



Prof. Dr. Angelika Messner
President, IASTAM
Leibnizstrasse 10, 24118 Kiel,
Germany
messner@sino.uni-kiel.de

IASTAM is the world's foremost international organization of scholars and practitioners devoted to understanding the history and contemporary practice of Asian medicines in their various forms and contexts.

IASTAM commenced activities in 1979, and since that time has staged a series of nine major International Conferences on Traditional Asian Medicine (ICTAM) in Australia, Europe, Asia and North America. The most recent was hosted in Germany in 2017 (<https://www.ictam2017.uni-kiel.de/en>). IASTAM has also organized and supported a wide range of other workshops and events related to Asian medicine in various countries around the world.

From 2005 onwards, IASTAM, in collaboration with the well-known, internationally operating publishing house Brill (Leiden) has published twelve volumes of *Asian Medicine: Journal of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine* (<http://www.brill.com/asian-medicine>). *Asian Medicine* attracts scholars from a range of academic backgrounds, including history, philology, anthropology, sociology, life sciences and archaeology, amongst others. The Journal also welcomes contributions by practitioners of Asian medicines from all over the world, whether based in medical institutions, in alternative health care settings or coming from vernacular Asian healing traditions. The journal is of relevance to all those studying the translations and adaptations of Asian medical knowledge systems and traditions in the age of globalization, as well to those who wish to learn more about the history and contemporary practice of Asian medicines within their countries of origin. It constitutes a unique resource for both scholarly and clinically focused institutions, as well as interested non-specialist readers.

IASTAM aims at achieving a fuller understanding of Asian medicines in historical and contemporary contexts by integrating diverse forms of knowledge and ways of practice. It offers a platform for scholarly exchanges between medical anthropologists, practitioners of Asian medical traditions, specialists in life sciences, ethnobotanists, ethnopharmacologists, ethnopharmacognosists, herbalists, historians, economists, political scientists, conservationists, translators and more. IASTAM includes the major scholarly medical traditions and various vernacular healing traditions of East Asia (China, Korea, Japan, Vietnam), South Asia (Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Yoga, Homeopathy and others), Central Asia (Tibet, Mongolia, etc.) and the Himalayas, along with Greco-Arabic traditions as practiced in West and Central Asia and North Africa.

IASTAM is unique in encompassing diverse national and international organizations related to Asian medical traditions. IASTAM has the ability to speak on behalf of these different traditions and to provide a vibrant space for inter- and transdisciplinary research exchange, and for discussing points of intersection and of tension between our various approaches and perspectives.

Angelika Messner, Ph.D.
President, IASTAM