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Empirical Techniques to Scientific Validation

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Preface

Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM) has been practiced, developed and advanced in China for the medical treatment of animals for over four thousand years. In modern China, TCVM including acupuncture and herbal medicine is an integral part of mainstream veterinary medical care, supported by evidence-based research and clinical studies by Chinese practitioners and researchers. However, due to the lack of English-language publications and conferences, TCVM has long been inaccessible and unknown to many Western practitioners. In recognition both of this problem and the real benefits of TCVM for animals, the late Professor Chuan Yu (1924-2005), the most important figure in modern TCVM history, devoted his life to promoting TCVM internationally.

Professor Yu's vision was for TCVM to be a major contributor to veterinary medicine and become part of mainstream veterinary medical care not only in China, but worldwide. Through his exceptional skill and hard work, and with the strong support of his peers, his students and the China National Society of TCVM, the first International Conference on Veterinary Acupuncture was successfully held in Beijing, China in May, 1987. This was the first international TCVM congress ever held in China, and 211 veterinary practitioners, professors and researchers from more than 10 countries participated. This conference initiated international exchange and dialog between the Eastern and Western veterinary communities. Since then, ever increasing numbers of Chinese scholars have been invited to speak about veterinary acupuncture in Western countries, throughout Asia, Europe and North America.

Times are now rapidly changing, and wonderfully, Professor Yu's vision is coming closer to reality. In addition to acupuncture, the other TCVM modalities - Chinese herbal medicine, food therapy and Tui-na – are now being used in veterinary clinics worldwide. A tremendous number of scientific research studies have been conducted, which validate the efficacy and mechanisms of action of Chinese herbs. Together, the Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine (ITCVM), the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS, China), and the Chi Institute of Chinese Medicine (Chi Institute, USA) have determined that right now it is the time for China to host the first International Conference on Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine along with the 12th Chi Institute Annual Conference. The China Ministry of Agriculture and CAAS have approved and are supporting this conference, which has attracted 102 high-quality paper submissions. We have selected 50 of these articles for publication in the proceedings. To honor both these papers and Professor Chuan Yu, and to continue to promote the Professor's wish for TCVM to become truly international, we have compiled these papers into this book.

“Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine Empirical Techniques to Scientific Validation” is a great resource for learning about the many aspects of this growing field of veterinary medicine. It is a collection of the latest scientific research papers and articles on clinical TCVM application, which have been translated and consolidated for Western practitioners to easily be able to access and understand. This book is intended to illustrate the effectiveness of TCVM, as well as provide practical, evidence-based information to enhance veterinary practitioners’ clinical application of acupuncture, herbal medicine, food therapy and Tui-na. To assist readers, the book is presented in five parts: Basic Scientific Research, Small Animals, Exotic Animals, Large Animals, and finally Pediatric and Geriatric Medicine.

As we publish this book, we express our deep gratitude to the conference speakers and authors of each paper, for contributing their valuable knowledge and great wisdom. We extend our appreciation to Knan Lee, Dr. Lisa Trevisanello, Dr. Kelly Chandler, Dr. Lindsey Wedemeyer, Anita Weiss, and Jessica Spell for their intensive proofreading and editing of all the papers and articles. We also thank Drs. Jifang Zheng and Chaoying Luo for coordinating the conference details. Finally, we sincerely appreciate the financial support of the Institute of Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine, the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and the Chi Institute of Chinese Medicine.

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