



The International
Association for the
Study of Traditional
Asian Medicine

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What is IASTAM and what does it do?

IASTAM is the principal international organization of scholars and practitioners devoted to understanding the history and contemporary practice of Asian medicines in all its many forms. IASTAM commenced activities in 1979, and since that time we have held a series of eight major International Conferences on Traditional Asian Medicine (ICTAM) in Europe, Asia, North American and Australia, the most recent being in South Korea in 2013. From 2005 onwards, IASTAM has also produced, in collaboration with the Dutch academic publisher Brill, eight volumes of the journal, *Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity* (<http://www.brill.com/cn/asian-medicine>), a major academic publication that has included a wide range of significant articles by scholars and practitioners of Asian medical traditions. IASTAM has also organised and supported a wide range of other workshops and events relating to Asian medicine in countries around the world.

The ‘traditional Asian medicine’ that is IASTAM’s remit forms a major part of humanity’s heritage of techniques and approaches for achieving health and wellbeing. It includes the major scholarly medical traditions of East Asia (China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam), South Asia (including Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Yoga medical traditions), and Tibet and the Himalayas, along with the Greco-Arabic tradition as practised in West and Central Asia and North Africa, and various traditions of folk and vernacular medicine. IASTAM is concerned with these forms of traditional medicine both as practised in the past and in their contemporary forms. Our organisation includes both scholars and practitioners, as well as many people whose work has encompassed both roles, in Europe, Asia, North America and around the world.

While there are a number of national and international organisations relating to one or another of these Asian medical traditions, IASTAM is unique in encompassing all of them, and in including both scholars and practitioners on an equal basis. That gives it an important role at a time when forms of non-Western and traditional medicine are increasingly being recognised as a vital part of today’s multi-stranded and pluralistic global health scene. IASTAM has the ability to speak on behalf of these traditions, not as a representative of narrow and parochial special interest groups, but in terms of an informed and scholarly understanding of how Asian medical traditions have developed, and what part they can play in today’s world.

For further details, including information about how to join IASTAM and how to subscribe to our journal, *Asian Medicine: Tradition and Modernity*, please see the relevant pages on our website (<http://iastam.org/>)

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