

MoU with China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences

The scientific study of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) in Australia received a major boost with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences (CACMS)** on Monday 22 September 2008.

The five year agreement between NICM and CACMS focuses on the enhancement of scientific understanding of Chinese medicine through the facilitation of collaborative research projects and academic exchanges. This event also marked the official launch of the NICM Collaborative Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine.

A delegation from China was in attendance including Professor Hongxin Cao, President of CACMS, Professor Xudong Tang, President of Xiyuan Hospital and other senior officials.

Other distinguished guests from around the country included: Acting Consul-General of PR China, Madame Yi Yanduan; Barry Buffier Director, General NSW Department of State and Regional Development; Kerry Doyle, Executive Director of NSW Office for Science and Medical Research; Professor Janice Reid, Vice-Chancellor University of Western Sydney and representatives from all the NICM Collaborative Centre for TCM participating institutions.

Additional agreements were also signed between the Centre for Complementary Medicine Research (CompleMED), University of Western Sydney with Xiyuan Hospital, Shineway Pharmaceuticals and SOHO Group (Indonesia). Previous relevant agreements have also arranged between Sydney University and Sun Yat Sen University and RMIT and the Institute of Materia Medica at CACMS. Together these agreements aim to support relevant research activities being implemented by the NICM Collaborative Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine.

An important and immediate initiative of the MOU is support for the development of national research priorities in Chinese medicine along with a linked five year plan for collaborative TCM research between Australia and China. This process will commence at the NICM Collaborative Centre networking meeting that will be held on 9 October in Sydney.

CACMS has also committed to facilitating a meeting of relevant TCM scientists to join an Australian contingent of scientists in Beijing in early November. The meeting is intended to refine the priorities and plan for initiatives to support research on these priorities, including academic exchanges and multi-centre trials.

