustion; Shanghai Leading Academic Discipline Project (No. T0302)

**Main academic reports**

- 1. Shi Xueming: China engineering academician, Tianjing University of TCM**  
Topic: Shi's unit therapy for stroke
- 2. Liu Baoyan: Professor, deputy president of China academy of sciences of TCM**  
Topic: Review on therapeutical effect of acupuncture
- 3. Liang Fanrong: Professor, deputy president of Chendu University of TCM**  
Topic: Evidence based Medicine and acupuncture
- 4. Ding Guanghong: Professor, assistant president of Fudan University**  
Topic: Differences of Priming mechanism of acupoints on analgesia between hand acupuncture and electroacupuncture
- 5. Zhu Jiang: Professor, president of acupuncture and moxibustion, Beijing University of TCM**  
Topic: Systemic review on acupuncture for essential dysmenorrhea
- 6. Yan Jie: Professor, Hunan University of TCM**  
Topic: The Effect on the prostacyclin, thromboxane B<sub>2</sub> for the Hyperlipemia of the Blood-lipid of Rabbit through Moxibustion with Medicinal Cake
- 7. Xu Nenggui: Professor, Guangzhou University of TCM**  
Topic: Study on the improvement of the plasticity of hippocampus synapse with different acupuncture times in cerebral ischemia rats
- 8. Wu Gencheng: Professor, Institute of acupuncture research of Fudan University**  
Topic: Pondering on the combined anesthesia of acupuncture and medicine
- 9. Zhu Bing: Professor, Institute of acupuncture and moxibustion, China academy of sciences of TCM**  
Topic: Study on Bilateral regulation of acupuncture
- 10. Wu Huangang: Professor, Shanghai Institute of acupuncture-moxibustion and meridian, Shanghai University of TCM**  
Topic: Inheritance and creation of techniques of moxibustion
- 11. Sun Guojie: Professor, Hubei University of TCM**  
Topic: Study on mechanism of anti-aging brain of moxibustion



## Innovation China UK Launch

**Date:** 20<sup>th</sup> November 2007

**Time:** 2pm – 5pm

**Venue:** The Octagon, Queens' Building, Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End, London E1 4NS

### Programme

1:30pm – 2pm Registration

**2pm Launch Opening**

Caroline Quest, ICUK Chairman

Managing Director, Innovation and Enterprise, Queen Mary, University of London

**Welcome Speech**

Prof. Adrian Smith, Principal of Queen Mary, University of London

**2:10pm About ICUK**

a. Introduction of ICUK and Partners

b. How ICUK facilitates UK-China knowledge transfer collaboration

c. First Call for the ICUK Collaboration Development Fund

Caroline Quest, ICUK Chairman

Manyi Cristofoli, ICUK Executive Director

**2:25pm Keynote Speech**

Ian Pearson, Minister of Science and Technology, DIUS, UK

**2:35pm Keynote Speech**

Her Excellency Madam FU Ying, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, UK

**2:45pm Plan and Policy of Chinese Science Management (tbc)**

Mr JIN Xiaoming, Director General, International Cooperation, Ministry of Science and Technology, P.R.China

**2:55pm Case Studies on Collaborative Projects in**

a. Traditional Chinese Medicine Prof. Peter Hyland, King's College London

b. Infectious Disease Prof. Colin Howard, Royal Veterinary College, University of London

c. Spacecraft Micropropulsion Prof. John Stark, Queen Mary, University of London

**3: 25pm Closing Remarks: Challenges and Opportunities of UK-China Science & Technology Innovation**

David Concar, Counsellor of Science and Innovation, British Embassy

3:35pm – 5pm Champagne Reception

## **GP-TCM Newsletter (091107)**

Dear all,

1. News contributed by Prof. Brigitte Kopp:

Important meetings on TCM research are to be held in Beijing in the end of November and beginning of December. Some of our Consortium members have been invited to talk in the meeting. We are looking forward to sharing useful information with them upon their return.

Registration is still open. All consortium members are encouraged to attend the meeting and build new collaborations. There will also be chance to meet EC officers in charge of the FP7 programmes on TCM and officers from the Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Health, China.

Here are the meeting programmes:

[http://www.efbicred.com/Event/Beijing2007\\_ForumII/Files/Programme-Beijing-20071031.pdf](http://www.efbicred.com/Event/Beijing2007_ForumII/Files/Programme-Beijing-20071031.pdf)

[http://www.efbicred.com/Event/Beijing2007\\_ForumII/Files/Programme-TCM-Most-20071128.pdf](http://www.efbicred.com/Event/Beijing2007_ForumII/Files/Programme-TCM-Most-20071128.pdf)

If interested to register for the meeting, here is the web link to the events:

[http://www.efbicred.com/Event/Beijing2007\\_ForumII/default.asp](http://www.efbicred.com/Event/Beijing2007_ForumII/default.asp)

2. Information from Dr Iiro Eerola (European Commission):

- (1) GP-TCM has 13 competitors altogether;
- (2) Final announcement of the outcome will be in January 2008.

3. If you have any news/info to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me.

Have a nice weekend!

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Qihe

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Qihe Xu, MD & PhD

## **GP-TCM Newsletter (23-10-2007)**

### **1. China's health minister calls for more respect to traditional Chinese medicine**

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90782/6285225.html>

### **2. Chinese Government gives TCM shot in the arm**

[http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-10/22/content\\_6195094.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2007-10/22/content_6195094.htm)

### **3. The Innovation China UK (ICUK) to be launched**

Queen Mary University of London, King's College London, Universities of Nottingham, Southampton and the Royal Veterinary College were successfully awarded the ICUK project in September 2006.

<http://www.umds.ac.uk/phpnews/wmview.php?ArtID=1355>

The project aims at funding R&D collaborations between the five partners institutions in the UK and Chinese Universities, with the goal of driving technological innovation and exploitation. After a one-year preparation, funding has been finally allocated and the project will be officially launched on November 20th 2007. Professor Peter Hylands will give a talk at the event to summarise his vision on the future directions of Traditional Chinese Medicine Research.

More details of this project will be released after the launching event.

### **4. If you have any news to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me.**

With best regards,

Qihe

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President. Chinese Life Scientists Society in the UK (CLSS-UK)

**GP-TCM Newsletter, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

Dear all GP-TCM Consortium Members:

Three weeks have passed since we submitted our FP7 proposal. Here is something interesting that has happened in the recent days.

1. Prof. Brigitte Kopp and her colleagues in University of Vienna collaborated with Prof. Dr. CAO Hongxin, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences to found the Sino-Austrian Collaboration Center on Traditional Chinese Medicine in Beijing in late September 2007. In this Center 4 labs and a bureau is available for researcher from Austria.

Web: [www.eurasiapacific.net/data/PROGRAM\\_TCM\(1\).doc](http://www.eurasiapacific.net/data/PROGRAM_TCM(1).doc)

2. Dr Qihe Xu, King's College London (KCL), met Dr Ray A A Ah-Sun, Chairman, LGC India, at KCL on the 5th October 2007. Dr Ray Ah-Sun emphasised his strong interests in our interest group and consortium, and would like to join us in our future activities. LGC is leading company in analytical sciences and a distributor of ATCC cell lines and many standard chemicals and herbal compounds. Web: [www.lgc.c.uk](http://www.lgc.c.uk)

3. Dr Alexander Shikov, Deputy Director in science, Interregional Center "Adaptogen", Russia, e-mailed Dr Qihe Xu and expressed his interests in joining our interest group in our future activities.

Adaptogen was founded in 1991. It has 45 scientists including 5 Professors.

Main fields of activity are:

- Biological evaluation of natural pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements and cosmetics
- Bioactivity-guided isolation, characterization and structure elucidation of natural products from higher plants
- Quality and purity control of phytopharmaceuticals
- Development of selective and validated methods for the standardization of medicinal plants and phytopharmaceuticals
- Ethnopharmacological studies of plants used in the traditional medicine of various countries

An introduction of Adaptogen is attached. Please contact Dr Shikov directly if you are interested in collaborating with them.

4. If you have any news to share with us, please do not hesitate to e-mail me.

Qihe Xu, MD & PhD