



# The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture UK

## Press Release

Date: 07<sup>th</sup> November 2019

The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture (UK) (ATCM) noticed the Guardian's article "Doctors call for tighter regulation of traditional Chinese medicine" in response to World Health Organisation's recognition of this medicine system.

The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture (UK) supports the regulation of Traditional Chinese Medicine. In fact, the ATCM has been pushing for its statutory regulation in the United Kingdom. Currently there is a governmental framework in Europe and the UK to regulate the use of Chinese herbal medicine, but regulation of its practitioners is voluntary, and the ATCM is one of those voluntarily self-regulatory professional organisations in the UK.

Traditional Chinese Medicine has been used for the health of the human race for thousands of years, and it is continuing to do so to date. The long history of Traditional Chinese Medicine itself is the best proof that it is effective and safe in the hands of qualified practitioners.

We call for the doctors in Europe and the United Kingdom, in particular the Federation of European Academies of Medicine and the European Academies' Science Advisory Council to operate with qualified Chinese medicine practitioners to carry out research into the use of Chinese medicine, and enrich the already abundant evidence that exist to date.

### **Editor's note:**

The Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture UK (ATCM) is a professional organisation founded in 1994 by Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Practitioners in the UK.

Dedicated to excellence in the practice of TCM, it promotes proper professional qualifications and the highest standards in the profession. In November 2003, the ATCM merged with British Society of Chinese Medicine (founded in 2001) and Zhong Shan Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture Association (founded in 1987) to form a new ATCM with wider representation while maintaining the same high standards. Now the Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture UK (ATCM) is the largest self-regulatory body in the UK for the practitioners of Traditional Chinese Medicine, (TCM). TCM includes acupuncture, herbal medicine and therapeutic massage called Tuina. At present there are over 740 professionally qualified TCM practitioners registered with ATCM, who must adhere to strict codes of ethics and practice. All full members of ATCM are fully qualified in the practice of authentic traditional Acupuncture, as well as Chinese Herbal Medicine and Tuina.

ATCM is also actively engaged in academic studies, researches and the clinical applications of Traditional Chinese Medicine. ATCM has been working closely with the Department of Health and Health Professions' Council to establish statutory regulation in the UK for TCM practitioners. ATCM stands in a unique position within the UK's healthcare system and plays a crucial role in communication between Traditional Chinese Medicine and Western Medicine. By demanding high professional standards of all members, ATCM aims to establish a strong presence in the medical and patient communities and to attract more and more TCM practitioners.