King's Centre for Integrative Chinese Medicine

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Background: Facing unprecedented challenges in chronic disease, functional disorders and preventive care, conventional medicine can gain valuable insights from traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). To facilitate this, King's College London—ranked world-leading in health sciences (No. 1 Nursing, No. 4 Dentistry, No. 11 Life Sciences and Medicine, QS 2026)— launched the King's Centre for Integrative Chinese Medicine (CICM) initiative: https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/kings-cicm

Objective: King's CICM aims to catalyse innovation by integrating TCM wisdom into health science, education and care at King's and its world-renowned hospitals. The Centre seeks to establish a research-focused platform that attracts philanthropic funding, supports global collaborations, and addresses major health challenges.

Methods: The Centre builds upon King's strengths in health science, education and care, and legacies in TCM and natural product research, including leadership of the EU FP7 GP-TCM Project, banning nephrotoxic aristolochic acid-containing species, and novel research directions inspired by TCM concepts. It employs interdisciplinary approaches integrating TCM with medical humanities, artificial intelligence, clinical trials, multi-omics and biomedical innovation.

Results: Since October 2024, the Centre has established a faculty of 23 staff across nephrology, cardiology, cancer studies, pharmaceutical science, healthy ageing and medical humanities, supported by 56 international Honorary Advisors. Since October 2025, the Centre has been designated a fundraising priority of the university. Supported by a strong Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement team, the Centre aims to raise £11m Breakthrough Fund, which will support four memorial awards and attract the best minds to drive the sustainable development of integrative medicine, at the heart of London.

Conclusion: King's CICM represents a pioneering approach to healthcare innovation in the UK. Aiming for an official launch in 2029, marking the 200th anniversary of King's College London, the initiative promises to shape the future of biomedical research, training and care through learning and collaboration across regions, cultures, disciplines and sectors.

Keywords: Integrative Chinese medicine; Cardiovascular kidney metabolic health; Cancer, pharmaceutical science and healthy ageing.