

Traditional Chinese Medicine Accreditation Board Council Meeting

Monday February 19 2007 10am, St Johns Dermatology Department, St Thomas', London

		Action
1.0	Attendance and Apologies	
1.1	<p>Attendance:</p> <p>Chair: David Atherton (DA)</p> <p>Module leaders: Jidong Wu (JW) Rosemary Suswillo (RS) Dan Jiang (DJ) Kaicun Zhao (KZ)</p> <p>Minutes: Alex Owen (AO)</p>	
1.2	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>Apologies were received from Fenyi Meng (FM), Gnanie Punch (GP)</p>	
2.0	Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising:	
2.1	None	
3.0	General Matters	
3.1	<p>Introduction to Role of TCMAB</p> <p>JW introduced background to TCMAB and their role today. In 2004 a public consultation into the accreditation of acupuncture in the UK. The protected titles suggested were: Acupuncturist, Herbalist & Chinese Medicine Practitioner.</p> <p>British Acupuncture Accreditation Board (BAAB) is in place to accredit acupuncture courses. The European Herbal Practitioners Association (EHPA) is in place to accredit herbal medicine courses. The Traditional Chinese Medicine Accreditation Board has been established to accredit Traditional Chinese Medicine courses or courses which teach Chinese Acupuncture or Chinese Herbal Medicine.</p> <p>JW, DJ & KZ introduced the current climate of TCM in the UK.</p> <p>JW explained the future role of the ATCM and TCMAB when Statutory State Regulation is introduced into the UK.</p>	
3.2	<p>DA complemented the TCMAB handbook and core curriculum but noted that some English could be improved.</p> <p>ACTION: Read through handbook and curriculum and improve English.</p>	AO
3.3	KZ explained the role of the ATCM Education Board and the Accreditation Committee and how their roles relate to the TCMAB.	
4.0	Applications	
4.1	The Acupuncture Foundation	
4.1.1	KZ submitted the Site Report from the Accreditation Committee's (AC) visit to the Acupuncture Federation (AF), the Assessment Report was not available.	

	<p>AF is a private college in Ireland that runs a 3 year diploma course in Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine. It holds teaching on weekends over a 3 year period. The institute was established over 15 years ago, recruiting an average of 30 students each year. Students also are able to visit Nanjing for 2 months during the course.</p> <p>They have applied for accreditation because they believe it will increase the value of the qualification, giving all students completing the course membership to an organisation that is recognised in the UK.</p>	
4.1.2	<p>KZ described the visit to AF facilities which over-all made a good impression. The AC advised key recommendations of partitioning the main consulting room, provision of clinical waste containers in the treatment area, provision of hand cleaning equipment in the treatment area and increase the subject specific texts in the library.</p> <p>The AC recommended accreditation to be approved by the board.</p>	
4.1.3	<p>DA asked about the diploma qualification. In the UK, it is a little arbitrary as to the quality of this qualification.</p> <p>KZ explained that the standard of the teaching and hours required satisfied the AC's standards and justified their recommendation. JW also explained that AF are in the process of applying for the course to become degree level.</p>	
4.1.4	Accreditation of the Acupuncture Foundation is approved.	
4.1.5	Action: Write to AF to inform them accreditation has been approved.	AO
4.2	North East Wales Institute of Higher Education (NEWI)	
4.2.1	AO presented an account of the site visit to NEWI. The institute run a 3 year BSc course in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), teaching acupuncture and Chinese herbal patent medicine.	
4.2.2	<p>AO outlined the key recommendations made by the AC. Greater clarity in explaining the exact content of specific modules in the relevant module documents, provision of a clinic policy, raising the clinical attendance for students to 90% and provision of a separate area where patient's cases can be discussed without other patients over hearing.</p> <p>The AC recommended accreditation to be approved by the board.</p>	
4.2.3	<p>DA & RS raised concern with the name of the qualification as they did not feel that only learning acupuncture & patent medicine could truly be described as TCM.</p> <p>JW explained that there are 3 levels of membership with the ATCM; A – Full membership including the practice of acupuncture, herbal medicine, B – only acupuncture, C – Acupuncture with patent medicine only. The graduates from the course would only be entitled to the level C grade of membership.</p> <p>RS suggested a recommendation should be submitted that for future development of the course, herbal medicine should be taught in its entirety. This would raise the standard of the course and also increase clarity of their qualification to the general public when the students graduate. DA seconded this proposal.</p>	
4.2.4	Accreditation of the North East Wales Institute of Higher Education was approved with the recommendation of improving the teaching content. This would enable their graduates in the future to gain full membership with the ATCM.	
	Action: Write to NEWI to inform them accreditation has been approved and of the recommendations of the board.	AO
4.3	Cambridge Shenzhou TCM University	
4.3.1	KZ explained that the college is still in the initial stage of accreditation and there is nothing	

	to present to the board at present.	
4.3.2	Action: Contact the college to see if they still intend to continue with their application.	AO
4.4	Shulan College of TCM	
4.4.1	KZ explained that the college is still in the initial stage of accreditation and there is nothing to present to the board at present.	
4.4.2	Action: contact the college to see if they still intend to continue with their application.	AO
4.5	Institute of Complementary & Integrated Medicine (ICIM)	
4.5.1	AO explained he had received module handbook from ICIM which he would be forwarding to the education committee of the ATCM to be evaluated. KZ instructed AO to write to ICIM and request the initial payment of the accreditation fee so that the evaluation process can begin.	
4.5.2	Action: Forward documents to education committee	AO
4.5.3	Action: Request initial payment from ICIM	AO
5.0	Other Matters	
5.1	JW requested the contact details in the TCMAB Handbook and Core Curriculum. The board agreed that the most suitable correspondence address would be the same one as the ATCM uses.	
5.2	Action: Change contact details in the TCMAB Handbook and Core Curriculum	AO
5.3	JW informed the board that the ATCM are no longer members of the European Herbal Practitioners Association (EHPA) and that certain sections of the TCMAB Handbook and Core Curriculum were borrowed from EHPA documentation. When the membership ended the EHPA requested that these sections were changed. JW explained that this work would be carried out by the ATCM Education Committee.	
5.4	JW thanked DA & RS for their help and participation in the TCMAB.	
6.0	Time & Date of Next Meeting	
6.1	No time or date was set and the board agrees to meet when the need arises later in the year.	