

Editorial

I am very pleased to see this issue arriving as the news breaks that the Chinese medicine profession will be included in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions from 1 July 2012. Until now, Victoria has been the only state in Australia which has had registration for the Chinese medicine profession. In the next three years, much work needs to be done to prepare for national registration.

The opening ceremony of the Australasian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Annual Conference (AACMAC) in Melbourne on 23 May 2009 was specifically dedicated to celebrate this breaking news. In her keynote presentation following the Conference Opening Ceremony Dr Louise Morauta, Project Director of the National Registration and Accreditation Implementation Project, outlined the process leading up to that time and how registration would be implemented. She also pointed out three main issues that would be mandatory for all nationally registered professions: professional indemnity, continuing professional development and identity checking. Professor Vivian Lin, President of the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria, shared with us the Victorian experience, the challenges that national registration would face and the balance between the registration board, the association and the universities. You will find more in her guest editorial in this issue.

Not everyone recognises the contribution of Chinese medicine to human health or understands its philosophy. In 2006, an article entitled 'Farewell to Chinese Medicine' evoked a nationwide debate about its future in China. In this issue, there are three short papers about this 'farewell' debate. Although the debate happened in China, it is relevant to us in Australia. Chinese medicine is under much questioning from various groups of society; some are political, some are academic and some are economic. I hope these three papers will stimulate thought in this area. We look forward to hearing your views.

Acupuncture assisted in-vitro fertilisation is a research topic that attracts much attention from medical specialists, acupuncturists and the public. In this issue, our Australian researcher, Associate Professor Caroline Smith, and her colleagues look further into the mechanism underlying this use of acupuncture.

Continuing from our previous issue, we have a paper about Shen. The authors, Qu and Garvey, review the classic literature and discuss the relationship between disturbed *shen* and modern diseases such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

In response to your wishes, we publish our first interview of a prominent 80-year-old Chinese medicine doctor in Nanjing, China, Professor Zhongying Zhou. In this interview, we ask him how to understand modern diseases with Chinese medicine theories, how to improve our clinical practice, and if we need to understand western medical science and modern research methods. Professor Zhou gives detailed accounts of how he used *Wei-Qi-Yin-Xue* theory to understand epidemic haemorrhagic fever and develop treatment approaches. He shares with us his personal experience of studying Chinese medicine. We hope you will find this article helpful for your personal development.

As usual, there are reviews of recently published Chinese medicine books and a current research report. Some of you might recall a systematic review published in the British Medical Journal early this year. It found that real acupuncture was as good as sham acupuncture in relieving acute and chronic pain. This review has received wide publicity on the radio, in newspapers and on the web. In Current Research and Clinical Applications you will find an analysis of the deficiencies of the review and the flaws in some of the recommendations.

Again, we bring you a plateful of ideas and discussion. We hope you will enjoy the reading. Please do not forget, we want to know your thoughts on the debate and the views presented.

Zhen Zheng
Editor-in-Chief