

## September 2012 Joint Newsletter of The GP-TCM Research Association & FP7 GP-TCM Consortium

**Dissemination activities of the GP-TCM Consortium and the GP-TCM Research Association:** As the FP7 GP-TCM Consortium prepares to conclude its activities and to pass on its legacy to the GP-TCM Research Association at the end of October 2012, the Consortium and the Association have planned a series of dissemination activities. For instance, Professor Tommy Yung-Chi Cheng, Professor Rudolf Bauer, Dr. Qihe Xu, Dr. Tai-Ping Fan, Professor Peter Hylands, Professor Vivian Wong and Professor Kelvin Chan met at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Consortium for Globalization of Chinese Medicine (CGCM) on 20-23 August in Macau, chairing sessions, serving as panellists and playing leading roles in warm and interactive discussions.



VIPs at the Opening Ceremony of the 11<sup>th</sup> CGCM Meeting

Professor Tommy Yung-Chi Cheng, as Chairman of both CGCM and the Advisory Board of the GP-TCM project, restated his firm support to both the Consortium and the Association and informed future plans of reforming the CGCM leadership structure. Rudi exchanged views with Tommy on future collaborations and relationship between CGCM and the Association, leading to important agreements, which will be further discussed at future Board of Directors meetings of the Association. Qihe and Rudi were invited to introduce the achievements of the GP-TCM Project and the progress of the Association. Brochures of the Association and the GP-TCM *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* Special Issue were distributed among meeting attendees, including many VIP stakeholders. As highlights of a post-meeting session, they visited the University of Macau and the Macau University of Science & Technology, met staff of the State Key Laboratory on Quality Research in Chinese Medicine based in the two universities and discussed plans for future collaborations.

Rudi Bauer discussed with Dr. Wang Guoqiang (Vice Minister of Health and Director of State Administration of TCM, SATCM) and Professor Tommy Cheng about the goals of GP-TCM RA and possible collaborations with SATCM and CGCM.



Prof. Rudi Bauer, Dr. Wang Guoqiang and Prof. Tommy Cheng



Vice-Rector of MUST Prof. Liang Liu and Prof. Rudi Bauer



Prof. Peter Hylands, Dr. Tai-Ping Fan, Prof. Tommy Cheng,  
Prof. Xiaohui Zheng and colleague

Before and after the meeting in Macau, senior Consortium and Association members also visited other cities. For instance, on 15, 24 and 26 August, Qihe talked about his research on anti- and pro-fibrotic Chinese herbal medicines, the GP-TCM project and the GP-TCM Research Association in Northwest University, Xi'an, Shannxi (Hosts: Professor Xiaohui Zheng and Dr. Xinfeng Zhao), Livzon Pharmaceutical

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Co. Ltd, Zhuhai, Guangdong Province (Host: Dr. Hui Cao) and China-Japan Friendship Hospital, Beijing (Hosts: Professors Ping Li and Wenge Li).



Dr. Qihe Xu talked at Livzon Ltd., Zhuhai (top), photographed with Prof. Ping Li and her colleagues after his talk at China-Japan Friendship Hospital, Beijing (Middle) and was shown around Prof. Xiao-Hui Zheng's lab after his seminar (bottom)

In addition to giving talks, Qihe also had fruitful meetings with GP-TCM Advisors and members such as Dr. Jijun Xing (China Science and Technology Exchange Centre, Beijing), Professors Yanjiang Qiao, Ling Dong, Yun Wang and Zongjiang Zhao (Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, Beijing), Professors You Wan, Jingyan Han, Jingzi Li, Guogang Xing and

Jianxin Zhao (Peking University, Beijing), Professors Ying Xing, Zhibo Feng and Jun Yang (Xinxiang Medical University, Xinxiang, Hen an), as well as Professors Lidong Wang and Guolan Xing (Zhengzhou University, Zhengzhou, Henan).



Professor Yifan Han (Hong Kong Polytechnic University) presenting his paper "Substantial Promotion of Neuronal Differentiation and Synaptogenesis by Bis(12)-Hupyridone, a Promising Anti-Alzheimer's Dimer Derived from TCM" at the 11<sup>th</sup> CGCM Meeting.

Dr. Tai-Ping Fan visited Professor Aiping Lu, Dean of Hong Kong Baptist University School of Chinese Medicine and discussed strategies on the AAAS Science magazine TCM Special Issue to be published in July 2013. In addition to chairing Natural Products II (Biological Activity) Session, he also met Mr Chi Kin Tong (唐志坚, Chairman of Administrative Committee of the Macau S&T Development Fund) and Professor Li Gao Zhou 周礼杲, Chairman of University Council of Macau University of Science & Technology (MUST). At the invitation of Professor Liang Liu, Vice-Rector of MUST, he visited the State Key Laboratory on Quality Research in Chinese Medicine and gave a seminar "Chinese Medicine and Drug Discovery - a Cambridge Perspective". After visiting the Research Institute of Tsinghua University in Shenzhen, he had a productive meeting with Dr Xiaopin Wang 王笑频 and Dr Zhendou Wu 吴振斗 of SATCM in Beijing. To disseminate GP-TCM activities to the most northwest part of China, he visited Xinjiang Medical University (XMU) in Urumqi 乌鲁木齐, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region as a special guest of President Halmurat Upur, and gave a lecture "New Frontiers in Strategic Alliance in Traditional Chinese Medicine - a European Perspective" (中医药战略联盟的前沿 - 欧洲视角). Significantly, XMU will apply for institutional membership of GP-TCM RA, and looks forward to collaborating on TCM as well as traditional Uyghur medicine.

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Dr. Tai-Ping Fan and Dr. Shoudong Wang (R1) received Visiting Professorships from President Halmurat Upur (R2) and Party Secretary Xinmin Mao (L1) of Xinjiang Medical University

**2. The 13<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Society of Ethnopharmacology in Graz (2-6, September 2012)** was organised by Rudi Bauer, with 430 registered participants from 62 countries, and a sizeable number of Chinese colleagues attending.

<http://ise13.cats-host.com/cms/images/stories/documents/Final%20Programme.pdf>



Prof. Rudi Bauer, Prof. Brigitte Kopp with delegates at the Graz meeting

De-an Guo gave a plenary lecture on "Phytochemical and metabolic analysis of Chinese herbal medicines". Monique Simmonds and Rudi Bauer disseminated the ideas of GP-TCM with lectures on "The challenge of authentication of medicinally used plant species" and the "Application of HPLC fingerprint analysis for the authentication of medicinal plants", respectively.

Dr. Mei Wang (SU BioMedicine, the Netherlands) gave a very well-received plenary lecture on "A systems biology based approach towards personalized health & herbal medicine quality".

GP-TCM RA has been advertised by distributing the flyers. Several participants signed application forms.



Prof. Rudi Bauer welcomed Chinese friends at the Graz meeting

**3. The 2012 Shanghai International Conference on TCM and Natural Medicine and the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of GP-TCM RA** will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> October 2012 in Riverfront Business Hotel in Shanghai. Hosted by Modern Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Industry Office of Shanghai Municipality, the conference theme is "Modernization and Internationalization of TCM". For more information and online registration, please visit <http://www.s-tcm.com/english.html?jdfwkey=hurkb1>.

### Special highlights:

#### Halil's Wedding

On Saturday 22 September 2012, a brilliantly sunny day, the wedding ceremony of Dr. Halil Uzuner, the Project Manager of the FP7 GP-TCM Consortium and his bride Laura was held at Burchatts Farm Barn, Stoke Park, Guildford, the United Kingdom.

On behalf of the GP-TCM Consortium, Dr. Qihe Xu (Coordinator of the Consortium) and Professor Nicky Robinson (WP6 and WP8 Co-Coordinator) joined family members and other friends of the young couple to "endorse" their marriage by fingerprinting & signing a wedding tree (the next page, photographed by Qihe), wishing them a lifelong happy marriage!

Nicky captured many unforgettable moments and has selected a few to share with us all.

Qihe commented, "Halil is such a nice person. Being highly caring, talented and motivated, he has been a brilliant project manager of our consortium. We are lucky to have the opportunity to work with Halil and we, especially myself, owe him a big THANK-YOU! I am very proud of him for what he has achieved in his private and public life and I sincerely believe that he truly deserves the love he has harvested. I am fully confident of his capacity to deliver at home, at his future job and beyond; Let's all once again congratulate him and Laura – very well done indeed!"

The editorial board of the Joint Newsletter send our warmest congratulations and best wishes to Halil, Laura and their families and invite GP-TCM members to leave your comments here (ID and password apply).

<http://www.gp-tcm.org/chat/>

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As classic as silent movies



Wedding tree & the love birds



The handsome man and his friends

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### Funding opportunities

#### 1. Clinical Studies of Safety and Effectiveness of Orphan Products Research Project Grant (R01) from the FDA.

[https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/08/06/2012-19086/clinical-studies-of-safety-and-effectiveness-of-orphan-products-research-project-grant-r01?source=govdelivery&utm\\_campaign=subscription+mailing+list&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=federalregister.gov#p-3](https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/08/06/2012-19086/clinical-studies-of-safety-and-effectiveness-of-orphan-products-research-project-grant-r01?source=govdelivery&utm_campaign=subscription+mailing+list&utm_medium=email&utm_source=federalregister.gov#p-3)

### Further Reading

#### 1. Personal omics profiling reveals dynamic molecular and medical phenotypes. Chen R, Mias GI, Li-Pook-Than J, *et al.* *Cell*. 2012 Mar 16;148(6):1293-307.

**Abstract:** Personalized medicine is expected to benefit from combining genomic information with regular monitoring of physiological states by multiple high-throughput methods. Here, we present an integrative personal omics profile (iPOP), an analysis that combines genomic, transcriptomic, proteomic, metabolomic, and autoantibody profiles from a single individual over a 14 month period. Our iPOP analysis revealed various medical risks, including type 2 diabetes. It also uncovered extensive, dynamic changes in diverse molecular components and biological pathways across healthy and diseased conditions. Extremely high-coverage genomic and transcriptomic data, which provide the basis of our iPOP, revealed extensive heteroallelic changes during healthy and diseased states and an unexpected RNA editing mechanism. This study demonstrates that longitudinal iPOP can be used to interpret healthy and diseased states by connecting genomic information with additional dynamic omics activity.

#### Comments in:

<http://circgenetics.ahajournals.org/content/5/3/381.full.pdf+html>

#### 2. Redefining clinical trials: the age of personalized medicine. Vaidyanathan G. *Cell*. 2012 Mar 16;148(6):1079-80.

**Abstract:** The triumph of personalized cancer therapeutics in recent years is prompting some oncologists to rethink clinical trial design; other researchers have different priorities for trial reform.

<http://www.cell.com/retrieve/pii/S0092867412002796>

#### 3. Omics gets personal. DeFrancesco L. *Nat Biotechnol*. 2012 Apr 10;30(4):332.

<http://www.nature.com/nbt/journal/v30/n4/full/nbt.2184.html>

#### 4. FDA Notification to Industry Products using oils, glycerin, or protein that were derived from the *Jatropha* plant may have toxic effects.

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ForIndustry/IndustryNoticesandGuidanceDocuments/UCM310867.pdf?source=govdelivery>

#### 5. FDA needs more time to review Salix botanical product.

[http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/12-09-06/FDA\\_needs\\_more\\_time\\_to\\_review\\_Salix\\_botanical\\_product.aspx](http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/12-09-06/FDA_needs_more_time_to_review_Salix_botanical_product.aspx)

Salix Pharmaceuticals is going to have to wait a fair bit longer to get a final decision from US regulators for its diarrhoea drug crofelemer.

The US Food and Drug Administration has told the company that its New Drug Application for crofelemer for the symptomatic relief of non-infectious diarrhoea in patients with HIV/AIDS on anti-retroviral therapy, is still under review. As such, it has missed the scheduled Prescription Drug User Fee Act (PDUFA) goal date of September 5.

Salix chief development officer Bill Forbes noted that "the primary topic is the production and control of the crofelemer active pharmaceutical ingredient, a complex mixture that is the first botanical product to be reviewed by the agency for oral use". He said the company and the FDA are committed to "a robust level of cooperation and data exchange", adding that "our efforts to date have advanced both the chemical and the regulatory science methods available to ensure the quality and clinical usefulness of crofelemer and, potentially, other botanical products".

Crofelemer acts by blocking chloride ion channel secretion and accompanying high volume water loss in diarrhoea. It is isolated and purified from a tree found in the Amazon basin, *Croton lechleri*, also known as dragon's blood.

Salix now expects a final decision on its New Drug Application for crofelemer by the end of the first quarter of 2013.

#### 6. Plant proteins primed for sports nutrition growth.

<http://www.ingredientsnetwork.com/news-content/full/plant-proteins-primed-for-sports-nutrition-growth>

Belgian natural ingredients firm Cosucra has identified sports nutrition as a key growth opportunity for its plant-based proteins.

Cosucra, which manufactures pea protein isolate Pisane, said that plant products have suffered in the sports nutrition category because of their perceived inferior nutritional content to animal proteins.

However, according to Cosucra, a new breed of proteins such as Pisane offer highly competitive nutritional value for sports nutrition products. Pisane is rich in branched-chain amino acids, particularly leucine and arginine, which are said to be particularly beneficial for athletes.

Leucine plays an important role in the production of muscle protein, particularly post-workout during the

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recovery and muscle-building phase. Arginine enables the endogenous synthesis of nitric oxide, a powerful vasodilator.

Combined with other proteins, Cosucra added that Pisane can help stagger the speed at which other proteins are digested and ensure a beneficial amino acid profile.

The product may also be used as an iron-rich, highly digestible sole source of protein in nutritional products for endurance athletes and, when combined with vitamin C, can be used to prevent against deficiencies such as anaemia.

### 7. Chinese medicine has made herbal products' acceptance easier

Read more at:

[http://www.biospectrumasia.com/biospectrum/influencers/22183/chinese-medicine-herbal-products-acceptance-easier?WT.rss\\_f=Home&WT.rss\\_a=Chinese+medicine+has+made+herbal+products%E2%80%99+acceptance+easier+#.UGY-tI5XC12](http://www.biospectrumasia.com/biospectrum/influencers/22183/chinese-medicine-herbal-products-acceptance-easier?WT.rss_f=Home&WT.rss_a=Chinese+medicine+has+made+herbal+products%E2%80%99+acceptance+easier+#.UGY-tI5XC12)

### 8. Life-Nurturing Business

<http://www.hktdc.com/info/mi/a/hkti/en/1X09P22S/1/Hong-Kong-Trader-International-Edition/Life-Nurturing-Business.htm#1>



Earning a Master's degree in bioscience enterprise from Britain's Cambridge University and an undergraduate degree in traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in his native Hong Kong, Alan Koo has long had his finger on the pulse of both western and Chinese medical practices. Dr Koo is a licensed Chinese medicine practitioner and member of the Modernized Chinese Medicine International Association. The group, along with the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, organise the annual International Conference and Exhibition of the Modernization of Chinese Medicine and Health Products (ICMCM).

In Six Questions, Dr Koo explains why he's among a growing number of professionals and patients finding ways to bridge the gap between Western and Eastern medicine.

**9. Chinese Firm Threw FDA Inspectors out Mid-Inspection, Agency Says** <http://www.raps.org/focus-online/news/news-article-view/article/2274/chinese-firm-threw-fda-inspectors-out-mid-inspection-agency-says.aspx>

### 10. All herbal safety warnings and alerts

The Austrian authorities have issued a warning for Ramlostan Forte manufactured by SC Parapharm, Romania. Ramlostan comes in white and blue

packaging, with a picture of a ram at the top. Inside, there are ten blue capsules.

The Austrian authority (AGES) has issued a warning for this product after finding it to contain Tadalafil, a Prescription Only Medicine used in the treatment of erectile dysfunction and Yohimbe, a medicinal herbal ingredient. Neither of these ingredients were declared on the packaging.

Tadalafil is the active ingredient in a Prescription Only Medicine called Cialis and should only be used when prescribed by a doctor. Uncontrolled consumption of Tadalafil is dangerous and could potentially cause serious adverse reactions such as heart attack, stroke and severe hypotension.

Yohimbe can be toxic and cause panic attacks, high blood pressure, headache, nausea, paralysis, renal failure, seizure and death.

It is unclear whether these products are available in retail outlets in the UK but could be available on the internet.

The MHRA advises any consumer wishing to use herbal medicines to look for products with a traditional herbal registration. These can be identified by a THR number on their label. A product with a THR has been assessed by the MHRA and consumers can be confident that it is safe to use and is accompanied by the necessary information about how to use the product safely. <http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Generalsafetyinformationandadvice/Herbalmedicines/Herbalsafetyupdates/Allherbalsafetyupdates/CON185622>

**Happy Mid-Autumn (Moon) Festival/ Zhōngqiū Jié (中秋节) on 30 September 2012!**



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