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PREFACE

I am delighted to present the latest volume of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (HKCMMS). This volume not only is the eighth of the series setting out reference standards for Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) commonly used in Hong Kong, but also marks the 15th anniversary of the launch of the HKCMMS Project.

The HKCMMS Project was first launched in 2002 with a view to ensuring the safety and quality of CMM in protection of public health. Striving to establish quality and safety standards of CMM, with the unfailing support of research institutions throughout the past 15 years, the HKCMMS has developed from a pilot study of eight CMM into a continuous project and a widely recognized reference standards for Chinese medicine traders and practitioners, academia and laboratories in the field of Chinese medicine testing and certification, as well as overseas organizations.

This ongoing series of the HKCMMS is the culmination of extensive research and preparation that has undergone thorough verifications and reviews. The HKCMMS provides applicable and adoptable reference standards for the testing of CMM and the acceptance criteria for verifying their authenticity, safety and quality. The establishment of the HKCMMS enables Hong Kong to align with international standards, facilitates trading of CMM and ensures the safety and quality of Chinese medicines in the protection of public health. The HKCMMS also contributes to the research and development of Chinese medicines. As a set of comprehensive, reliable and internationally recognized standards of CMM, the HKCMMS has a significant role in promoting development of the testing and certification industry.

With the 39 new entries added to this volume, the number of reference standards for CMM has now totalled to 275.

For the first-time ever, we are pleased to introduce reference assay chromatograms into the individual CMM monographs in the electronic versions of this volume. This valuable information would certainly enrich the content of HKCMMS and further securing the quality control of CMM.

The Chief Executive's 2016 Policy Address makes it clear that the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is determined to develop Hong Kong into a regional innovation hub in the area of technologies and their application, and has committed to further the development of Chinese medicine. To this end, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is implementing in phases the Chinese Medicine Development Committee's recommendations, inter alia, to plan and establish a testing centre for Chinese medicines. With the establishment of the testing centre, we endeavor to develop more reference

standards of CMM and promote the HKCMMS as authoritative international benchmarks to pave the way for the internationalisation of Hong Kong's Chinese medicines industry.

Whilst the new testing centre is being established, our work on the HKCMMS Project is already taken to a new level – we are now making every endeavour to conduct a pilot study on the standard setting for Chinese medicines decoction pieces.

In 2016, the Chinese Medicine Division of Department of Health is honoured to be redesignated as the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine. We aspire to further contribute to the development and implementation of WHO's traditional medicine policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks and will continue to take active steps to develop HKCMMS with a view to strengthening the quality assurance, safety, proper use and effectiveness of traditional medicine.

With the launching of the pilot study on the standard setting for Chinese medicines decoction pieces under the HKCMMS project, it marks an important milestone in the development of Chinese medicines in Hong Kong. We are much obliged to have the ongoing support from the China Food and Drug Administration and we envisage this initiative would further enhance the exchange of expertise in both places towards the internationalisation of Chinese medicines.

In the preparation of this volume, high-level collaborative expertise and effort has been generously contributed from members of the International Advisory Board, Scientific Committee, and Editorial Board; from Government Laboratory; and from the eight research institutions, namely the Chinese University of Hong Kong, 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 National Institutes for Food and Drug Control of the People's Republic of China. Their contributions are gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere 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 enduring support and invaluable advice on the development of the HKCMMS.

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