

# Editorial

In this sixth year of production I am very pleased to announce to our readers, authors and reviewers that this journal is now included in Scopus, the world's largest citation database of peer-reviewed articles and high quality web-based publications. This is a great leap forward for us. The Australian Government uses Scopus to track and rank research outputs of Australian researchers in five main subject areas, consisting of Arts & Humanities, Engineering & IT, Life Sciences & BioMedicine, Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences. In the recent years, we have also put the journal on Facebook and Twitter, and our papers are included in two full-text databases, Informit and EBSCOHost. These strategies enhance the visibility of this journal and its publications to the world, and have produced increased submissions from overseas authors. Our ultimate goal is to have this journal included in PubMed. With continuous efforts from the Editorial Board and the Management Committee, I hope this day will not be too far away.

Included in this issue are two important articles. The first one is authored by an experienced acupuncturist and a renowned public health expert. Janz and Adams reviewed and compared education standards and approved training courses set or accredited by the Chinese medicine profession, the medical profession, Medicare, private health insurers, allied or other complementary health professions and the World Health Organization. They found a significant disparity among the standards and accreditation, highlighting the varied training quality of acupuncturists in Australia. Such variations should not and cannot be tolerated by any health profession. With the coming national registration, the paper cannot be timelier. It provides essential background data about standards and accreditation for the future national Chinese Medicine Board of Australia as well as other fully-functioning Boards who have the power to endorse their registered practitioners in relation to the practice of acupuncture. Chinese medicine practitioners in this country will watch the development of national registration and accreditation closely.

The second important paper is written by two psychologists who studied the therapeutic alliance between Chinese medicine practitioners and their patients. In recent years, a

number of controlled trials reported no differences between real and sham acupuncture. Some researchers claim that acupuncture is a form of placebo; whereas others think deeply about what else matters in the action of acupuncture. One element is the positive patient-practitioner relationship, also called the therapeutic alliance. In this issue, we publish one of the first empirical examinations of this alliance in acupuncture practice. The study reported on patients and acupuncturists' views of the therapeutic relationship and compared views of student practitioners with those of experienced practitioners. You will find this a fascinating article, and we hope the results will help you re-examine your own practice.

'Acupuncture research protocol' is the first trial protocol we have published in this journal. It describes a randomised controlled trial on the use of acupuncture for chemotherapy-induced arthralgia in women with early breast cancer. We encourage other researchers to do the same by sharing their protocols with our readers.

You will continue to 'listen to' the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the interview with Professor Wang Juyi, the famous acupuncturist who brings our attention back to channel theory.

At the 2010 Australasian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Annual Conference (AACMAC) in Adelaide, we heard the experience of Dr Gunter Neeb, an experienced German practitioner of Chinese medicine. He described his three-stage journey as 见山就是山, 见山不是山, and 见山又是山. Its English translation is 'one sees a mountain, and it is just a mountain; one sees a mountain, and it is no longer a mountain; and one sees a mountain, and it is a mountain again'. In this issue, he shares with us his reflections after 30 years in Chinese medicine. Taking away the controversial content about using large quantities of poisonous Chinese medicinal herbs, I am sure a number of practitioners will resonate with Dr Neeb's meandering journey, the enlightenment-like feeling of 见山又是山.

**Zhen Zheng**  
Editor-in-Chief