

## ETCMA DELEGATION REPORT BEIJING SEPTEMBER 2017

### Delegation Members:

**Gerd Ohmstede** ETCMA President and WFAS Executive Committee Member, Head of Delegation  
**Taina Alakulppi** ETCMA EC Member, Finnish TCM Society on Acupuncture and Herbs (FinnAcu) Vice President  
**Yves Giarmon** French Confederation of TCM (CFMTC) President  
**Guy Polak** Israeli Association of TCM (IATCM) President  
**Philip Rose Neil** British Acupuncture Council (BACc) President  
**Judy James** (adviser) Life Member and Former CEO of Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd (AACMA), Member of WFAS Education Working Committee; Former Member of WFCMS EC  
**Paddy McBride** (adviser) WFAS Vice-President (Oceania-NZ); Former President of Acupuncture NZ (AcNZ); Former Member of WFCMS EC  
**David Miller** (observer) American Society of Acupuncturists (ASA) President

### 31AUG-04SEP

**Travel days**, delegation members arrive in Beijing

### 03SEP

**Preparation day**, 16.00-20.00 preparation for meetings by Gerd Ohmstede, Taina Alakulppi and Judy James. Introduction to cultural differences regarding meeting culture. Background information about the organizations. Strategy planning. Themes and agenda point discussion. Adjustment of meeting times and locations.

### 04SEP

**Preparation day** 11.00-13.00, 15.00-19.30, 20.30-00, whole delegation present. For content please see above.

### 05SEP

**Preparation day**, 09.00-13.00, whole delegation present. For content please see above.

Visit to Cheng's Hospital, one of the most well-known acupuncture lineages in China (Cheng Xinnong). Introduction of hospital facilities and treatment demonstrations.

Dinner hosted by Mr. Zhao from Huaxia. Whole delegation present.

06SEP

**Meeting with WFCMS (World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies) 09.00-12.00**, whole delegation present.

Organizers: **Paddy McBride and Xiao Hengzhou (Joe)**, Chair, New Zealand Federation of Chinese Medical Science, Inc.

The delegation had the honour of meeting with top officials of WFCMS, beginning the meeting with introductions on both sides. The meeting was led by **Prof. Li Zhenji**, Founder and Vice Chairperson of WFCMS and **Mr. Sang Binsheng**, Secretary General of WFCMS. WFCMS is chaired by **She Jing**, former Vice Minister of Health, China.

Prof. Li presented an introductory video about WFCMS, then gave an overview of the structure and size of the organization. They reported 253 member-groups representing 67 different countries. The organization was founded in 2003 and has grown rapidly over its 14 years of existence. They now have 140 specialty committees. The primary mission of the organization is to promote TCM worldwide, particularly focusing on non-acupuncture methods, esp. herbal medicine.

WFCMS hosts three levels of conferences each year to promote outreach and communication within the organization, including the World Congress of TCM which has been held in 14 different countries, rotating each year. World Congress is coordinated by **Wang Jing (Ms. Wang)**. The next congress will be in Thailand in October 2017. There is also a Summer Summit Congress with rotating sites within China, attracting approximately 1000 attendees. The third level of conferences are regional level within provinces of China.

The organization has as its primary focuses:

- 1.) Standardization – WFCMS has published 17 standards so far for the practice of TCM, and this is an active focus of a number of working groups. They are intimately involved with ISO work, with numerous shared proposals, many noted to be proposed by Prof. Li. **Wang Lili (Ms. Wang)** is the primary contact for ISO – Vice Director of ISO.
- 2.) Informatics
- 3.) International growth and the development of liaisons in foreign countries. To this end, WFCMS has an official relationship with the World Health Organization as an officially recognized NGO since 2 years.

WFCMS has 60 staff members working in 14 departments, as well as its own journal. (Journal communications with **Xu Hui (Ms. Xu)**). The organization invited the delegation to share information that it would like disseminated through the organizational network, with coordination of this by **Mr. Li**, Director of the information centre. In the last two years WFCMS have paid particular attention to providing information in English – both on their website as well as in their Journal. WFCMS welcomes feedback on aspects of its website that readers would like to see translated into English.

During the meeting, Prof. Li was clear in stressing how they value their connections with WHO and ISO, and clearly identified these as core components of what they view as representative of effective organizations. The tone and content of the meeting valuably informed the delegation on future directions for interactions with WFCMS. Focused follow-up in specific domains, with extreme clarity in communication and caution not to over-promise collaboration, will be critical in fostering trust and respect among organizations. It is important to note that WFCMS is strongly governed, and the organization values member groups adhering to the policies and ideologies of their leadership.

Mr. Sang Bin Sheng gave the delegation tour of all departments and introduced the delegation members to all department leaders. The impression of the facilities was quite positive, well equipped offices with modern

furniture. The delegation was introduced to the attached clinic with pharmacy and to some of the TCM doctors working there.

**Key contacts:**

**Prof. Li Zhenji:** Founder of and Vice Chair Person of WFCMS

**Mr. Sang Binsheng:** Secretary General WFCMS, key contributor to the new law on TCM in China. (Gave copy as a gift.) Mr. Sang is also noted to be a key contributor to work on clinical practice standards.

**Mr. Pan Ping:** Director of Academic Department and contact to specialty committees.

**Ms. Wang Jing:** Director of the Liaison Department

**Ms. Zou Jianhua:** Vice Director of Academic Department

**Mr. Li Wenjie:** Vice Director of the Information Centre

**Mr. Guan Tao:** Vice Director of Academic Department

**Ms. Wang Lili:** Vice Director of International Standardization Department

**Ms. Zhao Xinyi:** Assistant of the General Office

Lunch with Mr. Zhao from Huaxia and Mr. Zhou from New Zealand (organizer of the meeting with WFCMS), invited by ETCMA. Whole delegation was present.

**Meeting with SATCM (State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, part of the Health Ministry)** 1530-17.00, whole delegation present.

The delegation was welcomed with a greeting on the screens of the lobby; SATCM welcomes ETCMA delegation.

The meeting was held in the SATCM Board room with attendance by **Zhu Haidong**, Deputy Director of International Cooperation Department, **Zhao Hong**, Deputy Division Director in charge of Europe, Oceania and Africa and **Zhang Li (Vera)** Program Officer.

We were very fortunate to be able to meet with such high ranking officials, made possible by strong connections between Judy James and SATCM.

The mood of the meeting was very open, friendly and welcoming and started with the introduction of SATCM organization and their major objectives. The Chinese government pays considerable attention to TCM. There are three different national administrative structures regarding health in China – 1) **The Commission of Health and Family Planning** 2) **State Food and Drug Administration** which is responsible for the registration and supervision of medicines and medical devices and 3) the **State Administration of TCM** which includes hospital administration, professional development, scientific research and education. TCM is also included in each provincial body. There are 3966 TCM hospitals and many more community and health centers in villages and communities throughout China.

There are close to 500,000 TCM doctors and each “Western medicine” hospital has a specific TCM department. There are 25 specific TCM universities. SATCM oversees professional education, accreditation and certification of TCM doctors. National insurance is available for TCM – including for herbal medicine. Herbal medicine makes up approximately 1/3 of prescribed medicines in China, about 100 million US Dollars are spent for herbs. 10% of all medical staff is TCM, 15 % of all medical services are TCM, 25% of all medical costs are TCM costs. SATCM provides more services than the other administrations, but with fewer staff and at a lower cost.

Last year a new law regarding TCM was introduced and it took effect from 1 July this year (English version available from GO, TA). The law promoted and regulates TCM and also recognizes lineage practitioners and “opens a window” to allow these practitioners to continue their work. They will not gain national recognition but can now continue to practice in their own province and local communities. The new law is not only to regulate the profession but also to promote and support TCM at a provincial level. It was interesting to note that those with national accreditation are referred to as “doctors” but those with only provincial recognition are referred to as “practitioners”.

Gerd Ohmstede then introduced ETCMA and its aims and objectives (PPT available from GO). The main aim of the presentation was to introduce ETCMA as the most important partner in Europe in all things relating to TCM. ETCMA enquired about the current state Chinese activities in Europe.

SATCM recommended that we use the expertise of WFAS and WFCMS to help with working toward registration of the profession in our respective countries. They did offer to help if required but made it clear that their assistance could only be at a Ministerial level – i.e. government to government.

They are not able to provide direct financial assistance, but can indirectly endorse projects in cooperation with industry, educational organization and non-governmental organizations. For example the 300 million Euro project in Barcelona is managed by Beijing TCM University but guided by SATCM.

SATCM implied that their delegation members might be available for meetings with government representatives of ETCMA member states in conjunction with SATCM yearly trips (5 days max including travel) to Europe if needed, depending on their schedule. ETCMA asked to be informed of their travel plans to Europe to be able to plan meetings with them as well.

The main conclusion of the meeting was that SATCM is notable as a leading force of TCM projects in Europe, but only may be able to be of assistance at a governmental level through their support of universities and companies connected with specific projects.

#### **Key Contacts:**

**Zhu Haidong:** Deputy Director General of International Cooperation Department

**Zhao Hong:** Deputy Division Director, International Cooperation Department

**Zhang Li:** Program Officer, International Co-operation Department

#### **07SEP**

**Meeting with WFAS (World Federation of Acupuncture-Moxibustion Societies), CACMS (China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences), CAAM (China Association of Acupuncture-Moxibustion, a National organisation) hosted in CACMS offices.** 0930-1230, whole delegation present.

The delegation was first given a tour of the data collection center by Professor Liu Baoyan. The impressive center consisted of data collection, statistical analysis, software engineering development and a large room for servers and other infrastructure.

The delegation was then shown into a conference room for the formal meeting with representatives of WFAS, CACMS and CAAM. **Yang Yuyang** (Vice Secretary-General, Director of the Administrative Office and International Liaison Department) welcomed everyone to the meeting which was then chaired by Professor **Yang Jingsheng** (Vice President of CAAM).

**Professor Liu Baoyan** outlined the structure and function of WFAS which will be celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Beijing in December this year. WFAS started in 1987 with 55 member societies and now has

203 member societies from 54 countries. WFAS has an official NGO relationship with the World Health Organization and attended the WHO World Health Assembly. They are also very involved with ISO/TC249 and in 2015 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ETCMA.

Professor Liu went on to highlight the usage of the patient data and how there is a continuing movement in China spearheaded by WFAS, CACMS and CAAM toward evidence based medicine. There has obviously been significant investment in this project directly from the Chinese Government. The implication is that this project will continue to be funded and developed.

Prof Liu Baoyan also stressed the focus of development of an international register of acupuncturists. They were especially interested in ETCMA membership participation and adoption of a platform that was near to going live pertaining to the aforementioned register. **Dr. Tan Yuansheng** (Director Academic Dept.) was assigned liaison for this potential collaboration. The delegation has not yet assigned an officer to this role.

There was a discussion around the sharing of research, data sharing and population studies. This was definitely a positive intimation of intent to cooperate. Dr. Tan Yuansheng was appointed as a liaison for this as well.

WFAS are beginning to publish a blue book on an appraisal of Research conducted in the English language. The aim will be that this an annual publication. WFAS also stressed that the wish to publish more Western articles, especially research articles in their World Journal. Any articles are very welcomed by Liu Weihong.

WFAS wishes to have more Western societies as members.

WFAS has developed 20 acupuncture guidelines and CAAM has set 20 National standards of Chinese medicine techniques that have been published as 22 CDs. The delegation was gifted these CD's (available from TA, GO).

WFAS stressed that one of their goals was to create a three tier educational system: doctors; practitioners; nurses.

Every year more than 30 million people receive acupuncture treatment in China. CAAM oversees 33 provinces and autonomous regions and has 25 branch organizations. They have 100,000 members as well as 6,000 manufacturers of TCM products. They hold biannual meetings and have recently introduced competitions.

CAAM has established a branch for practitioner status that includes non-invasive procedures (incl. Tui Na, Moxibustion, Gua Sha and Cupping, but not acupuncture). This status can be achieved by practicing with a registered doctor for 5 years, but this would achieve a qualification only in their province of work.

One of their goals is to expand the use of acupuncture of out dedicated acupuncture departments and to integrate it further into other departments within the hospitals. Currently it is used extensively for the treatment of pain, gynecology, skin conditions, pediatrics and more recently, abdominal conditions. They then reiterated the importance of EBM in Acupuncture and Moxibustion and their aim to move from an experience base to an evidence base. Recently there have been papers published in JAMA on urinary incontinence, allergic rhinitis and migraine.

Mention again was made of the new law which recognizes the Master/apprentice method of learning. After 5 years of this style of learning, practitioners will be able to practice at a provincial level but will not have national recognition. Graduate doctors have equal status whether they graduate from a TCM program or a western medicine program. TCM graduates may prescribe and administer herbs, acupuncture or western

medications. Non-doctor practitioners (those at a provincial level) may only use non-invasive techniques such as Gua Sha, moxibustion and massage.

All groups expressed the desire to further co-operate and collaborate on the collection of appropriate information and clinical evidence. It was suggested that a system be established to register case studies globally with the aim of combining international data and monitoring of outcomes of treatment. WHO is also interested as this would involve no travel and would therefore be very cost effective. The platform is essentially already in place for this to happen but so far is only in Chinese. The English aspect is yet to come. Initially case studies on obesity, constipation, pre-diabetes, lower back pain and premature ovarian failure will be included. Information to be gathered will include diagnosis, treatment and outcomes. There will also be facility for patients to upload their own observations. Sponsors have also been identified to establish a global acupuncture-connection platform which will identify practitioners and doctors regardless of where they live and practice.

ETCMA stated the importance of using the ETCMA network to further promote WFAS aims as a result of high local knowledge and the networks infrastructure.

Clarification was needed by the leadership of all the organizations on the background and the nature of scope and training of acupuncturists in Europe.

WFAS is open to collaboration on creation of fact sheets (evidence based condition patient information sheets) as this was discussed in the section of collaboration and reinforced in their closing statement.

#### **Key contacts:**

**Liu Baoyan:** President of WFAS; President of CAAM; Chief Researcher of CACMS

**Yang Jinsheng:** Treasurer of WFAS; Vice President of CAAM; Director, Center of Exchange and Cooperation with Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao, State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of P. R. China (SATCM)

**Yu Xiaochun:** Vice President and Secretary-General of CAAM; Former Executive Director, Institute of Acupuncture-Moxibustion, CACMS

**Liu Weihong:** Vice Secretary-General of CAAM; President of World Journal of Acupuncture-Moxibustion House

**He Liyun:** Director of Clinical Evaluation Center, Institute of Basic Research in Clinical Medicine, CACMS

**Zhao Hong:** Deputy Director, Acupuncture-Moxibustion Hospital affiliated to the Institute of Acupuncture-Moxibustion, CACMS

**Song Li:** Vice Secretary-General of WFAS

**Yang Yuyang:** Vice Secretary-General of WFAS; Director of Office, Secretariat of WFAS

**Tan Yuansheng:** Vice Secretary-General of WFAS; Director of Academic Department, Secretariat of WFAS

**Liu Jia:** Assistant Researcher, Institute of Basic Research in Clinical Medicine, CACMS

Lunch with WFAS, CACMS, CAAM by their invitation. Whole delegation present.

ETCMA provided information folders including photos and biographies of the delegation members to all of the meetings as well as an overview about TCM in each country. A copy of the Acupuncture Evidence Project by Stephen Janz and John McDonald from Australia was also given to meeting partners.

Each delegation member brought presents from their countries to be given to the leaders of organisations.

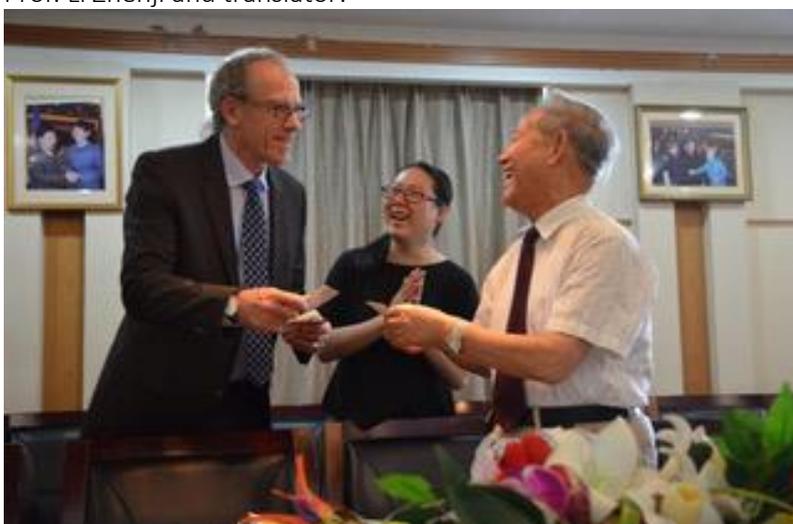
The ETCMA delegation ready for meetings:



Meeting at WFCMS:



Prof. Li Zhenji and translator:



Work on exchange  
WFAS:



President Liu Baoyan shows the delegation around:



Work on exchange and communication  
WFAS-ETCMA group photo:



SATCM:

