

Editorial

Welcome to this first issue of the *Australian Journal of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine*.

In 2000 Victoria became the first state to introduce statutory registration of Chinese medicine. This is not only the first for Australia, but also one of the first outside China. The empowering legislation signifies the rapid development of Chinese medicine in Australia. Today, over 50% of all Australians use alternative and complementary medicine products and services, including acupuncture and Chinese medicine.¹ Four universities and three private institutions in Australia offer degree-level courses in acupuncture and/or Chinese herbal medicine. The current number of primary practitioners is likely to be between 2000 and 3000, increased from 1500 in 1996.²

Unlike in China, where Chinese medicine is integrated into the public health system and provides 40% of the national health care,³ in Australia it is considered a complementary medicine. Over the years, Australian practitioners and academics have developed Chinese medicine alongside Western medicine and found and established our own place for promoting and maintaining the health of the Australian population.

It is timely that we have a journal in which we share our wealth of knowledge, experience and thoughts, a journal that reflects the standards and quality of Chinese medicine health services, education and research, and a journal that leads its further development. The Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd (AACMA) has made this possible. In 2005 the *Australian Journal of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine* (AJACM) was conceived.

Since then, various international and Australian practitioners and researchers have accepted invitations to be on the International Advisory Board and Editorial Board. Each of the Editorial Board members is involved in the production of the Journal. My job as the Editor-in-Chief is to draw together all these efforts and to ensure that high standards are maintained.

The Journal is a high quality, peer-reviewed journal, and aims to promote the integration of research, education and practice, and to help answer questions such as, 'how effective is acupuncture or Chinese medicine?', 'how can we enhance its efficacy?', 'how is acupuncture or Chinese medicine practised?' and 'how can we produce graduates of the highest quality?' The Journal acknowledges and respects the diversity of practice and research in Chinese medicine.

In this first issue, a systematic review of acupuncture for migraine brings us positive news and illustrates the importance of high quality clinical research. A general paper argues that acupuncture clinical research needs to generate knowledge that helps practitioners' clinical decision-making. In order to encourage clinicians to publish their clinical experience, a guideline on how to write a case report has been constructed for this Journal and a model case included. Other papers in the first issue are about reporting adverse reactions to Chinese herbal medicine and its current status, and standards for reporting clinical trials of herbal medicine. Book reviews and brief accounts of current research and clinical application are presented for our busy practitioners. For those who would like to learn more about cited research, we provide URLs for further reading.

This Journal is essentially for Australian practitioners and academics and also aims to attract international contributors and readers. We would like to hear what you have to say about the Journal. You are most welcome to write to or e-mail the Editor to express your views and suggestions.

Since announcing the commencement of the Journal in late 2005, we have received a number of submissions from overseas and Australia. We would like to thank all the contributors for their support. The Journal will be published biannually from 2007. However, we envisage that within a short period it will be published quarterly.

Finally, I would like to thank the Editorial Board and the editorial team for their hard work. Without their enthusiasm, expertise and late night work, the first issue would not have been possible. My appreciation also goes to the Managing Editor and staff and Management Committee for their financial and administrative support.

Zhen Zheng
Editor-in-Chief

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3. Leung PC, Xue CL. The future. In: Leung PC, Xue CL, Cheng YC, editors. *A comprehensive guide to Chinese medicine.* Singapore: World Scientific; 2003. p. 343-50.