

# Integration of Traditional Chinese Medicine with Modern Science is the Way Forward

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On behalf of the editorial team of *World Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine* (WJTCM), we would like to convey our sincere gratitude to the great efforts of our editorial board members, referees, authors, readers and all the warmhearted supporters to contribute for the journal growth in the first year of its release in 2015.

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) is one of the most important traditional medicine systems in the world, which is of unique advantage and great potential to arouse more and more global attentions. The role of TCM in maintaining human health and treating diseases is now receiving wide recognitions. TCM is now practiced in as many as 187 countries or regions and further encouraged by the recent Nobel Prize for awarding to You-you Tu for her great contribution in inventing artemisinin. It is anticipated that TCM international collaboration and communication would be further promoted and stepped into the fast track of development.

WJTCM is a quarterly open-access journal sponsored by the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies (WFCMS), which is also the official affiliated journal of The Good Practice in TCM Research Association. It is a peer-reviewed journal to publish high quality original or review articles focusing on four main areas: modern research on Chinese materia medica, TCM theory, clinical research, acupuncture and moxibustion. The four issues in 2015 published 29 articles with a quite diverse authorship in term of their nationality and research area. These published articles received great attention from the readers evidenced by high downloads of 6 papers with over 1000 downloads. The article entitled "The role of the European Pharmacopoeia (Ph Eur) in quality control of TCM in European member states" authored by Mei Wang and Gerhard Franz received the the highest downloads of 3228, which indicated the quality of the articles.

WJTCM is a comprehensive academic journal focusing on the representative TCM research areas, which has the characteristics of clear scope and unique features. It emphasizes on the following three research aspects:

1. TCM theory research is centered on the annotation and interpretation of the scientific essence and biological basis of TCM theory based on modern research achievements, and TCM efficacy and the scientific nature of its theory should be

confirmed by the scientific evidence in accordance with the modern biomedicine methods and approaches so that they can be understood and accepted by the international medical crowds. For example, Qi-blood theory was successfully explained from the angle of micro-circulation. TCM syndrome dynamic evolution rule study and explanation of scientific essence of criteria for the judgment and diagnosis of TCM syndrome are also the typical cases in this regard. The research from this angle breaks the deadlock that it is unable to communicate between the two different medical systems, i.e. modern medicine and TCM.

2. It is emphasized that the related theory and descriptions of TCM should be interpreted by using modern medical language to promote the publication and generalization of TCM research findings. For example, it is of the difficulty to precisely express such TCM theories or research results as processing theory, herbal property theory, compatibility theory, TCM pharmacology, therapeutic material basis, action mechanism, etc., which are the important scientific problems to solve for TCM modernization and globalization. These types of scientific investigations are hardly published in the available SCI journals while just these kinds of research could reflect the TCM unique features.

3. Close attention will be paid to the progress in new approach, method and therapy for difficult and complicated diseases, which are the most intractable ones to treat and cure by modern medicine with the death rate to be around 85%. TCM may have advantages over modern medicine in treating these types of diseases or complications after the first line treatment or handling with modern medicine, such as organ complication after stabilizing the blood pressure, blood vessel complication after lowering the blood sugar level in diabetes, reperfusion injury after dredging blood vessel, infection after immunosuppression, etc.

We are looking forward to working with all the editorial board members to develop WJTCM into a high level of exchange and communication platform in disseminating modern and updated TCM research achievements. We firmly believe that, with the great support of experts, WJTCM will achieve another successful year in 2016.