



[www.iastam.org](http://www.iastam.org)

# The International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine

May, 2005

## **ICTAM VI: International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine. Austin Texas, April 27 - 30, 2006**

Under the auspices of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine the 6th International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine will be held on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin Texas, April 27 -- 30, 2006. A Call for papers appears on the back page of this newsletter. Several panel proposals and invitations to participate in organized panels appear on pages 11.

Following on the success of the 5th ICTAM V in Halle, members were invited to submit proposals to host the 6th Congress and it was decided that the University of Texas at Austin would be an ideal setting. UT Austin has one of the country's premier Asian Studies Centers that is designated a National Resource Center by the Department of Education. Dr. Martha Ann Selby, under whose direction the Congress is being organized, is one among a number of well known scholars.

The theme of the Congress is **Sense and Substance in Traditional Asian Medicine**, which reflects the intersection of perception and knowledge production and application on the one hand, and embodied substances and the elemental nature of medicinal substance on the other. It is hoped that presentations will focus on the senses (such as vision and hearing) and their functions in medicine and in different medical contexts (such as prognosis and diagnosis),

sensory perception, how "sense is made" out of various sets of symptoms in practice, and how contemporary adaptations "make sense" of older medical paradigms. IASTAM also invites proposals on physical substances (such as blood, milk, or tears) and their roles in different theories and models of anatomy.

ICTAM VI is to be held in the Texas Union on the beautiful campus of the University of Texas at Austin, the flagship campus for the University of Texas system. The University of Texas at Austin is the largest university in the United States in terms of enrollment, and is located in central Austin, just several blocks north of the Texas State capitol complex and downtown. The University's library system houses more than eight million volumes, and its many collections include the Todd-McLean Physical Culture Collection, the largest and most comprehensive of its kind in the world, containing more than 150,000 printed items, photographs, art pieces, and artifacts relating to health, fitness, and alternative medicine. The College of Liberal Arts is home to the Department of Asian Studies, the South Asia Institute, and the Center for East Asian Studies. Several faculty members are actively conducting research on the history of science and medicine in China, gerontology in Japan, and the construction of gender in Sanskrit medical literature. Austin, Texas is also home to the acclaimed Academy of Oriental Medicine, which offers a rigorous training program in acupuncture.

**For More Information Please visit the IASTAM website: [www.iastam.org](http://www.iastam.org)**

**Call For Papers on Back Page**

## CONTENTS

1. ICTAM VI.
3. Nominations for IASTAM Council.
3. Membership.
4. A. L. Basham Award Nominations.
4. Networking: Member Biographies.
5. NCCAM .
6. Conference Reports.
  6. IASTAM India.
  8. Transcultural Interface.
10. New Journal Announcement.
11. Panels for ICTAM VI.
13. Conference Announcements.
  13. Hybrids and Partnerships.
  13. Health & Medicine in History (ASHM).
14. Exhibition: Asia: Body, Mind, Sprit.
15. Wellcome's Chinese Medical Illustrations Online.
18. Treasurer's Report.
19. Islamic Medical Manuscripts.
19. Ayurvedic Degree Courses in the UK.
20. ICTAM VI Call for Papers.

**The International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine (IASTAM)** was founded in 1977, when Kenneth Zysk, at the ANU, convinced his professor, the late A. L. Basham, that a conference on Asian medicine would be a good idea. The story of the planning of the first International Conference on Traditional Asian Medicine (ICTAM) held in Canberra in 1979 was told by Prof. Basham in the sixth issue of the IASTAM Newsletter. At the 1979 conference, Prof. Charles Leslie accepted the post of Secretary to IASTAM.

For the following decade, under the sure and energetic guidance of Basham and Leslie, historian and medical anthropologist respectively, IASTAM flourished. It was, and perhaps remains, the only international organization in the field of Asian medicine making a serious attempt to embrace both academics and practitioners. IASTAM has always sought to give each of these communities a platform for the expression of their views, respecting the integrity of each group while nevertheless privileging the free exchange of knowledge over involvement in any particular commercial interest or therapeutic regime.

President  
Secretary General  
Treasurer  
Council Members

### IASTAM COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dr. Waltraud Ernst, University of Southampton, UK  
Dr. Vivienne Lo, University College London, UK  
Dr. Joseph S. Alter, University of Pittsburgh, USA  
Dr. Madhulika Banerjee, India  
Dr. Elisabeth De Michelis, University of Cambridge, UK  
Dr. Narendra Bhatt,  
Dr. Martha Ann Selby, University of Texas, Austin, USA  
Dr. Wajho Dyatmiko, Airlangga University, Surabaya, Indonesia  
Prof. Dr. Aysegul Demirhan Erdemir, Istanbul, Turkey  
Dr. Zhu Ming, Beijing, China  
Dr. Rey Tiquia, University of Melbourne, Australia  
Dr. Dominik Wujastyk, University College London, UK  
Honorary Members Dr. Charles Leslie, Indian University, USA

Emma Ford  
IASTAM  
210 Euston Road  
London  
NW1 2BE  
United Kingdom  
tel: 020 7679 8165  
fax: 020 7679 8192  
email: e.ford@ucl.ac.uk



## Nominations for New Council Members:

Nominations are invited for the following officers of IASTAM

President  
Vice-president (The V-P sit on the council)  
Treasurer  
Secretary General

Full details on the duties and responsibilities of the officers is available at  
[www.iastam.org/constitution.htm](http://www.iastam.org/constitution.htm)

Nominations should be sent to Ms Emma Ford — Address given below.

---

## Join Us

The regular IASTAM membership fee is fixed at €17 per annum for all members, worldwide. This is a full membership rate, and entitles a regular member to all of the privileges and rights of membership in IASTAM. Members of IASTAM are entitled to receive the this newsletter free of charge, and to receive preferential rates when attending IASTAM conferences.

Three-year memberships are available and are discounted. Students, pensioners, and those with annual salaries less than €20,000 per annum may join IASTAM as Associate Members with reduced dues per annum.

### Europe and USA

1 yr associate IASTAM membership	€9.00
3 yr associate IASTAM membership	€21.00
1 yr regular IASTAM membership	€17.00
3 yr regular IASTAM membership	€41.00

**Payment online is preferred at [www.iastm.org](http://www.iastm.org)** but cheques or money orders are also accepted. If registering by post, payment can be made in Euros or the equivalent amount in British pounds.

Please make cheques payable to "IASTAM" and send dues to:

### For Sterling or Euro Payments

Emma Ford  
IASTAM  
210 Euston Road  
London  
NW1 2BE  
United Kingdom  
tel: 020 7679 8165  
fax: 020 7679 8192  
email: [e.ford@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:e.ford@ucl.ac.uk)

### For Payments in US Dollars

Joseph S. Alter  
IASTAM Treasurer  
Department of Anthropology  
3302 W. W. Posvar Hall  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
USA  
email: [jsalter@pitt.edu](mailto:jsalter@pitt.edu)

## A.L. Basham Award

The International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine in 1989 decided to establish an Arthur L. Basham Medal in honor of the great Indologist and co-founder of IASTAM. Up to 1994, on the occasion of the International Congresses, two medals were conjointly awarded every five years to outstanding scholars in the study of traditional Asian medicine, one to an Asian and one to a Westerner. Since 2002 one medal is awarded every five years with the award alternating between a scholar from Asia and a scholar from the West.

It is the goal of IASTAM to encourage scholarly work in any of the subdisciplines of the field, on the social and intellectual history of Asian medicine, the social and cultural anthropology of medicine in Asia, personality and culture of practices and practitioners, and other related topics.

### Awards Given

1990 — Professor Yamada Keiji and Professor G. Jan Meulenbeld

1994 — Professors Patricia and Roger Jeffery and Professor Shigehisa Kuriyama

2002 — Dr. Dominik Wujastyk

## A. L. BASHAM AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please submit nominations for the 2006 A. L. Basham award to:

Emma Ford  
IASTAM  
210 Euston Road  
London  
NW1 2BE  
United Kingdom  
tel: 020 7679 8165  
fax: 020 7679 8192  
email: e.ford@ucl.ac.uk

---

### NETWORKING

IASTAM is setting up an online archive of members' biographies and publications. This will be made available to members as a networking and information resource. We would therefore like to ask members to send short biographies (300 - 500 words) and their publication lists on the enclosed form to Emma Ford. The form is also available at [www.iastam.org](http://www.iastam.org)

## National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine — An Overview

Recent years have seen a tremendous increase in the level of interest in Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM). The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine represents the response of the Federal Government of the United States to this increase in interest. Since a number of the forms of medicine that fall within CAM are Asian in origin, members of IASTAM may be interested to know about the activities of NCCAM. To this end, selected materials from NCCAM publications are reprinted here. More information is available at: <http://nccam.nih.gov>

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) is one of the twenty-seven institutes and centers that make up the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The NIH is one of eight agencies under the Public Health Service (PHS) in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). NCCAM is dedicated to exploring complementary and alternative healing practices in the context of rigorous science, training complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) researchers, and disseminating authoritative information to the public and professionals. Our four primary areas of focus are

\* **Research:** We support clinical and basic science research projects in CAM by awarding grants across the country and around the world; we also design, study, and analyze clinical and laboratory-based studies on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

\* **Research training and career development:** We award grants that provide training and career development opportunities for predoctoral, postdoctoral, and career researchers.

\* **Outreach:** We sponsor conferences, educational programs, and exhibits; operate an information clearinghouse to answer inquiries and requests for information; provide a Web site and printed publications; and hold town meetings at selected locations in the United States.

\* **Integration:** To integrate scientifically proven CAM practices into conventional medicine, we announce published research results; study ways to integrate evidence-based CAM practices into conventional medical practice; and support programs to develop models for incorporating CAM into the curriculum of medical, dental, and nursing schools.

## Acupuncture Relieves Pain and Improves Function in Knee Osteoarthritis—Report from NCCAM

Acupuncture provides pain relief and improves function for people with osteoarthritis of the knee and serves as an effective complement to standard care. This landmark study was funded by the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) and the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS), both components of the National Institutes of Health. The findings of the study—the longest and largest randomized, controlled phase III clinical trial of acupuncture ever conducted—were published in the December 21, 2004, issue of the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.<sup>1</sup>

The multi-site study team, including rheumatologists and licensed acupuncturists, enrolled 570 patients, aged 50 or older with osteoarthritis of the knee. Participants had significant pain in their knee the month before joining the study, but had never experienced acupuncture, had not had knee surgery in the previous 6 months, and had not used steroid or similar injections. Participants were randomly assigned to receive one of three treatments: acupuncture, sham acupuncture, or participation in a control group that followed the Arthritis Foundation's self-help course for managing their condition. Patients continued to receive standard medical care from their primary physicians, including anti-inflammatory medications, such as COX-2 selective inhibitors, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and opioid pain relievers. "For the first time, a clinical trial with sufficient rigor, size, and duration has shown that acupuncture reduces the pain and functional impairment of osteoarthritis of the knee," said Stephen E. Straus, M.D., NCCAM Director. "These results also indicate that acupuncture can serve as an effective addition to a standard regimen of care and improve quality of life for knee osteoarthritis sufferers. NCCAM has been building a portfolio of basic and clinical research that is now revealing the power and promise of applying stringent research methods to ancient practices like acupuncture." "More than 20 million Americans have osteoarthritis. This disease is one of the most frequent causes of physical disability among adults," said Stephen I. Katz, M.D., Ph.D., NIAMS Director. "Thus, seeking an effective means of decreasing osteoarthritis pain and increasing function is of critical importance."

During the course of the study, led by Brian M. Berman, M.D., Director of the Center for Integrative Medicine and Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland, 190 patients received true acupuncture and 191 patients received sham acupuncture for 24 treatment sessions over 26 weeks. Sham acupuncture is a procedure designed to prevent patients from being able to detect if needles are actually inserted at treatment points. In both the sham and true acupuncture procedures, a screen prevented patients from seeing the knee treatment area and learning which treatment they received. In the education control group, 189 participants attended six, 2-hour group sessions over 12 weeks based on the Arthritis Foundation's Arthritis Self-Help Course, a proven, effective model.

On joining the study, patients' pain and knee function were assessed using standard arthritis research survey instruments and measurement tools, such as the Western Ontario McMasters Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC). Patients' progress was assessed at 4, 8, 14, and 26 weeks. By week 8, participants receiving acupuncture were showing a significant increase in function and by week 14 a significant decrease in pain, compared with the sham and control groups. These results, shown by declining scores on the WOMAC index, held through week 26. Overall, those who received acupuncture had a 40 percent decrease in pain and a nearly 40 percent improvement in function compared to baseline assessments.

"This trial, which builds upon our previous NCCAM-funded research, establishes that acupuncture is an effective complement to conventional arthritis treatment and can be success fully employed as part of a multidisciplinary approach to treating the symptoms of osteoarthritis," said Dr. Berman.

<sup>1</sup>Berman BM, Lao L, Langenberg P, Lee WL, Gilpin AMK, Hochberg MC. Effectiveness of Acupuncture as Adjunctive Therapy in Osteoarthritis of the Knee: A Randomized, Controlled Trial. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2004; 141(12):901-910.

<sup>2</sup>Barnes P, Powell-Griner E, McFann K, Nahin R. CDC Advance Data Report #343. Complementary and Alternative Medicine Use Among Adults: United States, 2002. May 27, 2004.

---

## Conference Reports

### **IASTAM – India: Silver Jubilee, Oration and Award Function**

The Indian chapter is probably the only regional chapter that took off well and continued its activities

after the founding of IASTAM. It was established on 31<sup>st</sup> January 1980 and celebrated its Silver Jubilee at Pune, India on 30-31<sup>st</sup> January 2005. More than 275 delegates representing diverse interests in public health, research, education and practice participated. With three vice chancellors, a large number of research leaders and thinkers from across the country in attendance the deliberations were unique and thought provoking.

An 'Intellectual Conclave' under the heading "Transforming Traditions for Tomorrow's Health" was held on the campus of Bharati Vidyapeeth, a deemed University. The silver jubilee and the biennial functions of IASTAM Oration and Award ceremony were held at Hotel Le Meridian.

#### **Inaugural Function of the Conclave**

Dr. Prashant Suru, General Secretary welcomed the guests.

Dr. Narendra Bhatt, Vice-president and Past-President, IASTAM-India reviewed the activities of the past twenty-five years and highlighted the changing trends in the global perception of health care and the need for a strategic and systematic approach.

Shri Tara Dutt, Joint Secretary, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health, and Government of India delivered the inaugural address. He emphasized the need to preserve our traditional knowledge with progressive modern technology and drew attention to the timely efforts of the Government in digitizing data and applying information technology to Ayurveda.

#### **Background of the Conclave**

Over the past twenty-five years IASTAM-India has tried to provide an interactive platform for interdisciplinary discussion and debate on indigenous systems of medicine. Ayurvedic education, practice and research developments have undergone a major change during the past few decades. In light of this it was deemed necessary to review the impact of these changes and deliberate further to strengthen institutional capabilities.

The objective of the conclave was to identify current strengths and weaknesses, examine potential, debate on the possible means for future development, and initiate a new and different thought process to provide the basis for a future action plan.

Based on the significance of issues and current relevance the following five foci were identified

1. **Education Reforms**
2. **Competitive Benchmarks for the Profession.**
3. **Longevity & Age Related Disorders**
4. **Applied Research**
5. **Information Technology**

A core group worked over several sessions to develop the theme and several background papers were prepared and circulated for the conclave.

### Plenary Session Results

**Educational Reforms:** Prof. B.L. Gaur, Director, National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, Chair.

*Presentations by:* Prof. R. H. Singh, Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan Ayurved University, Jodhpur.

Vaidya Vilas Nanal, Ayurvedic Consultant and Member Faculty.

Prof. B. L. Gaur, Director, National Institute of Ayurved, Jaipur.

*Discussion/Conclusions/Proposals:* Incorporation of the basic sciences in the curriculum; early exposure to bedside learning; inclusion of modern know-how in pre-clinical, para-clinical and -- to a limited extent -- clinical sciences. Encouragement of cross-system education at higher levels with a caution to discourage cross-system practices.

#### Competitive Benchmarks for Profession:

*Presentations:* Dr. S. P. Sardeshmukh, former Dean, Faculty of Ayurved, University of Bombay and Head of Institute in Pune

Prof. R. K. Mutatkar, Past-President, IASTAM-India

Dr. H. S. Kasture, former Director of Ayurved, Govt. of Gujarat and internationally renowned Panchakarma Specialist.

*Discussion/Conclusions/Proposals:* Problem with the reduction of bio resources, quality of medicines and expectations of the community in light of socio-cultural and economic changes; lack of a representative role for traditional systems of medicine in national health care programs; lack of infrastructure facilities for traditional systems to reach the common man.

#### Longevity and Ageing Disorders:

*Presentations:* Dr. S. P. Kinjawadekar, Chair  
Dr. S. D. Gokhale, President, The Longevity Center.  
Dr. J. Olashansky, Professor & Research Associate, Center of Aging, University of Chicago

*Discussion/Conclusions/Proposals:* Need to develop methods to counteract the body's natural degenerative process in order to ensure good quality of life; quality of life as the topmost priority in geriatric medicine; spirituality and Ayurvedic principles as an effective way to overcome the challenges of ageing.

#### Applied Research Approach

*Presentations:* Dr. Ashok Vaidya, clinical pharmacologist of repute and Director, SPARC.

Dr. Narendra Bhatt, Past-President IASTAM-India, Ayurvedic expert and researcher.

Prof. Dr. Ravindra Bapat, former Vice Chancellor, Maharashtra University of Health Sciences and well-known Gastroenterologist.

*Discussion/Conclusion/Proposal:* A scientific approach for the validation of the concepts and practices of traditional medicine; integrative models for research; applications of modern biomedical advances to the principles and clinical wisdom of Ayurveda; standardization for indigenous products; platform for future biomedical research based on the universal and holistic principles of Ayurveda; need to build bridges between medical systems and sciences based on mutual respect.

#### Information Technology as Growth Technology:

*Presentations:* Dr. Medha Dhurandhar, Technology Leader and Program coordinator with Center for Advance Computing, Govt. of India

*Discussion/Conclusions/Proposals:* Effectiveness of IT in disseminating powerful information to end users at low cost; harnessing rich traditional knowledge with state of the art technology; use of IT for e-learning, virtual libraries, telemedicine, data mining, data warehousing and deployment of information in research.

#### Parallel Session

In the parallel sessions participants had lengthy discussion and exchange of thoughts on various issues related to each of the five focus topics.

#### Valedictory Function:

At the valedictory function there was a review and



summary of the two-day conclave. The participants acknowledged and applauded the role played by IASTAM in spearheading this unique event. It was decided to publish the proceedings in the near future. It was recommended that IASTAM undertake a national survey of the focus topic issues and use the outcome of the conclave to persuade authorities in promoting and developing traditional systems of medicine. A suggestion was made to publish a journal.

### Silver Jubilee—Oration and Award Function

IASTAM-India has instituted two "Oration" and five "Awards" to promote and recognize Scholastic and Scientific Contributions in the field of indigenous medicine.

1. Pandit Shiv Sharma Oration in the memory of founder president of IASTAM-India, to **Vd. Shriram Sharma**, President, Central Council of Indian Medicine for promotion and propagation of Ayurveda.
2. Zandu Bhattji Memorial Oration to **Dr. Nitya Anand**, former Director, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow for promotion of activities in the field of Ayurveda.
3. Prof. K. N. Udupa Award in the memory of former president, IASTAM-India and Director, IMS, BHU to **Dr. Ashok Vaidya**, Director, SPARC for Excellence of Research and contribution to indigenous system of medicine
5. Dr. C. Dwarakanath Award to **Prof. R. H. Singh**, Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan Ayurveda University for integration of indigenous knowledge with modern sciences.
5. Dr. K. M. Parikh Award in memory of founder member, treasurer and supporter of IASTAM to **Prof. C. K. Kokate**, former Vice Chancellor, Kakatiya University for contributions to indigenous medicine through pharmaceutical sciences.
6. Shri Jugatram Vaidya Award to **Prof. C. P. Shukla**, former Dean, Gujarat Ayurved University for excellence in teaching of Ayurveda.
7. Shri Mathuradas B. Parikh Award to **Vaidya Haridas S. Kasture**, former Director of Ayurveda, Gujarat State for excellence in the profession.

**Dr. Narendra Bhatt, Member, International Council & Vice President (IASTAM – India) .**  
Contact: [drnsbhatt@vsnl.com](mailto:drnsbhatt@vsnl.com) Limited copies of the following publications are also available

1. *Proceedings of the First Conclave*
2. *Commemorative Issue of IASTAM – India*
3. *Back ground Papers for Conclave on 'Transforming Traditional Medicine for Tomorrow's Health'*
4. *IASTAM: Oration and Award Booklet about 7 Awards and Awardees*

Contact: [iastamindia@vsnl.net](mailto:iastamindia@vsnl.net)

---

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### ICTAM VI

SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON  
TRADITIONAL ASIAN MEDICINE

## Sense and Substance in Traditional Asian Medicine

APRIL 27TH - 30TH, 2006 AUSTIN, TEXAS,  
USA

See Back Page For Details

---

## Transcultural Interface and Local Applications of Asian and Western Medical Systems

This interdisciplinary conference investigated transfer, integration and transformation processes among and between so-called "traditional" Asian and "scientific" Western medical systems and concepts in both Asia and Europe. Social scientists, medical anthropologists and medical professionals discussed the respective approaches, aims, problems and potentials of their own research and in mutual exchanges. The goal was to pool together researchers from Berlin and sound out possibilities for future interdisciplinary research cooperation together with scholars from other countries. Because of the diversity of papers offered, it was suggested to focus on issues of 'amplification' and 'filtering' when looking at the specific interfaces of transfer, integration and transformation between Asian and Western



medical concepts and practices. 'Amplification' and 'filtering' were understood by way of questions about how, why and under which circumstances selective processes for giving preference to a particular concept/practice of one or both (or several) medical systems are transacted.

The conference was organized and introduced by Prof. Dr. Ingeborg Baldauf and Dr. Mona Schrempf from the Central Asian Seminar, Institute for Asian and African Studies, Humboldt University of Berlin. It was generously funded by the Fritz-Thyssen-Stiftung. All together 22 papers were presented by scholars from Germany, the United Kingdom, Poland, the Netherlands, India and China. The first session, a "Kaleidoscope of Approaches", was chaired by Prof. Dr. Ingeborg Baldauf and commenced with Prof. Dr. Gunnar Stollberg's paper on acupuncture and Ayurveda in Germany, based on an evaluation of patients' behaviour and choices. This was followed by Prof. Dr. med. Klaus Jork's report on a workshop where Western research methodologies were introduced to Tibetan doctors and medical students of the Tibetan hospital (Men-Tsee-Khang) in Dharamsala (H.P., India). Dr. Maarten Bode gave an interesting insight into 'Indian Medicines, Science and the Market' from a medical anthropological perspective, whereas Prof. Vishvajit Pandya presented his latest analysis of "Andamanese Constructs of Transactable Body Images" by critically assessing the local impact of biomedicine in the context of the aftermath of the December 2005 Tsunami which struck the Andaman Islands.

The second session, chaired by Dr. Ildikó Bellér-Hann, focused on "Clients' Perspectives and Public Health", starting with Prof. Andreas Heinz' and Simone Penka's paper which approached explanatory models of addiction and psychiatric disorders among migrants in Germany from the point of view of transcultural psychiatry. Dr. Annette Krämer presented clients' perspectives on health and illness in post-soviet Central Asia using a regional studies approach. The third session on "Public Health and Evaluation" was chaired by Dr. Waltraud

Ernst. Dr. med. Claudia Becker-Witt presented a clinical study which she undertook together with her colleague Dr. med. Benno Brinkhaus on "How to Evaluate an Integrated Health Model" by assessing clinical trials on acupuncture in Germany. Dr. Mingkyi Tshomo discussed a clinical trial of a specific Tibetan medicine at the Tibetan hospital in Lhasa. Dr. rer. nat. Dr. med. Bernhard Uehleke presented historical and legal aspects of the use of herbal medicine in Germany based upon a pharmacological approach and how these might be applied to test the efficacy of Asian herbal medicines.

On the second day of papers, Dr. med. Rainer Stange chaired the first session on "Integrative Approaches versus Epistemological Differences." It was opened by Madhumita Mazumdar's presentation on "The Defence of Homeopathy in Colonial Bengal", in which she argued for a fresh approach to examine the multiple cultural translations of homeopathy in India by using local sources. Prof. Dr. Geoffrey Samuel suggested in his paper on 'Tibetan Medicine and Biomedicine Combined' that generally speaking, the major learned medical traditions of Asia are in many respects relatively compatible with Western biomedical understandings, and that we therefore should look for common grounds and a wider context of understanding to benefit human existence. In contrast to this synthesizing approach, Olaf Czaja focused on epistemological differences and problems by comparing a variety of primary and secondary as well as translated Tibetan medical literature and their Western representations.

Session five concerned "Professional Training in Asian Medicine" and was chaired by PD Dr. med. Dr. phil. Thomas Heise. Matthias Bauer, Sinologist and practitioner of TCM, presented insights into "Learning TCM in Germany" from a historical and contemporary perspective, while Gudrun Hess, who is also trained in Sinology and TCM, gave a paper comparing Chinese and German midwifery practices and the use of TCM. Dr. Helga Werle presented the autobiography of Zhong Wei Jie, a TCM doctor and Qi Gong master, by focusing on his upbringing under Western education and genera-

tional changes in medical training in China during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Prof. Dr. Ute Luig chaired the session on "Health Professionals of and between Different Medical Systems" which was introduced with Prof. Dr. Vincent Houben's paper on "Healers and Doctors in Indonesia (Java)" stressing the flexibility of medical pluralism which allows for both western-based formal health care and traditional forms of curing illness. Dr. Mona Schrempf gave a paper on recent fieldwork with nomadic lineage doctors in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China by looking at their local practices of Tibetan medicine and their socio-economic role in the biomedically dominated public health system. Emilia Sulek presented her findings on what is being offered as "Tibetan Medicine" by Mongolian doctors in clinics and at markets in contemporary Poland, by focusing on their healing practices as part of more general public health issues, market forces and choices among Polish patients.

The last session concerned case studies of integrative practices and was chaired by PD Dr. Mareille Flitsch. Katharina Sabernig gave a report on her fieldwork in Kumbum Tibetan Hospital in Qinghai Province, China, by investigating the complementary practice of biomedicine, traditional Tibetan methods of moxibustion, and other external treatments. Last but not least, Jürgen Voigt presented a study undertaken together with Dr.med. Achim Kürten, of qualitative research into the adaptation of TCM at the Centre for Traditional Chinese and Integrative Chinese Medicine in St. Hedwigs Hospital in Berlin.

### **Mona Schrempf**

Abstracts of the conference papers can be downloaded at <http://tinyurl.com/7mveg> under the rubric 'Konferenzen' (shortly named 'Asian and Westerncine').

## ***NEW IASTAM JOURNAL***

### **Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity**

**Asian Medicine - Tradition and Modernity** is a multidisciplinary journal aimed at researchers and practitioners of Asian medicine in Asia as well as in Western countries. It makes available in one single publication academic essays that explore the historical, anthropological, sociological and philological dimensions of Asian medicine as well as practice reports from clinicians based in Asia and in Western countries.

With the recent upsurge of interest in non-Western alternative approaches to health care, *Asian Medicine - Tradition and Modernity* will be of relevance to those studying the modifications and adaptations of traditional medical systems on their journey to non-Asian settings. It will also be relevant to those who wish to learn more about the traditional background and practice of Asian medicine within its countries of origin. On account of its appeal to scholars from a range of academic backgrounds (such as history, anthropology, philology, sociology, archaeology) as well as to practitioners based in Asia and in Western medical institutions and alternative health care settings, the journal constitutes a unique resource for both scholarly and clinically focused institutions.

Annual subscription rates for 2006:

	Institutions	Individuals	Individuals:
Minority World* Europe and USA	€127.00	€95.00	€47.00
	\$159.00	\$119.00	\$59.00
Majority world	€15.00	€15.00	€15.00
	\$18.50	\$18.50	\$18.50

\*The Minority World are those countries with a comfortable per capita income, including Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, Saudi Arabia, UAE etc. IASTAM is a charity and the Majority world subscriptions are designed for those on a lower income.

Subscribers for Asian Medicine issues 1 and 2, 2005 please send a cheque to Emma Ford or purchase directly from Brill

<http://tinyurl.com/8z75z>

IASTAM members' subscriptions:  
Members of IASTAM benefit from reduced subscription rates. They have access to the IASTAM-Newsletter (published bi-annually), internet discussion list and to the networking resources of the Association. They also benefit from reduced registration rates for IASTA conferences.

---

**Invitation to Participate in Organized Panels  
ICTAM VI, Austin Texas, April 27 - 30, 2006**

Scholars are invited to participate in two organized panel sessions as part of the International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine that will be held in Austin Texas, April 27 - 30, 2006. More specific information on the conference is available at the following link:

[http://www.iastam.org/conferences\\_VI.htm](http://www.iastam.org/conferences_VI.htm)

A general call for papers appears on the back page.

Panel Title: *Unani: Medicine Without Borders*

Panel Organizer: Joseph S. Alter, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh

Many systems of medicine in Asia have come to be defined by discourses of nationalism. Most have come to be associated with the cultural history of a particular country. In this context Unani — to use a South Asian label — is a striking exception given that its roots are firmly planted in ancient Greece whereas various

forms of practice are found in Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Malaysia and Indonesia, to name but a few examples. With respect to dislocated practice Unani has much in common with biomedicine given that each is associated with a particular history of conquest and conversion, albeit with reference to different articulations of ideology — science and religion.

Qualified scholars are invited to participate in a panel that will explore the history of Unani's development across space and time ranging from the earliest translation of Greek medical texts in West Asia to contemporary practice in South and Southeast Asia. The goal will be to explore the critical tension between various ideologies — religious, scientific, nationalistic — manifest in the historical development of medical knowledge. Some of the questions to be considered are: To what extent is Unani medicine bounded by Islam? How does nationalism structure a history of knowledge that is inherently transnational? How does the contemporary practice of Unani medicine in any given location reflect the sweeping breadth of its historical development? Does a history that focuses on the exchange of medical knowledge — as different from a history that is incipiently nationalistic or fundamentalist — challenge us to rethink how we define systems of medicine?

If you are interested in participating in the panel described please contact Joseph S. Alter at

[jsalter@pitt.edu](mailto:jsalter@pitt.edu)

Panel Title: *Making Sense out of Substance:  
The Elements in Traditional Asian Medicine*

Panel Organizer: Martha Ann Selby, Dept. of Asian Studies, The University of Texas at Austin

Qualified scholars and practitioners are invited to participate in a panel or a set of panels devoted to the elements and how they operate in the different medical systems of Asia. Ideally, these sets of papers taken as a whole would offer fruitful cross-cultural comparative perspectives.

**Hybrids and Partnerships:  
Comparing the Histories of Indigenous Medicine in Southern Africa and South Asia**

Registration Form  
PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL NO: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick the following as appropriate

- £50 Registration, Lunch and all refreshments only
- £25 Conference Dinner – Thursday evening, 15 September 2005
- £75 Registration, etc & Dinner
  
- I enclose my cheque (payable to 'University of Oxford')
- I wish to pay by Credit Card/Debit Card

Type of card: eg Visa/Mastercard/Barclaycard: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Card expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's full name, address and postcode, as it appears on your statements:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For Switch or Solo cards, Issue number and/or start date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

The card "security code" (the last three numbers on the signature strip of the card): \_\_\_\_\_

**NB** For UK Credit Cards and foreign Credit/Debit Cards 1.2% of the total amount will be added.  
For UK Debit Cards 16p per item will be added.  
For Business Credit Cards 2% of the total amount will be added.

**Please note that ALL sections must be completed otherwise payment will not be accepted and admission to the conference will be denied.**

-----

For Office Use: Total amount of transaction: £

tives and opportunities for discussion. The five mahabhutas (earth, fire, air, ether, water) of South Asian Ayurveda, for instance, play significant roles as concepts in varieties of medical contexts, such as in anatomical theory, basic medical philosophy, and in the ways in which diseases and disorders are classified. The elements are also extremely important as substances in theories of treatment, diet, and disease prevention.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Martha Selby at [ms@uts.cc.utexas.edu](mailto:ms@uts.cc.utexas.edu)

---

## Conference Announcement

### **Hybrids and Partnerships: Comparing the Histories of Indigenous Medicine in Southern Africa and South Asia**

15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September 2005

A Conference to be held jointly by Wellcome Units for the History of Medicine and Universities of Oxford and Manchester at the Osler McGovern Centre, 13 Norham Gardens, Oxford.

This event will be the third in a series of groundbreaking conferences held at Oxford, and aimed at re-considering the histories of indigenous medicine. Historical links between Africa and Asia have long been recognised, including the spread of humoral medicine from the Mediterranean to South Asia and eastern and southern Africa from antiquity; the long-term evolution of Swahili medicine as an Asian/African hybrid; the spread of Portuguese Catholic ideas about the body and healing from the coasts to the hinterlands of southern Africa and South Asia; and the diaspora of African *ngoma* healing in the Old and New Worlds. The conference's focus will be on types of indigenous medicine and on geographical areas previously underrepresented in the literature on medicine and healing.

Main themes will include — Boundaries between traditional and modern medical/scientific

knowledge — Healers' histories and styles of narrative — African and Asian patients' narratives — Making and unmaking medical territories — Global markets and market forces — Formal and informal economies — Issues of Gender and Childbirth — Healing and 'locality' — Medical Pluralisms — Ritual and Religion — Urban/ Rural practice — Music and Medicine — Indian and African Diasporas — Colonialism and Independence — The Evolving Nature of Indigenous Medicine — Patents, and Prescriptions, Rands and Rupees—Early influences on indigenous forms of medicine in Africa and Asia

Further information can be found at <http://www.wuhmo.ox.ac.uk/events/index.htm> or

Email: [belinda.michaelides@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:belinda.michaelides@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk)

---

### **Asian Society for the History of Medicine (ASHM) - 2006:**

#### **Health and Medicine in History: East-West Exchange**

2—4 November, 2006,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The conference proposes to understand the significance of issues related to health and medicine in Asia with emphasis on the exchange of medical ideas, techniques and tools between Asia and Europe. Different civilizations and cultures in Asia have very advanced medical traditions, so has been the case in Europe. How did they interact? What were the contours of this interaction, its limitations and impact? How can one account for the waxing and waning of oriental romance and appreciation, of derision and contempt unleashed during the long drawn cultural encounter and exchange? What are the methodological perils of narrativizing such shifts and turns? The focus can be on exchange not only in terms of Asia and Europe but also within Asia and different cultural zones constituting a particular region. The period covers the distant past to contemporary times. Scholars are invited to present their papers under the rubric outlined above. The following are suggested as

guidelines:

Medical Traditions and Practices in Different Cultural Zones—Comparative Study of Medical Ideas and Institutions—Medical Education and Research—Perceptions of Epidemics and Disease—Health and Population Discourse—Sanitation and Healthcare—Medical Technology /Tools and Techniques—Pharmacology and Drug Development—Mental Health and Sickness—Medical Ethics.

**Deadline for submitting abstracts: November 30, 2005 — Decision on acceptance of abstracts: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2006 —Full papers be submitted before 15<sup>th</sup> September 2006.**

Hard copies and electronic versions of the abstracts and later full papers will be required (e-mail: [ashm2006@rediffmail.com](mailto:ashm2006@rediffmail.com)).

There will be no registration fee and full local hospitality will be provided. But we regret our inability to arrange for air fares.

**Contact Address:**

Deepak Kumar, Z.H. Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-110067.

**Tel. :** 91-11-26704535 / 4416

**Fax :** 91-11-26717586 / 26197603

**e-mail :** [ashm2006@rediffmail.com](mailto:ashm2006@rediffmail.com)

---

**Asia: Body Mind Spirit  
An Exhibition at the  
Brunei Gallery  
London, Oct.—Dec. 2004**

**Activate! Meditate**

From kendo to kathakali, tai chi to tea ceremony, calligraphy to collage, the Asia: Body Mind Spirit exhibition at the Brunei Gallery London inspired a wealth of exciting and interactive events for schools, community groups, university students, specialists and the general

public. Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Asia House embarked on its largest educational project to date and transformed the Brunei Gallery SOAS into a hive of activity with weekly gallery tours, arts workshops and demonstrations.

Inspired by the exhibition, students of Capital City Academy in Brent worked with professional paper and textile artist Cas Holmes to create four colourful and textured banners during a 3-day workshop. The finished artwork was displayed in the foyer of the Brunei Gallery and welcomed visitors to the exhibition. AS-level art students gained inspiration from the rich Asian manuscripts and thangkas in the exhibition to then create their own work. They experimented with Japanese papermaking techniques and then built up layers of texture with leaves, stamps, thread and material. Paint, glitter, pastels and stencils were used to add colour and vibrancy and stitching was introduced to create further definition. Sue Bowers, the Heritage Lottery Fund's Regional Manager in London commented; *'This has been a wonderful project that has really involved the students in the rich and varied heritage that makes up the exhibition, as well as giving them the chance to work and exhibit with a professional artist.'*

Asia House also organized a 3-day course on Tibetan thangka with Tibetan artist Gongkar Gyatso. Students explored the processes involved in thangka including preparing an authentic painting surface, the specialist techniques of drawing and painting key elements, the significance of traditional iconography, the use of colour and the traditional mineral and vegetable pigments used. One of the processes demonstrated was the preparation of the authentic painting surface which is composed of a stretched layer of cotton cloth covered with at least three layers of chalk mixed with animal skin glue, each one carefully dried, sanded and smoothed before the application of the next layer. The students were given the opportunity to work on their own thangka and receive advice and feedback from Gongkar.

The exhibition ran from October-December