

The International Association
for the Study of Traditional Asian Medicine



IASTAM Newsletter, Winter 2021

Letter from the President & the General Secretary

Dear members of IASTAM,

Greetings to all of you!

As we write this letter, the Covid-19 pandemic continues to surge around the world. We want to inform you about IASTAM's situation during the four years since our last IACTAM IX conference, its members' activities, awards, and competitions, the webinar series related to the Covid-19 pandemic, latest publications, and our upcoming conference in Taipei. We also would like to thank you for your valuable and active engagement with IASTAM, your thoughts, energy, comments, and questions as well as your contributions to our new constitution, all of which makes IASTAM a living, vibrant organization.

Our engagement with each other and the wider world is part of what makes IASTAM special. This pandemic – despite its difficulties and losses – has brought us closer together, but it has also deepened the rift between traditional Asian medicines and biomedicine in many parts of the world—an issue which we will have to address going forward.

A series of IASTAM-webinars—a novelty—and also the latest issue of our journal Asian Medicine on the most pressing health related questions of our time engaged us in active conversations with each other. We believe that we at IASTAM must intensify our efforts to collaborate and discuss how we may best address global public health challenges, including this pandemic, in a complementary way.

We believe that our future aim should not only be to understand and translate but explain the various Asian medical epistemologies of healing, diagnostic approaches, therapeutic methods, and their global flows and transnational practices to a broader, sceptical biomedical global health community. Explaining the ways in which the novel corona virus is understood and is being treated from Asian medical perspectives will allow for a better understanding and might decrease the rifts that have emerged, driven by an exclusive biomedical domain of global public health that tends to juxtapose seemingly irreconcilable logics of science and care.

We second Michael-Stanley Baker and Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim's warning about the danger of juxtaposing Asian medicine with biomedicine in their introduction to the latest special issue of IASTAM's journal entitled Asian Medicine and Covid-19. They state that Asian medicine(s) are in a global "crisis of representation":

“Asian medicines have been deliberately misrepresented in high-level publications such as Foreign Policy and Nature, using nineteenth-century tropes of quackery, deception, and fraud. At

the same time, the spread of conspiracy theory culture and internet misinformation has translated alternative, holistic affections for Asian medicine into antiscience sentiments that align with vaccine aversion and antisecientism. Both of these positions, widespread through Anglophone and Europhone media, misconstrue Asian medicines and actively impair our ability, as a global community, to learn from, apply, and integrate the strategies they have to offer.”

Thus in order to remedy this situation and explore different “paths of enquiry”, and “styles of dialogue” rather than ‘prove’ the validity of Asian medicine per se, the special issue Asian Medicine and Covid-19 tries “to advocate for deeper listening— especially, to contribute toward an awareness of the cultural, epistemological, and institutional barriers in present-day health care.”

To address and discuss these salient issues, IASTAM begun to hold a webinar series in spring 2020 that has been recorded and placed on our website (<http://iastam.org/iastam-webinars>), leading up to this special issue. Have a fresh look if you weren’t able to participate at the time.

Another important angle is to understand the pandemic in terms of holistic Asian philosophical approaches to human interrelationships with and understandings of nature. Both our present climate emergency and the Covid-19 pandemic are direct outcomes of the ways in which we live and the intrinsically interdependent nature of our now global lives. These types of interrelatedness, ideas of cause and effect, and how to keep a balance between inside and outside have been mapped out by traditional Asian medical understandings of body and mind as the microcosmic nucleus of the macrocosmic world for more than two thousand years. Without environmental health there are no healthy human beings. Even before the outbreak of this pandemic it was well known that habitat destruction and limitation of biodiversity would lead to emerging zoonoses that in turn lead to new diseases in humans, such as SARS, MERS and Ebola.

We would like to acknowledge an interesting example of how a combination of biomedicine together with Chinese medicine was used as a treatment for Covid-19 patients in major hospitals in China in 2020—and also in other countries around the world. While this approach of medical polyphony remains to be clinically trialed and was certainly also used for political reasons, this does not negate the collective experience with efficacious treatments that physicians of Chinese medicine were already able to build on in the wake of the SARS epidemic in 2002-3. Chinese medical teams also helped to treat Covid-19 patients in the western hemisphere. Their expertise was used in Iran, Italy, Pakistan, Serbia, Venezuela, Hungary, Nigeria, and Uzbekistan. Tibetan and Chinese medicine were also used to treat patients in hotspots in New York and several Euro-American countries. In addition to India, African countries, above all Madagascar, explored their own traditional medicinal products in their fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. The increased demand for traditional medicines at the onset of this pandemic might be explained by patients’ trust and traditional doctors’ experience in treating viral diseases and epidemics since but also reflects the fact that at that time vaccines and biomedical treatments for Covid-19 had yet to be developed.

So, while we clearly acknowledge the importance of the “hard science” of vaccine development and genome sequencing of virus variants, we are confident that traditional Asian medicines may play an important and increasing role in the prevention and treatment of Covid-19, in particular in Asia. This salient issue needs to be thoroughly and scientifically investigated for potential future use. For this reason, in the upcoming ICTAM X conference in Taipei we are discussing

these “Challenges to Asian Medicines: Drawing a New Big Picture” (June, 2023). Please come and join us and let’s discuss these salient issues together!

Angelika C. Messner & Mona Schrempf

Letter from the Vice President Michael Stanley Baker

Dear IASTAM Members,

Much has happened since we last gathered at ICTAM IX in Kiel. Not least, the pandemic has impacted the public face, institutional structures and research patterns of medicine—both biomedical and traditional. While broadsheet and social media have sought to align traditional health practices with anti-science sentiment, IASTAM members have been actively showing how traditional medicines are not reducible to simple binaries. The robust epistemologies of traditional medicines are based on centuries of knowing practice, which modern-day practitioners draw from to respond to the pandemic.

IASTAM produced a new webinar series to bring the community together to think collectively about the impact of the pandemic on traditional medicines and how we understand them. Scholars and practitioners discussed representations of Asian medicines and civilizations in print media past and present, responses by Chinese, Korean, and Tibetan traditional medicine teams during early stages of the outbreak and historical notions of disease and treatment. These are freely available for research and teaching at: <http://iastam.org/iastam-webinars/>

A special issue of Asian Medicine takes up these themes, further adding religious and artistic responses to epidemics, ideas of infection, and the notion of zoonotic transmission. Brill generously made these papers open-access, in the spirit of making COVID-19 related research publicly accessible:

<https://brill.com/view/journals/asme/16/1/asme.16.issue-1.xml>

A special issue of Cultural Anthropology Hot Spots, titled “Responding to an Unfolding Pandemic: Asian Medicines and COVID-19,” co-edited by IASTAM members Sienna Craig, Barbara Gerke, and Jan van der Valk, gathered early-stage field reports on medical traditions from China, Tibet, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam— both in their original countries and in broader diaspora:

<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/series/responding-to-an-unfolding-pandemic-asian-medicines-and-covid-19>

Of further note, the [Palgrave Encyclopedia of the Health Humanities](#) is currently soliciting entries on Asian medicine between 500 and 5,000 words. Asian medicines stand to make an important contribution to this new field, expanding our understanding of medicine and disease, and raising questions about the deployment of these medicines in a biomedically determined world. You can find a suggested set of chapters, and a list of topics already taken up here and guidelines [here](#) and guidelines for submissions [here](#). Topics are indicative, rather than fixed, and you can contribute something closer to your specialization. If interested, please send a 300 word abstract to Dr. Dr. Paul Kadetz at pkadetz@sandiego.edu.

Your contributions to the field of research are making an impact. By opening up intellectual space for traditional medicines to be taken seriously, we help richer worlds of practice to flourish and aid the world today.

Michael Stanley-Baker

Letter from the Vice-President Narendra Bhatt

Forty Years with IASTAM, An Experience and a Hope

Dr. Narendra Bhatt, President, IASTAM – India (2009-2021). Forty years of an association cannot be without a reason. Passion might have helped an activity but it cannot sustain itself without filling a need. It has significance when an atypical activity like IASTAM has a noteworthy outcome.

As a young 28-year-old, I got actively involved with IASTAM the day it was established. As I near seventy years next month, IASTAM seems to have become an important part of my life. It has been an experience of learning, expanding horizons, growing and accomplishment.

The role as a conference secretary at ACTAM (1983) and ICTAM III (1990) exposed me to the vastness of faculties and sciences that could be related to Asian medicine and the experience of managing those meetings made me realize my capabilities to become CEO of a large organization later! Participation at all ICTAMs except the first

one and the presentation of papers, keynotes, and speeches resulted in my gaining knowledge and developing my thoughts and processes.

How can I forget knowing so many scholars from so many different faculties, disciplines, systems, and countries? It was an experience that ripened my academic depth and opened me to new ideas not only about systems from Bhutan or Korea or TCM, but equally from the fields of linguistics, humanities, and the pure sciences. My memory is overflowing with so many faces and events in India and other parts of the world. IASTAM was instrumental in many of those activities.

Planning and organizing IASTAM events provides an interesting opportunity for learning about the subject with a closer lens and about people and their views from a broader viewpoint. Editing and writing the proceedings and the newsletter have helped me develop skills that otherwise would have been difficult to absorb.

My first ever presentation abroad was on an “Integrated Approach to Health” at 2nd ICTAM in Indonesia in 1984. My effort as a contributing editor of *Integrative Approaches: Ayurveda, Phytopharmaceuticals and Natural Products*—published in December 2020 with 41 chapters by awardees and my own 10 chapters for each of the 9 sections—celebrated forty years of IASTAM and covered a part of this long journey.

I realize how this association has impacted my respect for other dimensions and compelled me to re-examine my own standing. Today I see an integrated mosaic of images of colors that, though different, provide a singular image of human wellbeing. One has to learn to have an insight for the flow to reach a particular objective.

Challenges faced by indigenous or traditional systems of medicine, irrespective of country or economy in the context of conventional medicine, are similar; these include protection of traditional heritage or loss of its components, challenges from science, the difficulty of integration while maintaining identity, finding ways to mainstream while developing, and remaining relevant while being challenged continuously by a system based and supported by a parallel paradigm. We recognized these needs from its beginning and have aimed to provide

bridges to fill in the gap and to address issues that otherwise would have remained parallel. IASTAM – India has remained active with strategic inputs and approaches to remain noteworthy. Pluralistic medicine as practiced in India and conjoint curiosity between science and tradition for mutual gains might have helped it keep its flame alive.

The Basham Award in 2006 encouraged my enthusiasm and resulted in enhanced activities. I have led from the front with a commitment to the objectives of IASTAM. These efforts have added value for systems or sciences and produced gains that have helped the indigenous medical systems now known as AYUSH enhance its applicability. These activities are summarized separately. As I relinquished my position in September 2021 after 40 years, I feel more than satisfied to have contributed whatever I could to this unique association.

The need for alternative practices of care that Asian medicine fills, is felt like never before. Therefore, I firmly believe the need for IASTAM is equally great. This brief personal narrative is meant as an example of how it can contribute to or influence health care. IASTAM shall remain committed to connecting systems and bridging disciplines to fill the needs of present and future times.

Narendra Bhatt

(President IASTAM India)

IASTAM since the ICTAM IX conference in Kiel, 2017

1. Archiving information on Asian Medicine and Covid-19

Early on, in March 2020 we started to gather information on Asian Medicine and Covid-19 (please have a look here): <https://www.chinazentrum.uni-kiel.de/de/covid-19-chinesisch-medizin>

2. Conference on Covid-19 and Asian Medicine

On May 13, 2020 Barbara Gerke and Angelika Messner hosted the first online video conference tackling the evolving topic of “Covid-19 & Asian Medicines.” The participants included Sienna R. Craig, Reinhard Bögle, Florian Ploberger, Mona Schrempf, Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim, Michael Stanley-Baker, Unnikrishnan Payyappalli, and Tawni Tidwell. The main issues and questions discussed were the following:

What are the most important topics of research emerging from this pandemic that we should pay attention to as scholars and practitioners of Asian medicine?

How can we develop new digital means to approach interdisciplinary research on Asian medicines across the fields (CM, Ayurveda, Sowa Rigpa, etc) during and after this pandemic?

What can we contribute as scholars/practitioners to make (traditional) Asian medicines more accessible and relevant for public health and specifically for this pandemic?

3. Support of North American Tibetan Medicine Covid-19 Observation Study (NATMCOS)

Following our meeting (on May 13), the IASTAM council agreed to support an application by some IASTAM members for the North American Tibetan Medicine COVID-19 Observation Study (NATMCOS). The background of this financial support (1500 €) is the fact, that at the present time, no trials have been conducted to a sufficient scale and with the proper methodology

to fully assess any of the formulas currently used by Tibetan physicians to treat COVID-19. The protocol sought to understand overall outcomes of patient disease course, formula applied, timing of particular symptom alleviation, and tracking of any associated biomarkers along the way, as well as the overall experience of the patient throughout the process. The objective was also to observe potential or ideal outcomes related to the traditional use of these formulations, i.e. the degree to which each formula might facilitate the clearing of potentially debilitating viral load, ameliorate the effects of fever, increase lung capacity, repair kidney dysfunction, relieve myalgia pains, soothe sustained headaches, assuage cognitive distress, and enhance quality of life. Large randomized trials will ultimately be necessary to compare Tibetan medical treatments to any standard treatments that develop to prove superior efficacy (response rate, survival, viral neutralization, etc.) or equal efficacy with lower toxicity or improved quality of life. However, the operational feasibility, patient sample size, funding, and treatment approach do not lend themselves to this biomedical ideal at this time.

4. IASTAM Task Force

At the end of June 2020 Katharina Sabernig agreed to chair an IASTAM “task force” for furthering the process of "integrating Asian and other traditional medicines" into the mainstream medical system (research and education and practice). The outcome was an important reflection on the role IASTAM should play in these times of vulnerability: We should be aware that any activity with regard to professional policies is not compatible with our constitution and especially our non-profit status (Gemeinnützigkeit). It is not our task to convince anyone but to compile and provide information following “good scientific practice.” However, contributions of IASTAM members should at least not be dissuasive for healthcare professionals.

5. Registration of IASTAM under Law

In September 2020 we finally got good news from the Registry Court for Non-Profit Organizations in Munich. IASTAM – now in its 42nd year of existence —officially registered as an international non-profit association (with its base in Germany)!

6. A new Contract with Brill/ASME

In December 2020 we were able to solve a longstanding economic problem of IASTAM. As we are committed to support the ongoing yearly editing costs for our journal Asian Medicine (ASME), which in the past tended to be larger than our budget, together with Reinhard Bögle and Pierce Salguero we were able to negotiate and sign a new contract with the publisher of ASME, Leiden Brill, so that IASTAM only needs to support the running editing cost with a yearly amount of 1000 €.

IASTAM WEBINARS

1st IASTAM-WEBINAR on July 8, 2020 The “pan” of pandemics: why and how Asian approaches matter

The aim of the first webinar was to explore the overall salient issues pertaining to viral epidemics and this Covid-19 pandemic and why and how Asian approaches matter.

Host and Introduction: Prof. Angelika Messner (Kiel University) **Moderator:** Dr Ronit Yoeli-Tlalim (Goldsmith, University of London) **Speakers:**

- Prof. Monica H. Green (Arizona State University): Historical Contours of the Medieval Afro-Eurasian Disease Landscape: New Findings from Genetics and Medical History
- Prof. Volker Scheid (London): Some Moments in the Encounter between Chinese Medicine and Covid-19
- Prof. A. David Napier (UCL, London): Sick Societies and the Flow of Life

2nd IASTAM-WEBINAR on October 21, 2020: Asian Medicines and COVID 19

This webinar presented ongoing and recently published clinical trials of COVID-19 treatments with traditional medicine in China and in Tibetan communities in the US.

Host: Michael Stanley Baker (NTU, Singapore)

Speakers:

- Shelley Ochs, Ph.D. (Beijing Centre for China Studies) & Thomas Avery Garran, Ph.D. (China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences): Rhetoric and Reality: The Role of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Covid-19 Treatment and Prevention Effort in China
- Tawni Tidwell (University of Wisconsin-Madison): From the Periphery to the Center: Tracking Covid-19 through Tibetan Medicine
- Marta Hanson (Johns Hopkins University): From Sick Man of Asia to Sick Uncle Sam: The Case of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Covid-19

3rd IASTAM Webinar March 2021: Asian Medicine & the Social Dimensions of Epidemics

The last webinar focused on strategies implemented to fight epidemics throughout Chinese history, the success of strategies during Covid-19 in South Korea with the importance of traditional medicine doctors, and the history of the role of Chinese Medicine in epidemics promoting health by focusing on communities of color in the US.

Host: Part of the Health Humanities Speaker Series at Penn State University's Abington College "Asian Responses to Covid-19"

Speakers:

- Yan Liu (University of Buffalo SUNY): Combating Epidemics: A Historical Perspective
- James Flowers (Kyung Hee University): Bypassing the Technocratic State in South Korea: Doctors Mobilizing Korean Medicine in the Covid-19 Pandemic of 2020
- Dr. Joshua Park (DSOM, AP): From the Gold Rush to Covid-19: Chinese Medicine as Healthcare for Diverse American Communities

IASTAM AWARDS / PRIZES

1. IASTAM 40th Anniversary Prize, 2019

In January 2019 we announced the 40th IASTAM Anniversary Prize competition for the best publication. Towards the end of June 2019, we received eight submissions. The winner was

chosen by an evaluation committee and was offered publication in the organization's peer-reviewed journal *Asian Medicine*—being subject to the normal peer review process.

The manuscript by Colin Garon (Fulbright Student Researcher at Beijing University of Chinese Medicine/University of Chicago) "Clinical Concrecences: Integration and Translation in Contemporary Chinese Medicine Gynecology" had been evaluated as the most convincing contribution to the field of critical study of Asian medical systems. He should have received the prize money of 1000 € on the occasion of ICTAM X in Taipei in May 2020. However, as ICTAM X has been postponed to June 2023, we already transferred the prize money to him.

All eight submitters received a 3-year IASTAM membership free of charge.

2. Charles Leslie Prize 2020

At the end of January 2020, we launched the call for submissions for the Charles Leslie prize. This prize seeks to honor the work of the outstanding scholar of Asian medicine, Charles Leslie, and his dedication to IASTAM. It aims to encourage young scholars to excel in the field that he helped to establish. This prize is awarded to the best original, unpublished scholarly essay on Asian medicine submitted to and judged by the IASTAM Council. The nominee for the award must be a member in good standing of IASTAM, and must fall into any of the following categories: a practitioner of an Asian medical tradition (with fewer than three publications), or a graduate student, or a recent PhD who received his/her doctoral degree fewer than five years prior to the deadline for nomination, or a scholar who is in a contingent faculty position without tenure or long-term contract (e.g., adjunct, one-year visiting scholar, etc.)

The paper should apply methods from anthropology, history, or any other academic discipline to the critical study of Asian medical systems in context, and from any period up to the present. Due to the global situation, we extended the deadline of this prize to November 30, 2020. We received 8 papers. The evaluation committee chose the paper by Will Ceurvels on "Xiao Xu Ming Tang and the Battle over Wind like Strike on 20th and Early 21st Century Chinese Medicine" as the winning piece. Congratulations!

3. ICTAM X “Life Stories” Interactive Media Competition

In December 2019 IASTAM announced a new ICTAM X “Life Stories” Interactive Media Competition. The idea and conception for this competition came from Natalie Köhle (Hong Kong Baptist University) and Lisa Brooks (Berkeley University). On May 15, 2020, we received eight submissions.

The evaluation-group unanimously listed Shefali Bharati's film contribution "Trailing Tribal Healers" as the best one among all submissions. After collective discussion, the judges concluded that this piece should be awarded the second prize. There was no first prize. They decided on a second prize because they felt that while the images and their presentation are outstanding, there is not much of a sense of a story in the piece, and the wording of the text was a slightly Orientalizing at times.

Announcements

1. Katharina Sabernig announces: 34th Annual Conference of the Association for Anthropology and Medicine (AGEM) in cooperation with the Austrian Ethnomedical Society and Weltmuseum Wien: "Visual Expressions of Health, Illness and Healing, June 2-4, 2022, Vienna / Austria: <https://www.ethnomedicine.at/events/>

2. Due to the Pandemic we had to postpone the upcoming ICTAM twice. We hope we will finally be able to meet in June 2023 in Taipei. ICTAM X will be a joint congress with [ASHM \(Asian Society for the History of Medicine\)](#). The congress will take place in Taipei in June 2023

Dear Delegates,

In view of the continued uncertainty surrounding the Covid-19 situation, the Conference Organizer has decided to postpone the Joint Conference of IASTAM and ASHM to June, 2023. The new confirmed schedule of the conference will be announced through the website as soon as it is finalized. We for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding. Please take good care of yourselves. We hope the situation will improve soon.

Conference Notice:

(1) Notice on the cancellation policy of the abstract submission: If you wish to withdraw your paper submission, please contact the secretariat office directly by sending email to ictam-ashm.reg@elitepco.com.tw. Otherwise, the accepted abstracts will be retained and arranged in conference program next year. (2) Notice on conference registration:

If you decide to withdraw your paper and cancel your attendance, the registration fee may be fully refunded. The registration of participants who completed the registration and payment and do not withdraw will be maintained until the conference is held. (3) Notice on new abstract submission:

The abstract submission system will be open again in 2022. Take your chance to share your research for IASTAM and ASHM conference.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the conference secretariat office, or email ictam-ashm.reg@elitepco.com.tw

Thank you again for your support. We are all in this together.

3. The editors of Asian Medicine (Brill) are pleased to announce the publication of *African American Contributions to American Acupuncture* by Yi Li Wu and Daniel Burton-Rose.

The editors of Asian Medicine (Brill) are pleased to announce the publication of "African American Contributions to American Acupuncture," an Open Access special issue (volume 16, no. 2). In the months following the murder of George Floyd in the US, and in response to worldwide calls for anti-racist activism, the editors at Asian Medicine created this special issue to amplify calls for greater diversity within alternative medicine circles, and to bring attention to an important but often overlooked part of world medical history. We hope that the three interviews, accompanied by a photo essay, and two editorial essays, will also be useful to people teaching

courses on a range of topics, including gender and health and race and health. All articles are available for download

here: <https://brill.com/view/journals/asme/asme-overview.xml>

Contents:

(1) Editorial essay: "An Introduction to the Special Issue on 'African American Contributions to American Acupuncture'" explains to the international readership of the journal why the editors believe that combating racism and working for social justice should be vital concerns for scholars and practitioners of Asian medicine.

(2) "Acupuncture, the Black Panther Party, and People's Medicine, An Interview with Physician-Activist Tolbert Small." Tolbert Small (b. 1943) is a former doctor for the Black Panther Party, well-known for his advocacy for research on sickle cell anemia. This interview focuses on the fact that Small was introduced to acupuncture in 1972 as a member of a BPP delegation to the People's Republic of China and incorporated it into his clinical practice upon his return to the US. Small witnessed the gradual mainstreaming of Chinese medicine in the United States, accompanied by problems of differential access based on race and income.

(3) "Photo Essay: Bringing Acupuncture to the People: Tolbert Small in China and California" presents images from the Black Panther Party delegation to China and of Small's subsequent involvement in acupuncture.

(4) "Reflections on (Re)making History: African American Acupuncturists and the Archives of Tolbert Small" discusses Small's career alongside the activities of the revolutionaries who introduced acupuncture into New York City's Lincoln Detox Center during the 1970s. These latter notably include Mutulu Shakur (b. 1950, step father of rapper Tupac). Their ear acupuncture treatment for heroin detoxification formed the basis for a protocol later standardized by the National Acupuncture Detoxification Association, now used by over 25,000 practitioners worldwide.

(5) "Community Medicine as Racial Justice: An Interview with Tenisha Dandridge, Cofounder and President of the Black Acupuncturist Association (US)" discusses Dandridge's efforts to disseminate acupuncture and acupressure as tools for redressing healthcare disparities in minority communities. Includes a discussion of her personal experiences using Chinese medicine to treat gynecological ailments.

(6) "Fighting Medical Racism with Education and Action: An Interview with Denise Tyson, President, Maryland Acupuncture Society (US)" discusses Tyson's efforts to promote anti-racist education and greater diversity in acupuncture circles.

4. Vote for the new cover of *Asian Medicine*.

Here are the links: Twitter: https://twitter.com/Brill_Asian/status/1470730732557504518

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/138689919532789/posts/4683702571698145/>

Voting ends Sunday, December 19th.

IASTAM Organization

1. Organization

President: Angelika Messner, University of Kiel, Germany

Vice Presidents:

Narendra Bhatt, Ayurvedic Practitioner, Mumbai, India

Sienna Craig, Dartmouth University, US

Michael Stanley-Baker, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Secretary General:

2022—Katharina Sabernig, Independent Scholar, Vienna;

2017-2021—Mona Schrempf, Humboldt University Berlin

Associate Secretary: Stephen Boyanton, Independent Scholar, US

Publication Director: Pierce Salguero, Pennsylvania State University (Abington), US

Treasurer: Reinhard Bögle, Center for Behavioral Medicine, Pune, India

Council Members:

Nicole Barnes, Duke University, US

Kang Yeonseok, Wonkwang University, South Korea

Kim Taewoo, Kyung Hee University, South Korea

Geoffrey Samuel, University of Sydney, Australia

Katharina Sabernig, Independent Scholar, Austria

Stephan Kloos, Austrian Academy of Science, Austria

Herbert Schwabl, PADMA, Switzerland

Phurpa Wangchuk, James Cook University, Australia

Honorary Members:

Paul Unschuld, Charité Medical University, Germany

Dominik Wujastyk, University of Alberta, Canada

Ken Zysk, Copenhagen University, Denmark

Vivienne Lo, University College London, UK

Changes to the IASTAM administration:

By the end of this year 2021 Mona Schrempf has decided to withdraw her role as General Secretary of IASTAM for personal reasons, now being the sole caretaker for two elderly family members. We thank her for all her work on the constitution and general support for IASTAM, while also acknowledging her previous role as senior co-editor of the Journal Asian Medicine

(2012-2016). She will remain council member of IASTAM. *Katharina Sabernig has agreed to step in as interim general secretary. Also we have to inform you that Volker Scheid withdrew his membership from the IASTAM Council as of 2018. Thank you, Volker, for all you have done for IASTAM!

A Personal Note from the departing General Secretary Mona Schrempf While I will stay committed to IASTAM as a member, personal reasons have forced me to withdraw from my role as General Secretary. These two years of Covid-19 have taught me the necessity of prioritizing my family's health and my own. They also have enabled me to experience the benefits of Asian Medicine at first hand as a patient. Therefore, my interests are shifting towards practice rather than writing about it. I simply owe my two local therapists of Asian Medicine and their regular treatments my own health and sanity. These treatments by a classical Chinese medicine practitioner working according to the Shang Han Lun system and by an osteopath integrating Tibetan healing practices together with my own Tibetan tsalung practices enabled me to cope better with the challenges that face my whole family. To stay afloat physically and to counterbalance stress I have employed Asian medicines and supplements. Thus, I am as dedicated as ever to our joint cause of supporting and promoting Asian Medicine both in theory and in practice and thank you all, and in particular Katharina Sabernig, for taking over as IASTAM's interim Secretary-General.

2. Legal Incorporation of IASTAM

While we had the mandate to incorporate IASTAM under German law per the Council decision made in Kiel in 2017 during the IASTAM IX conference, we only realized later that the old constitution required more work and thus needed more time than what we had in order to have legal agency as a registered international association. We first had to adapt the constitution in order for it to suit German law. After that, in a second step, and together with the Council members, we opened up constructive and detailed discussions for amendments of the constitution on very important issues pertaining to council member rights, such as democratic voting, defining topics for informed decision making, and rights and duties of involvement in specific offices. These issues needed the careful attention and participation of the Council, and also of the society at large.

Following the careful consultation with the council members and with the efforts of Katharina Sabernig and Mona Schrempf, the new constitution was written, and the new text was retranslated from German into English and vice versa for rechecking by a professional translator. The last step was done by Reinhard Bögle who after nearly two years of painstaking negotiations with the legal authorities and their requirements, handed the constitution over to the Court in Munich, i.e. the registration office. Now, the IASTAM Board money was able to be finally transferred in full into the official tax-free IASTAM account.

3. Two New IASTAM Branches

a) IASTAM Australasia

This Branch was established by Geoffrey Samuel in March 2018. He is so far the only officer of the branch. IASTAM supported the start-up funding with 1000€. On March 7th, 2018, the branch came together. Sienna Craig gave a talk on, "Trauma and Time: Tibetan Medical Responses to

Nepal's 2015 Earthquakes.” Nine people signed up as inaugural members of IASTAM Australasia (Sue Cochrane, who was unable to attend, had previously sent in a signed copy of the form): Catherine Schuetze, Jim Rheingans, Jackie Menzies, Shakya Barua, Santi Rozario, Aliza Hunt, Nellie Le Beau, Geoffrey Samuel, and Sue Cochrane.

b) IASTAM-North America

In March 2018, this Branch was established on the initiative of James Flowers, Pierce Salguero, Marta Hanson and Nicole Barnes. They organized an inaugural workshop on March 22, 2018, at the occasion of the AAS-annual meeting. Nicole Barnes took the formal responsibility of the IASTAM-North America branch.

It is important to note that all different IASTAM-Branch members need to be paid-up members of IASTAM.

Appendix

1. Conference Report ICTAM IX at Kiel University, Kiel, Germany, August 6-12, 2017

Theme: Encounters, Translations and Transformations

Hosted by IASTAM and the China Centre of Kiel University, under the patronage of the Minister President of the Federal State of Schleswig-Holstein. Kiel University is the largest, oldest, and most prestigious university in the state of Schleswig Holstein.

Vision statement: Asian medicine today is a multibillion-dollar industry. Asian medicines are engaged in complex global networks of actors: conservators watch the changing supplies of wild plants in Asian mountains, medical botanists study the substitution practices of collectors and marketers in Asia, policy makers control or prevent the entry of drugs into European countries, corporations seek to exploit drugs based on Asian medical knowledge, professional associations seek to regulate Asian medical practice. ICTAMs VII and VIII both took place in Asia (2009 in Bhutan, 2013 in Korea). The European location of ICTAM IX will allow us to take stock of the current state of Asian medicine and to examine the global flows of medical knowledge, practice, and materials from a different but equally significant vantage point.

Over 350 participants attended the congress with over 30 countries represented. There were 39 panels, 13 workshops, two plenary sessions, one roundtable, 11 keynotes, a film festival, and the Basham Medal Lectures

Opening Ceremony: (Monday, August 7th), welcome addresses from Messner, Samuel, Garg, Pistor-Hatam, Leffmann, Stephani, Ganten, Röttgers, Video Message: Schwartländer (WHO)

Plenary Sessions: Themes: Studying and Practicing Traditional Medicines Today/Traditional Asian Medicines and Global Health ...

Roundtable: Standardization, Evaluation, and Implementation of Asian Medicines in Global Health Settings

9 Clinical Modules

Basham Medal Awards: The Basham medals were awarded to Dr. Shizu SAKAI, Emeritus Professor of Medical History at Juntendo University and to Dr. Judith Farquhar

Thursday evening: The IASTAM General Meeting

Tour Program: two excursions to Gottorf Castle and Haithabu, guided botanical garden tour , guided museum tour

Lectures for a General Public: Volker Scheid, Paul Unschuld

Additional Program Items: Qigong, Shiatsu, etc.

Congress Program/ICTAM schedule: <https://www.ictam2017.uni-kiel.de/en/Programme%20Weekdays.pdf>

Short Film: “ICTAM IX Global Health Challenges”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2laMUiVQ94>

2. Academic activities representing Asian Medicine by IASTAM council members

Angelika Messner, IASTAM President

- Invited Lecture on “The evolution of the idea of chuanran 傳染 in China/ Black Death in Asian History” at the panel Ancient Cultures, Migrations and Health at the World Health Summit 2017, October 15-17, Berlin

- Organization and co-chairing together with Prof. David Napier (University College London) of the workshop “Cultures, Traditions, and Health” at the World Health Summit 2019, October 27-29, Berlin

at the World Scientific and Cultural Dialogue on Acupuncture/WFAS World Acupuncture Congress 2018, Paris: Lecture on “The history of acupuncture in China,” November 16,

2) At the IASTAM Award Function 2019 and Conclave on Cancer Care & Research in AYUSH: Developing a Roadmap, in Cochi, Kerala, India. February 14, keynote speech as IASTAM president on invitation by IASTAM India President Narendra Bhatt.

3) At the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Science and Arts: as elected member of the IAG (Interdisciplinary Working Group) “Gesundheit für alle” Messner became the speaker of the subgroup “Regional Medical Traditions in 2019,”

<https://www.bbaw.de/forschung/zukunft-der-medizin-gesundheit-fuer-alle/mitglieder/-mitarbeiterinnen>.

- Her academic lecture (January 28, 2020) “Gesundheit: Perspektiven aus dem alten China” (Health: Perspectives from the Chinese Past)

<https://www.bbaw.de/veranstaltungen/veranstaltung-verstaendnisse-von-gesundheit>, is published as: „Gesundheit ist ein Verb: Medizin ist mehrsprachig und vielstimmig. Chinesische und andere Perspektiven“ (“Health is a Verb: Medicine is Multilingual and Multivocal: Chinese and Other Perspectives“) Open access: in Was ist Gesundheit? Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven aus Medizin,

Geschichte und Kultur, \edited by Philip van der Eijk, Detlev Ganten, Roman Marek. De Gruyter, 2021: <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110713336>

4) At IASTAM at EURICS (European Institute for Chinese Studies); Paris, served as Discussant at: EURICS Roundtable “China’s and Taiwan’s Pandemic Response compared: The European Perspective,” March 24, 2021.

http://www.eurics.eu/event_china-s-and-taiwan-s-pandemic-response-compared-the-european-perspective

Reinhard Bögle, IASTAM treasurer

Between 2017 and 2020, the IASTAM treasurer, Reinhard Bögle, worked tirelessly as our front man to get IASTAM registered as an international association in Germany. Reinhard actively supported and chaired "Synapse 2021: The 2nd Virtual Conference on Mind Body Medicine in Endocrinology and Diabetes" on 27th and 28th of March 2021, and the "National Workshop on Mind-Body Medicine & Resilience for Psychiatry Patients," organized by the Indian Psychiatric Society and the Department of Integrating Medicine of the National Institute for Mental Health and Neuroscience (NIMHANS), Bangalore, on November 13th, 2021. Both events brought together the Yoga-based mind-body medicine as envisioned by the taskforce of the Indian Psychiatric Society with Indian medical personnel. The NIMHANS workshop was the first official post-graduate physician training on mind-body medicine in India under the mentorship of Prof. Gangadhar (Chairperson nominated by the Indian Government for education and postgraduate education of medical personnel). The focus on mind-body medicine is a new development in India, and Reinhard Bögle - as Adjunct Professor for Yoga Research at CBM-Pune is involved at its forefront.

Narendra Bhatt, IASTAM-India

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF TRADITIONAL ASIAN MEDICINE, AN UPDATE

—Dr. Narendra Bhatt, President (2009-2021), IASTAM-India

Greetings from India!

Established on 31st January 1981 IASTAM has completed 40 years of activities in India. Since 2009 IASTAM - India Administration relocated to the College of Ayurved, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, an academic and research institute at Pune, now with an administrative assistant.

As a non-profit registered organization, it is subjected to an annual audit with a separate report to the charity commissioner. All mandatory needs are fulfilled with quarterly held meetings of the Managing Committee and a General Body Meetings, once in 3 years. Electoral Process is followed once in three years as per the constitution. It has membership categories as Patron, Institutional, International and Regular. All records for the last twelve years are available in bound books at the office.

1. IASTAM (India) is committed to study & promotion of Asian medicine including Indian Systems of Medicine (AYUSH) for their rightful place in national & global health and medical care and to provide an interdisciplinary platform to bring together Asian medicine for integrative

dialogue with different scientific disciplines & policy makers so as to develop and strengthen its effective use.

2. With the theme “Connecting Systems, Bridging Disciplines” developed at ICAAM 2016 (International Conference on Advances in Asian Medicine) the Association is committed to AYUSH & Asian medicine.

3. “IASTAM ORATION AND AWARDS” initiated in 1990 has grown into “An Aspiring Tradition” with seven series held in collaboration with reputed academic institutes in the country.

A Total Ninety-One Awards, mostly during last decade have been awarded in different categories. With stringent procedure followed for the selection these interdisciplinary awards that are well-recognized and coveted by experts.

4. A series of ten IASTAM – Conclaves, have been held with the Award Functions on subjects of relevance that include “Asian Medicine: Integrative Potentials (Jamnagar, 2015),” “Translational Research Opportunity in Ayurveda (Varanasi, 2017),” “Challenges for Global Competitiveness of AYUSH and Natural Products (Delhi, 2018),” “Cancer Care & Research in AYUSH: Developing a Roadmap (Kochi, 2019),” and “Ayurveda and Viral Infection: Translational Modalities (Pune, 2020).”

5. The “International Conference on Advances in Asian Medicine [ICAAM-2016” was held between 3rd to 7th January 2016 at Pune, India with the theme “Asian Medicine: Global Reach.”

6. OTHER MEETINGS include –

a. A “Consultative Meeting to Prioritize AYUSH Research Activities in the Field of Cancer for International Collaboration,” was organized February 2016, Pune, at behest of the Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India.

b. A Brainstorming Meeting on NITI AYOJ Initiative the National Commission for Indian Systems of Medicine (NCISM), April 2017, Pune.

c. Mini Symposium, New Opportunities in Academic Research in Ayurveda, February 2017, Pune.

d. International Workshop on “Integrating Traditional South Asian Medicine into Modern Health Care Systems,” October, 2012, New Delhi.

7. IASTAM – India was privileged to have Prof. Waltrud Ernst & Prof. Angelika Messner at our functions in Pune (2005) and Kochi (2018).

8. A 612-page IASTAM Text, Integrative Perspectives: Ayurveda, Phytopharmaceuticals and Natural Products, celebrating 40 years and covering the experiences of 41 esteemed awardees under 9 sections with introductory chapter and 9 other chapters by contributing editor, Dr. Narendra Bhatt, was published in November 2020. This landmark text has been well commended by experts. More than 375 copies were sold in addition to 100 complimentary copies shared with the 41 contributors and reviewers.

9. 60 Issues of the IASTAM - India Newsletter have been published once per month over the last 5 years.

10. Additionally, IASTAM Chronicle portraying 35 years of tradition and activities; Aspiring Traditions to aspire for higher achievements, and ICAAM Proceedings Part I & II (around 500 pages), and several other Proceedings were published.

Membership

Benefits

Members of IASTAM enjoy:

- Free unlimited electronic access to all past and current issues of the IASTAM journal, Asian Medicine. (Please note that access is handled by Brill, and you will receive an email from them with your login information within a few weeks of registering with IASTAM.)
- Reduced registration rates for IASTAM conferences. ICTAM-ASHM 2020. Networking opportunities with approximately 350 scholars across various disciplines and regions.
- 35% discount on Brill publications on Asian medicines (contact Qin Higley: Higley@brill.com)
- Members in good standing may display the logo at right on their websites and in other appropriate printed or online contexts.



Register Now!

Please pay the fee to the following Paypal Account: <http://www.paypal.me/iastamev>. Be sure to include your name and the word “membership” in the note field after you have selected the payment amount.

Full price €50.00: Membership runs for the entire inter-conference period (i.e., from now until ICTAM XI in 2023).

Discounted price €20.00: You may opt for discounted membership if you have an annual income of €20,000 or less. The rights and benefits of membership are the same as the full price.

Please contact our treasurer iastam.treasurer@gmail.com if you have any questions about the process of becoming a member.