

## Reviews of Concise Chinese Materia Medica

“What sets the *Concise Chinese Materia Medica* a notch above others is the inclusion of precise study tools for memorization, a rigorous application of didactic principles, and a CD-ROM with additional study and self-test materials and high-resolution photographs of the medicinals as found in professional Chinese medical pharmacies. Sections in each chapter explain all the patterns and pathomechanisms that are associated with the medicinals in that chapter. Every new therapeutic and pathologic concept is explained in precise detail before it is used to explain medicinal functions. Until now, students have been forced to memorize data about each medicinal without a clear understanding of what many of the essential concepts meant, as no text has clearly defined them. . . . With this more productive didactic approach, what the students learn for their exams remains with them into clinical practice.

“Over the years, I have constantly searched for tools to facilitate teaching this sometimes difficult subject. I have used the work-in-progress version of *Concise Chinese Materia Medica* in my classroom for a number of years and am proud to have contributed to this text in some small way. I look forward to its adoption by Chinese medicine teaching schools throughout the world.”

— Z'ev Rosenberg, LAc., Dipl Ac., FNAAOM  
Chair, Department of Herbal Medicine, Pacific College of Oriental  
Medicine, San Diego, California

“I am extremely impressed by this new materia medica compiled by Eric Brand and Nigel Wiseman. I'm sure it will become my standard for looking up Chinese medicinals in English. I believe this materia medica stands head and shoulders above the rest. This book should become our entire profession's standard—it's that good.”

— Bob Flaws, LAc, FNAAOM (USA), FRCHM (UK)

“If you are planning to learn or to teach Chinese materia medica this is the book to use. Existing texts are typically limited by poor term choice, idiosyncratic design, and the omission of traditional theory. In many cases

they are really unwieldy reference works, poorly designed for teaching or learning.

“*The Concise Chinese Materia Medica* offers a clear presentation of the fundamental concepts and materials of traditional Chinese medicine organized in a way that supports learning and teaching according to traditional principles. Each category is placed in the context of traditional theory and practice, beginning with a discussion of relevant pathologies (including the correct description of traditional diseases) and therapeutic principles used to address them. The materia medica itself is discussed with the thoroughness and brevity that is the hallmark of expert knowledge in the utilization of Chinese medicinals. Detail is provided where detail is needed. Traditional pairings, comparisons, and safety issues are presented in a way that is designed to guide both effective clinical practice and effective learning. The inclusion of a CD- ROM with color images and self tests means that students can support their study efficiently and productively.

“After years of teaching the Chinese materia medica without access to well-designed texts, it is a great joy to have a text that effectively supports the study of Chinese materia medica based on its traditional terms and approaches. As I would work around the design of existing texts to try to provide students with a useful approach to the study of medicinals, this is the text that I had wished for. The *Concise Chinese Materia Medica* conveys a traditional practitioner’s sensibility in a language that opens the door fully to the practice of Chinese medicine.

— Kevin V. Ergil, MA, MS, LAc Dipl. Oriental Medicine  
(NCCAOM), FAAPM

Associate Professor, School of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine,  
New York Chiropractic College