

## PREFACE

I am pleased to present here the Seventh Volume of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica (HKCMM) Standards presenting the reference standards of 36 Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) in addition to the existing 200 CMM.

Throughout the past years, the HKCMM Standards Project has achieved remarkable milestones. The foundation stone of the Project was laid in 2002 when the Department of Health (DH), Hong Kong SAR saw the need of enhancing safety and quality of Chinese medicine and thus made the commitment to set standards for CMM which are commonly used in Hong Kong, of international importance and with good economic values. From small beginnings, the HKCMM Standards have now grown to become widely recognized reference standards for Chinese medicine traders and practitioners, academicians and laboratories in the field of Chinese medicine testing and certification, and some overseas organisations.

Our efforts, however, do not stop here. In fact, this volume marks a new step forward for the HKCMM Standards. For the first time ever, our collaboration partner, the National Institutes for Food and Drug Control (NIFDC) of the People's Republic of China, is sharing their research results. We are also proudly presenting the first two monographs on CMM of animal origin. Besides, we are introducing the first of many applications of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) fingerprint technology for authentication of CMM in this volume.

The research results of HKCMM Standards would not only help to contribute ultimately to the health of the general public but also facilitate the development of the testing and certification industry in Hong Kong. Initiated and supported by the Panel on Promoting Testing and Certification Services in Chinese Medicine Trade under the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification, the Hong Kong Certification Scheme for Chinese Materia Medica ("the Scheme") was launched in 2014 by the Productivity Council to further solidify the status of CMM testing centre in Hong Kong. It is a voluntary programme to certify the CMM supplier's capability to provide product in compliance with the standard requirement. All the CMM that are included in HKCMM Standards can be certified. Through the Scheme, Chinese medicines traders and suppliers can attract consumers by means of enhanced quality assurance.

In support of the HKCMM Standards project, the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR has committed in his 2015 Policy Address to set up a Chinese medicines testing centre to be managed by DH, through which DH will continue to formulate more HKCMM Standards, with a view to expediting the internationalisation of Hong Kong's Chinese medicines industry.

I sincerely hope that the findings of the HKCMM Standards will continue to contribute towards the development of Chinese medicines and the use of evidence-based, safe and quality Chinese medicines. The challenge over the coming years is to build upon the project's strong foundation and take it forward on the next stage of its journey.

This volume is the culmination of a concerted effort by many parties. I must extend my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the members of our International Advisory Board, Scientific Committee and the Editorial Board. Thanks are also due to the Government Laboratory of the HKSAR, the research teams of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), the City University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Baptist University, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the University of Hong Kong, Taiwan's China Medical University, and the NIFDC for their contributions. Special thanks go to Professor Shaw Pang-chui from CUHK for his invaluable advice on DNA fingerprinting in this Volume.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the China Food and Drug Administration, State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and the Chinese Pharmacopoeia Commission of the People's Republic of China for their advice on the development of HKCMM Standards and their permission to adopt information from the Chinese Pharmacopoeia.

Dr. Constance CHAN, *JP*  
Director of Health

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