

Research Directions



Office of Research Services

Treating Bowel Disorders with Traditional Medicine

Professor Alan Bensoussan from the Centre for Complementary Medicine Research (CompleMed) is a co-investigator in a National Institute of Health (NIH) International Collaborative Research Centre Project. This is only the third award by the prestigious USA NIH for complementary and alternative medicine and is testament to CompleMed's reputation in Chinese Medicine and Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). Research will be undertaken to examine the effectiveness of Chinese Medicine on functional bowel disorders.



Alongside CompleMed, the project brings together investigators from the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK); the Centre for Integrative Medicine at the University of Maryland Baltimore; the University of Illinois, Chicago, and the Mayo Medical Center.

Professor Bensoussan explained that: 'Three projects will be conducted to investigate Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS). The first will evaluate the effect of electroacupuncture on IBS. The second project will test the biological potency, safety, toxicity and adverse effects of a Traditional Chinese Medicine herbal preparation used for treating IBS. The third project will take the form of a clinical trial evaluating the safety and dose response of the herbal formulation in patients with IBS'.

This project is unique in its integration of scientific methods and with traditional indigenous knowledge. The study hopes to lead to the identification of the best practice methods of treatment for patients suffering with Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

Project title: *Functional Bowel Disorders in Chinese Medicine*

Funding for the consortium has been set at: \$US3.9 million over 4 years

Contact Details:
a.bensoussan@uws.edu.au

Web Site:
<http://apps.uws.edu.au/research/complemed/>

May 2006