

Welcome to the Premiere issue of *Current Research: Integrative Medicine*

Welcome to the premiere issue of *Current Research: Integrative Medicine* (CRIM), a quarterly peer-review journal for physicians, researchers and diverse health care practitioners interested in broader approaches to clinical or basic research. Our goal is to provide an international platform to facilitate dialogue among international communities working in medical diagnosis, treatment, prevention, recovery and other areas with intersecting interests in integrative medical research.

The Editorial Board welcomes the submission of commentaries, original articles, methods articles, systematic review articles, clinical practice articles, case studies and imaging studies. There are no word or page limits to submissions.

All manuscripts submitted to CRIM will undergo a thorough, rapid peer-review process; authors will be notified of a decision within three

weeks of submission. Moreover, CRIM will endeavour to be responsive to any queries during the review and publication process. Authors will also be pleased to learn that this *Journal* is open access and published under a Creative Commons License BY-NC 4.0, allowing for liberal sharing of material in any medium and adaptation (with appropriate attribution), remixing or transforming and building on the material.

I take this opportunity to once again welcome you to the *Journal*, and to thank the Editorial Board and reviewers, and Pulsus Group for their dedicated work toward the launch of CRIM. We look forward to receiving your submissions and welcome your feedback.

Darwin Cai MD PhD
Editor-in-Chief

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Joining East and West

There was a time, in the not too distant past, when modern Western medicine was considered to be the ultimate form of treatment for all that ails us. This treatment was based on solid evidence, supported by research developed and replicated in the laboratories of universities, research institutes and pharmaceutical firms around the world. Any other forms of therapy were considered by many to be outmoded, without significant benefit and lacking in contemporary scientific rigour. Knowledge based on hundreds of years of practical wisdom was treated with less credibility, and was often discarded if it originated outside of the Western hemisphere.

Globalization, travel, the Internet and immigration have stimulated the exchange of ideas across the globe; the health sciences have broadened and are now significantly more inclusive. Non-Western ways of diagnosis and treatment, including traditional Chinese medicine, are rapidly becoming *de rigueur* of not only the general public but increasingly of medical professionals. Of course, not all so-called alternative medicine treatments survive the scrutiny of modern-day scientific examination; however, those that do offer us ever-expanding value in the quest for the treatment or cure of many diseases.



In the 1990s, the movement to combine these two forms of medicine, traditional and trusted alternative, became known as integrative medicine. Integrative medicine aims to meld new and old treatments, and puts the emphasis on a holistic approach, with the focus on the mind, body and spirit.

The goal of *Current Research: Integrative Medicine* is to promote this approach through the publication of bona-fide, peer-reviewed medical research. The Editor-in-Chief and several members of the Editorial Board are from China, a country that has more than 2000 years of experience with alternative and traditional treatments, including acupuncture, meditation, herbal remedies, massage and various forms of exercise such as tai chi.

This *Journal* encourages the submission of studies related to both modern medicine, and proven and emerging alternative medicine.

Ideally, it will serve as a vehicle for health care that is inclusive of effective treatment combinations – treating not just the disease but the entire individual.

Robert B Kalina
Publisher