



**Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research in  
the Post-genomic Era**

**GP-TCM**

**223154**

**D10.6**

**Support the Final conference**



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## 1 SUPPORT THE FINAL CONFERENCE AND THE GP-TCM CONGRESS

### 1.1 Introduction

At the end of year 3 (i.e., project month 36), the Consortium held the final meeting known as “*the Final Conference*” and the public dissemination congress “*the GP-TCM Congress*”, led by Work Package (WP) 9 - Final Conference. Both events served as major milestones of the project, where the Consortium’s leading scientists summarised the main conclusions, outcomes, and future directions recommended by each WP and collectively by the Consortium. The following sections of the report provide brief event details, as well as WP10 members’ joint efforts assisting WP9 in successfully delivering both events.

### 1.2 Meetings

#### 1.2.1 The Final Conference

The final conference of the consortium gathered all beneficiary members, distinguished and devoted consortium experts (i.e., non-beneficiary members), together with representatives from major stakeholders and funders to disseminate the work and findings of the project and discuss future directions and collaborations (<http://www.gp-tcm.org/2011/08/final-conference/>). The meeting was held in Kerkrade, the Netherlands on 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at the historical premises of the Rolduc Conference Centre (<http://www.rolduc.com/index.php?lang=en>), which is one of the well-known Conference venues in the Netherlands, and gathered more than 70 beneficiary and non-beneficiary partners as well as key stakeholders.



Figure 1: Final Conference Venue - Conference Centre Rolduc, Kerkrade, the Netherlands

The meeting was a closed-door event, where WP-focused presentations and interactive discussion sessions took place. During these sessions, representatives of each WP gave succinct overview of their WPs’ progress over the past three years with a special emphasis given to their 3<sup>rd</sup> year activities and achievements, and future directions of research. These were complemented by each WP’s reports on challenges faced and experienced gained, as well as plans for the remaining 6 months of the project.

Furthermore, other detailed discussion sessions were held allowing the participants to focus on a number of key issues including future funding opportunities and the establishment of the GP-TCM Research Association (<http://www.gp-tcm.org/association/>). The meeting participants were also updated about the publication of the GP-TCM Special Issue in the Journal of Ethnopharmacology and were provided with the electronic copies of all articles. On 14<sup>th</sup> April

2012, after successful conclusion of the meeting, the participants were given an opportunity to take part in an excursion to Floriade 2012 (World Horticultural Expo in Venlo, <http://www.floriade.com/>).



Figure 2: GP-TCM Final Conference - Group photo, Kerkrade, the Netherlands

### 1.2.2 The GP-TCM Congress

Following the successful completion of the project's Final Conference in Kerkrade, the public dissemination event "the GP-TCM Congress" took place in Leiden, the Netherlands on 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> April 2012. The Congress was at "Gorlaeus Laboratories" in Leiden University (<http://visitors.leiden.edu/buildings/gorlaeus.html>) and a Congress website was developed assisting interested parties to obtain further details about the event and register (<http://www.gp-tcm-congress.nl/>).



Figure 3: The GP-TCM Congress venue - Gorlaeus Laboratories, Leiden, the Netherlands

The main objective of the Congress was to disseminate the results of the project by bringing together the project partners, external stakeholders and public. After the registration and reception in National Museum of Natural History *Naturalis* on 15<sup>th</sup> April, the Congress was



opened on 16<sup>th</sup> April by the Coordinator of GP-TCM Consortium Dr. Qihe Xu, with the official launch of the GP-TCM Research Association by its Inaugural President Prof. Rudolph Bauer.



Figure 4: Official launch of the GP-TCM Research Association during the GP-TCM Congress, Leiden, the Netherlands

Dr. Alexandru Costescu, GP-TCM Project Officer at the European Commission, outlined Horizon 2010 – the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020). Prof. Jan van der Greef (Gorlaeus Laboratories, University of Leiden) gave an illuminating presentation on the importance of a holistic approach using systems biology to study Chinese medicine. The most important news was that he and his team (SU BioMedicine BV, TNO) in close collaboration with Chinese counterparts have been able for the first time to register a traditional Chinese medicine “Di’ao Xin Xue Kang capsules” 地奥心血康胶囊 ([http://www.cbg-meb.nl/CBG/en/human-medicines/actueel/First Authorisation of Traditional Herbal Medicine from outside the European Union/default.htm](http://www.cbg-meb.nl/CBG/en/human-medicines/actueel/First_Authorisation_of_Traditional_Herbal_Medicine_from_outside_the_European_Union/default.htm)) with the Dutch registration authorities and thus opening the way into Europe. Dr. Shwu-Huey Liu of PhytoCeutica Inc. gave a comprehensive overview on R&D and clinical trial of PHY906 as an adjuvant to chemotherapy in the USA (<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304177104577313821796467932.html>). Subsequent lectures by invited speakers (in alphabetical order, Prof. Xiaodong Cheng, Prof. Wei Ding, Prof. Pierre Duez, Dr. Tai-Ping Fan, Prof. Gerhard Franz, Prof. Peter Hylands, Dr. Werner Knöss, Prof. Nicola Robinson, Dr. Jandirk Sendker, Prof. Monique Simmonds, Prof. Claudia Witt, and Dr. Youping Zhu) focused on the state-of-the-art in their respective fields. At the Open Members Meeting of the GP-TCM Research Association, President Rudolph Bauer introduced its bylaws, management structure, Board of Directors, objectives, website, membership, special interest groups, future meetings and other activities, etc. As a result of successful fund-raising by Secretary-General Tai-Ping Fan, Treasurer Peter Hylands announced that all existing GP-TCM members would be offered free membership for 2012. In closing, the President invited congress delegates to sign membership application forms, and urged them to advertise the Association in their personal network (<http://www.gp-tcm.org/association/membership/>).





**Figure 5: Keynote speaker Dr. Alexandru Costescu (GP-TCM Project Officer at the European Commission) presenting Horizon 2010**



**Figure 6: Keynote speaker Prof. Jan van der Greef (Gorlaeus Laboratories, University of Leiden) presenting importance of a holistic approach using systems biology to study Chinese medicine**



**Figure 7: Keynote speaker Dr. Shwu-Huey Liu (PhytoCeutica Inc., USA) presenting R&D and clinical trial of an important TCM product**

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

Apart from all the science, there were ample opportunities for the 130-plus participants to socialise during the reception in the historic Town Hall of Leiden, where they were warmly greeted by the Mayor of Leiden, Dr. Henri Lenferink and Dean of Faculty of Science, Leiden University, Prof. Dr. Sjoerd Verduyn Lunel. On the last day, there was a most enjoyable congress dinner - beach BBQ party in Katwijk.

Other relevant web links:

<http://www.gp-tcm.org/2011/08/gp-tcm-congress/>

<http://www.gp-tcm-congress.nl/>





Figure 8: The GP-TCM Congress poster

### 1.3 WP10 contributions to the meetings

WP10 Coordination Team has been regularly communicating and collaborating with WP9 from the beginning of the project for planning, organisation, coordination and delivery of the meetings as scheduled. Face-to-face meetings (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meetings), regular e-MSM teleconferences, email exchanges, and telephone conversations were main means of interaction with WP9 Coordination Team to jointly discuss and plan the events. Some of the major contributions of WP10 towards assisting WP9 to deliver the events include:

- Drafting and finalisation of the event agendas;
- Generation of invitation lists for both events and assisting WP9 for the invitation of members and key stakeholders;
- Announcement of event details to project members, stakeholders and public via GP-TCM contact email lists, newsletters, website, posters, as well as circulation of meetings' info to other relevant networks, organisations and groups;
- Preparation of draft documentation and presentation templates;
- Fundraising (explained further in the next section);
- Preparation and presentation of WP10 sessions at both events;
- Contribution to preparation of a number of WP9 deliverable reports such as the meeting reports, etc.
- Paving the way for the official launch of the GP-TCM Research Association (<http://www.gp-tcm.org/association/>) during the Congress (16<sup>th</sup> April 2012, please refer to D10.7 report for further details).



- Dissemination of the consortium conclusions through printed proceedings (meeting reports as well as the GP-TCM Special Issue at the Journal of Ethnopharmacology (<http://www.gp-tcm.org/2012/03/the-gp-tcm-j-ethnopharmacol-special-issue/>)).
- Dissemination of both events via the Phoenix TV news (in Chinese): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQ4QJRfLmqk&feature=youtu.be>
- Interaction with VIPs, sponsors, scientific committee members and other meeting attendees, providing some catering and hospitality before the meeting officially started.
- Upload meeting presentations onto consortium website so that they can be accessed by consortium members who could not attend the meeting for one reason or another.
- Dissemination of meeting outcomes through contributing to and publishing the GP-TCM Research Association and the GP-TCM Consortium Newsletters.

### 1.3.1 Fundraising activities

The Final Conference was organised by utilising the funds provided by the European Commission under the grant agreement 223154. The GP-TCM Congress, however, was organised by utilising the funds raised by the consortium members through various fundraising activities and the registration fees collected from the participants. As a result of the joint work of senior consortium members, €22,400 was collected solely for the Congress organisation. The main event co-organisers and sponsors were as follows (in alphabetical order):

- Capital Medical University, China,
- Chang Gung Memorial Hospital, Taiwan,
- Chengdu University of TCM, China,
- China Medical University, China
- CMC Tasly Group BV, the Netherlands
- Hailan Pharmaceuticals, Macau,
- Shanghai University of TCM, China,
- Taiji Pharmaceuticals, China.

In recognition of their generous financial support of the GP-TCM Congress, the aforementioned 8 organisations have been offered corporate membership of the GP-TCM Research Association. With the generous support from these co-organisers/sponsors, the Consortium was able to offer grants of €500 to 16 students and young investigators. They were: Orchidea Rachmaniah (the Netherlands), Herman van Wietmarschen (the Netherlands), Evelien Rozema (Austria), Liu Ying (China), Cheng Xiaolan (China), Han-Kuei Wu (China), Valerian Bunel (Belgium), Leocadie Kamagaju (Belgium), Ya-Chin Chang (Taiwan), Alan Koo (Hong Kong), Lillian Nordahl (UK), Lee-Hsin Shaw (Taiwan), Ming-Tsang Wu (Taiwan), Wan-Ling Chang-Liao (Taiwan), Sharleen Cheng (Taiwan), Anthony Booker (UK).