Traditional and complementary medicine (TCM) is playing an increasingly significant role in healthcare as more people turn to it as an alternative or supplement to biomedicines. Herbs have been the basis of many biomedicines, and continue to be a potential source of new medicines and dietary supplements. The Health Innovations Research Institute’s TCM Program features six multidisciplinary research groups, each with an excellent international reputation for using modern scientific methods to evaluate the quality, efficacy and safety of TCM. Its research focuses on major health concerns, including diabetes, pulmonary disease and pain management.

Research program groups and leaders

» Clinical trials, led by Professor Charlie Xue (Program Leader), charlie.xue@rmit.edu.au
» Herbal medicine resources and quality control, led by Professor Edwin Pang, eddie.pang@rmit.edu.au
» Medicinal chemistry and chemical profiling, led by Associate Professor Helmut Hügel, helmut.hugel@rmit.edu.au
» Herbal pharmacology and toxicology, led by Associate Professor Chun Guang Li, chun.guang.li@rmit.edu.au
» Molecular pharmacology and drug discovery from TCM for diabetes, led by Professor Jiming Ye, jiming.ye@rmit.edu.au
» Computer modelling for drug delivery optimisation, led by Professor Jiyuan Tu, jiyuan.tu@rmit.edu.au

Other key researchers

Emeritus Professor David Story, david.story@rmit.edu.au
Dr Juan Carlos Molero, juan.molero@rmit.edu.au
Dr Tony Zhang, tony.zhang@rmit.edu.au
Dr Zhen Zheng, zhen.zheng@rmit.edu.au

TRADITIONAL AND COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE

Tanshinone IIA is a derivative of phenanthrene-quinone isolated from Danshen (Salvia miltiorrhiza)

Professor Charlie Xue
Selected recent publications


External grant funding


NHMRC Project Grant: ‘The effect of a standardised ginseng extract in patients with moderate COPD: a randomised, double blind trial’. 2010–2012, Professor C Xue (CIA) and Dr A Zhang (CID).
