Traditional and Complementary Medicine

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 four 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**

- **Acupuncture and herbal medicine 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
- **Computer modelling for drug delivery optimisation**, led by **Professor Jiyuan Tu**, jiyuan.tu@rmit.edu.au

**Other Key Researchers**

- **Emeritus Professor David Story**
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**Danshen** (*Salvia miltiorrhiza*).

Tanshinone IIA is a derivative of phenanthrene-quinone isolated from Danshen.

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