RMIT Chinese Medicine
International Collaboration in Research and Education

Prof Charlie Changli Xue
Head, Discipline of Chinese Medicine
Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine
# History of RMIT Chinese Medicine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Milestones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>RMIT Chinese Medicine was established with one Masters Degree by coursework in Acupuncture (introduced in 1994)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>A five-year double undergraduate degree program was introduced through a collaboration with Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>An offshore undergraduate degree was introduced in Hong Kong in collaboration with Hong Kong Baptist University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>The RMIT Chinese Medicine Research Group (RCMRG) was established; became the Complementary Therapies Research Program at the RMIT Health Innovations Research Institute in 2008; and the group is currently known as the RMIT Traditional and Complementary Medicine Research Group (RTCMRG) in 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Hosted the First World Congress on Chinese Medicine with over 800 delegates from 26 countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Introduction of Master of Applied Sciences (Chinese Herbal Medicine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Designated as an WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Hosted an International Symposium – Harmonisation of Traditional and Modern Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Became an official Chinese Medicine Confucius Institute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Degree Programs in Chinese Medicine

• **Undergraduate**
  – Bachelor of Health Science (Chinese Medicine) Degree (Hong Kong) (4 years)

• **Postgraduate by Coursework**

• **Postgraduate by Research**
RMIT Chinese Medicine Research

• Focused areas
  – Evidence-based Chinese medicine
  – Traditional herbal medicines as sources of new therapeutics
  – Production of traditional Chinese medicines and herbal therapeutics
  – Public health issues associated with herbal medicine usage and promoting evidence-based herbal medicine health care

• Grants
  – National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC): 4 projects (2009-2011), > $1.2 m
  – Department of Health Services, Victorian Government: 1 project (2009), $48,000
  – National Institute of Complementary Medicine (NICM): 1 project (2008-2010), $136,000
  – CSIRO Preventative Health Flagship Program: 2 projects (2006-2009), $159,000
  – International grant: with Guangdong provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine (2008-2011): $500,000

• Publications: mainly in mainstream scientific journals, 49 published journal papers in 2008

• Research fellows and students (international and local): 28 in total in 2009
International Recognition

• 2008: International Prize was presented to the Division of Chinese Medicine, School of Health Sciences, RMIT University for the Contribution to Traditional Chinese Medicine, by World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies.
Facilities – Teaching

Herbal Medicine Laboratory

Acupuncture Laboratory
Facilities – Chinese Medicine Teaching Clinic
Facilities – Laboratory

- High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)
- Thin Liquid Chromatography (TLC)
- Atomic Absorption (AA)
RMIT Model of Evidence-Based Chinese Medicine
Research and Education

Research [Discovery] → Knowledge Management [Integration] → Existing Knowledge

Teaching & Learning

Therapeutic Safety → Therapeutic Efficacy → Therapeutic Quality Assurance

Regulation [Application]

Evidence Based Practice [Application]
International Partners – Education

Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, P. R. China

Hong Kong Baptist University

International Medical University, Malaysia
Research Partners

- Alfred Hospital, Box Hill Hospital, Epworth Hospital and Monash University, Melbourne
- Austin Hospital, Northern Hospital, and Royal Melbourne Hospital and the University of Melbourne, Melbourne
- Beijing Hospital, Ministry of Health, China
- Centre for East-West Medicine - University of California, Los Angeles
- Centre for Evidence-Based Chinese Medicine, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, China
- Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria, Australia
- Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- Guangdong Provincial Hospital of Chinese Medicine, China
- Guangzhou University of Chinese Medicine, China
- Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
- Kyung Hee University, Korea
- La Trobe University, Australia
- Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, China
- St. Vincent’s Hospital, Melbourne, Australia
- The World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies
- The World Health Organization
WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine

- Designated in 2005
- Short-term programs
- Development of WHO Guidelines
Chinese Medicine Confucius Institute

- Established in 2008
- To be officially opened in 2009
Collaboration with UCLA – International projects

- WHO Expert Advisory Meeting at RMIT 2003
Collaboration with UCLA – International conferences

• Professor Ka Kit Hui’s keynote lectures in
  – World Congress on Chinese Medicine 2003
  – International Symposium on Harmonisation of Traditional and Modern Medicine 2005
Collaboration with UCLA – Joint force in promoting harmonisation of western medicine and Chinese medicine

- Professor Ka Kit Hui

Adjunct Professor at RMIT since 2008

UCLA Centre for East-West Medicine
Collaboration with UCLA – future collaboration (for comments)

- Joint supervision for higher degree by research candidates: investigating the public health issues associated with the use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) in Australia and the USA

- Development of joint research grant applications: either through the NHMRC in Australia or NIH in the USA

- Joint publications in the use of CAM for chronic diseases particularly its relevance to geriatric medicine and integrative medicine

- Promotion of integrative medical care: we have now established collaboration through externally funded research projects with more than 10 public hospitals in Australia and China
Comments

- **Evidence-based medicine** (*EBM*) is the main strategy recommended by the WHO for the integration of traditional and modern medicine
  
  – NIH definition of complementary medicine, alternative medicine and integrative medicine

- **International collaboration** is critical for evidence generation, synthesis and translation

- **International leadership**, eg. CAM leaders, major medical groups and East-West Medical Centre (picture)

- **Setting the priorities** for CAM research: major health problems, conditions inadequately managed by western medicine – make unique contribution to international health
Thank you!

For more details:

- Mrs Sandy Ebell
  Administrative Assistant
  WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine
  Discipline of Chinese Medicine, School of Health Sciences
  Bundoora West Campus
  RMIT University
  Bundoora, Victoria 3083
  Australia
  Tel: 03 – 99257746
  Fax: 03 – 9925 7178
  E-mail: sandy.ebell@rmit.edu.au