Evidence-based Anticancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine

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Evidence-based Anticancer Materia Medica
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Interest in anticancer materia medica is growing in the world, but some clinicians and scientists have queried about the scientific validity of anticancer materia medica due to the lack of scientific evidence. As presenting in my previous book entitled *Supportive Cancer Care with Chinese Medicine*, a number of laboratory evidences and clinical trials have demonstrated the effectiveness and efficacies of Chinese medicine for supportive cancer care. Accumulating experiments show that some materia medica may have anticancer action by inducing apoptosis and differentiation, enhancing the immune system, inhibiting angiogenesis and proliferation, as well as reversing multidrug resistance. Clinical trials in cancer patients also demonstrate that some materia medica can prolong survival, increase tumor response, improve quality of life, and reduce chemotherapy or radiotherapy toxicity. These findings reveal the potential of materia medica as a promising anticancer therapeutics. Thorough understanding of materia medica and its safety is apparently a prerequisite for all professionals involved and interested in this field. These stimulating interests drove me to compile this unique volume.

William C. S. Cho
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Contents

1 An Overview of Anticancer Herbal Medicines ........................................ 1
   Addanki P. Kumar, Heather Graham, Craig Robson, Karthik Garapati and Rita Ghosh

2 An Evidence-based Perspective of Arsenic Trioxide (As₂O₃) for Cancer Patients ................................................................. 37
   Hongchi Jiang, Lianxin Liu, Tongsen Zheng and Dalong Yin

3 An Evidence-based Review of Astragalus Membranaceus (Astragalus) for Cancer Patients ..................................................... 65
   K. Simon Yeung, Jyothirmai Gubili and Barrie R. Cassileth

4 An Evidence-based Perspective of Panax Ginseng (Asian Ginseng) and Panax Quinquefolius (American Ginseng) as a Preventing or Supplementary Therapy for Cancer Patients ........ 85
   Lee Jia and Keduo Qian

5 Panax Quinquefolius (American Ginseng) and Panax Notoginseng (Notoginseng) in Cancer Chemoprevention .................... 97
   Chong-Zhi Wang and Chun-Su Yuan

6 An Evidence-based Perspective of Coptis Chinensis (Chinese Goldthread) for Cancer Patients ..................................................... 111
   Faqing Tang, Wenhua Mei, Daofa Tian and Damao Huang

7 An Evidence-based Perspective of Angelica Sinensis (Chinese Angelica) for Cancer Patients ..................................................... 131
   Po-Cheng Lin, Tzyy-Wen Chiou and Horng-Jyh Harn

8 An Evidence-based Perspective of Scutellaria Barbata (Skullcap) for Cancer Patients ..................................................... 155
   Brian Y. Y. Wong and Hannah H. L. Wong
9 An Evidence-based Perspective of *Hedyotis Diffusa* or *Oldenlandia Diffusa* (Spreading Hedyotis) for Cancer Patients ..... 179
Jun Shao, Guoqing Gong and Louis Trombetta

10 An Evidence-based Perspective of *Allium Sativum* (Garlic) for Cancer Patients ................................................................. 193
Anna Herman-Antosiewicz, Anna Kawiak and Jędrzej Antosiewicz

11 An Evidence-based Perspective of *Curcuma Longa* (Turmeric) for Cancer Patients ............................................................ 225
G. Bar-Sela and M. Schaffer

12 An Evidence-based Perspective of *Ganoderma Lucidum* (Lucid Ganoderma) for Cancer Patients ........................................... 245
Zheng-Yuan Su and Lee-Yan Sheen

13 An Evidence-based Perspective of *Coriolus Versicolor* (Multicolored Polypore Mushroom) for Cancer Patients ....................... 265
Stanislava Stošić-Grujičić, Sanja Mijatović and Danijela Maksimović-Ivanić

14 An Evidence-based Perspective of *Lentinus Edodes* (Shiitake Mushroom) for Cancer Patients ................................................. 303
Jiao Shen, Jia-fei Yao, Mamoru Tanida, Yuko Horii and Katsuya Nagai

15 Molecular Targets of Resveratrol in Carcinogenesis ................................................................. 319
Seung J. Baek and Nichelle C. Whitlock

16 An Evidence-based Perspective of *Camellia Sinensis* (Green Tea) for Cancer Patients ............................................................... 349
Joshua D. Lambert

17 *Mylabris Phalerata* (Chinese Blister Beetle) on Hematological Malignancies ................................................................. 375
Masahiro Kizaki and Morihiko Sagawa

18 An Evidence-based Perspective of *Bufo Gargarizans* (Asiatic Toad) for Cancer Patients ........................................................... 389
Paulus S. Wang, Jiun-Yih Yeh, Ching-Han Yu and Shyi-Wu Wang

19 An Evidence-based Perspective of Herbal Remedies for Cancer Patients ................................................................. 409
Harendra S. Parekh and Jing Jing

Index .................................................................................................................. 433
Contributors

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Introduction

Cancer is one of the leading killers in the world and the incidence is rising, but most cancer patients and cancer survivors suffer much from the disease and its conventional treatments’ side effects. Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) has been increasingly utilized by cancer patients in developed countries. Among the various forms of CAM, some traditional medicines have well constructed theoretical frameworks and established treatment approaches for diseases including cancer. Recent researches have revealed growing evidences suggesting that CAM is effective in the supportive care of cancer patients during and after major conventional cancer treatments.

However, some clinicians and scientists have queried about the anticancer abilities of CAM due to the lack of scientific evidence. There is great demand in the knowledge gap to explore the scientific and evidence-based knowledge of CAM in the anticancer field. With this aim, a book series is needed to structurally deliver the knowledge to readers.

This book series seeks to provide scientific evidence supporting the study of anticancer CAM modalities, particularly traditional medicines. It emphasizes health outcome, while documenting biological mechanisms of action. Gathering international opinion leaders’ views, this book series is devoted to the advancement of science in the field of basic research, clinical study, methodology, and scientific theory in diverse areas of evidence-based anticancer CAM. Each volume discusses different research and clinical evidences that support the usage of various CAM treatment strategies including materia medica, acupuncture, Tai Chi, massage, mind-body medicine, and diet therapy as an anticancer treatment. The volumes contain concrete evidence-based anticancer CAM information and I envision this book series will assist healthcare providers and patients for the battle against cancer.