

Preface

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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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.



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