

Editorial

It is with pleasure that I write the guest editorial while the Editor-in-Chief, Dr Zheng, is on a well-earned academic sabbatical (including leave of editorship for this issue).

It is just under one year ago that statutory registration for Chinese medicine was introduced across Australia. An essential aim of national registration is to improve the standard of knowledge and practice as a way to further safeguard the public from unethical and unsafe practices. To this end, journals such as this one and conferences such as the upcoming WFAS Sydney 2013, the 8th World Conference on Acupuncture, intend to upskill and improve professional knowledge. It is only by keeping up to date and informed that the registered Chinese medicine practitioner maintains scholarship and contributes to the development of the profession. Both papers in this issue emerge from such a space.

The first paper looks at the published evidence available on the use of acupuncture and acupressure for nausea and vomiting. In this systematic review, the authors conclude that acupuncture has the ability for 'reducing the frequency of vomiting and reducing the use of rescue medication, while acupressure has shown a decrease in the frequency of nausea'. They also suggest that future trials should be adequately powered and focus on refractory symptoms. This is indeed supporting evidence as more cancer patients seek out acupuncture and acupressure as an adjunct to their cancer treatment.

The second paper, while not clinically focused, questions several directions taken over the last 40 years, as Chinese medicine engages and develops in both China and the West, including Australia. The author argues that both bioscientific and socio-historical research (the two main forms of research undertaken in the last few decades), while having some benefits for the development of Chinese medicine, have not lived up to their expectations and that maintaining these approaches 'present a significant challenge for the preservation of Chinese medicine as a distinct medical discipline'. She does, however, propose some strategies forward and suggests that practitioners and researchers should 'cultivate a more traditional Chinese medical gaze' in order to meet the challenges of the future.

Of course, included in this issue are our usual research snapshots, book reviews and some conference reports that should keep you reading to the late hour. Just remember to supplement your liver blood or needle GB37 *Guangming* ('bright light'). Next issue, our Editor-in-Chief returns and we will update you on further developments of the Australian Chinese medicine and acupuncture scene. Don't forget, we need your contributions – a book review, seminar report, research snapshot, case study or even a full manuscript would all be appreciated.

Chris Zaslowski
Acting Editor-in-Chief