

THE QUEST FOR PERSONALISED HEALTH

EXPLORING THE EMERGENT
INTERFACE OF EAST ASIAN
MEDICINES AND MODERN
SYSTEM SCIENCES

10 – 11 JUNE 2011

EAST MEDICINE RESEARCH CENTRE

Jointly organised with Jan van der Greef (TNO), Bridie Andrews (Bentley University) and the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicines (IASTAM)

COSTS:

£25 per day

Students £15 per day

MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION ONLINE AT
westminster.ac.uk/personalised-health

LIMITED PLACES ONLY

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FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2011
KEY NOTE LECTURES

The Music of Life: A Window
Between West and East?

**Denis Noble, Professor emeritus,
Oxford University**

Efficacy and Evidence

**Nathan Sivin, Professor emeritus,
University of Pennsylvania**

A Biology Built Out of Verbs?

Systems Biology and Health

**Dr Jane Calvert, University
of Edinburgh**

On the Notion of Qi 氣 In Ancient
Chinese Philosophy

**Dr Hans-Georg Moeller,
University of Cork**

SATURDAY 11 JUNE 2011
PANELISTS

- Professor Bridie Andrews, Department of History, Bentley University
- Dr Jane Calvert, RCUK Academic Fellow, University of Edinburgh
- Susanne Chochrane, School of Biomedical & Health Sciences, University of Sydney
- Professor TJ Hinrichs, Department of Asian Studies, Cornell University
- Dr Hugh MacPherson, Department of Health Sciences, University of York
- Dr Hans-Georg Moeller, Department of Philosophy, University College Cork
- Professor Denis Noble CBE FRS FRCP, Oxford University (emeritus)
- Professor Andrew Pickering, Sociology, University of Exeter & Kyung Hee University, Seoul
- Dr Volker Scheid, EAST MEDICINE Research Centre, University of Westminster
- Dr Jan Schroer, Sino-Dutch Centre for Personalised Medicine, University of Leiden
- Professor Nathan Sivin, History & Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania (emeritus)
- Dr Lena Springer, Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna
- Professor Jan van der Greef, Director Sino-Dutch Centre for Personalised Medicine, University of Leiden
- Dr Roel van Wijk, Sino-Dutch Centre for Personalised Medicine, University of Leiden
- Professor Claudia Witt MD MBA, Director Complementary Medicine Research Centre, Humboldt-University, Berlin
- Professor Yi-Li Wu, Department of History, Albion College
- Dr Xu Qihe, Department of Renal Medicine, King's College London

Personalised medicine – the delivery of health care solutions targeted to the exact biological state of an individual at a given moment in time – is seen by many researchers as one of the great challenges for 21st century medicine. The development of such personalised health care solutions is closely tied, in turn, to the emergence of new disciplines such as systems biology: the attempt to describe and model the integrated action of regulatory networks at many levels of biological organisation from the subcellular through cell, tissue and organ right up to the whole organism.

Viewed from a wider historical perspective the goal of a personalised approach to medical care is not entirely new and certainly not modern. Physicians in China and East Asia, for instance, have pursued similar visions for two millennia. Their quest was informed by very different concepts, however, such as qi, the stuff in which and through which everything happens; the resonances (ying) between the human microcosm and the natural world; coherence (li), as the organising principle of the world and of moral human agency within it; the intending understanding (yi) that was, by definition, beyond words but that ensured the effectiveness of medical practice; and the

changes and transformations (bian hua) that constituted the natural state of the world and the target of all medical practice.

Not surprisingly perhaps, 21st century systems science and traditional East Asian medicines have begun to discover and even embrace each other. Our conference is an attempt to examine this emergent interface from an interdisciplinary perspective. To this end we will bring together researchers and scholars from the biosciences, East Asian studies, medical history, anthropology and science studies in a collegiate atmosphere geared towards enabling mutual learning, reflection and debate. We will focus this exchange on three broadly conceived topics:

ONTOLOGY/COSMOLOGY

What are the problems to which systems biology promises to deliver answers? What conceptions of life and the world underpin the framing of research questions and why have they become important? How do these relate to and differ from those explored by physicians working within the Asian medical traditions?

MEDICAL PRACTICE

How do the tensions between medicine as techne and practice play out in the

visions of personalised medicine that inform practitioners in both biomedicine and physicians working within the East Asian medical traditions?

EPISTEMES AND EPISTEMIC VIRTUES

What institutions, infrastructures, networks, moral visions and labour underpin the quest for personalised medicine at different places and times?

EAST MEDICINE has considerable experience in organising this kind of exploratory event. In 2007 and 2009, we organised two workshops bringing together clinical researchers, practitioners, anthropologists and historians to discuss the integration of East Asian medicines into contemporary health care. In 2010, we brought together historians and educators to explore how the medical humanities might be made relevant to the teaching of Chinese medicine in UK universities. The present workshop is the fourth event in this series.

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