

Europeans will benefit from new network for complementary medicine

More than 100 million citizens in the EU are regular users of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM), but there is a significant lack of funding and scientific co-operation in this area compared to conventional medicine.

Now, for the benefit of the citizens' health and safety, a European co-operation project will create an EU wide "road map" that encompasses the preconditions for future research within CAM in Europe. The European 3-year project called „CAMbrella“ receives nearly 1.5 million Euro of funding from the European Commission and will start in January 2010. Coordinated out of Munich with support of a management team including Prof. Benno Brinkhaus from Charité Berlin and the Bavarian Research Alliance GmbH. CAMbrella stands for an umbrella of research projects in Complementary and Alternative Medicine.

“Our objective is to build a network of European research institutes in complementary medicine, fostering international cooperation. CAMbrella's 8 working groups will focus on terminology, legal regulation, patients' needs, the role of CAM treatments in healthcare systems, and research methodology” says the overall project coordinator Dr. Wolfgang Weidenhammer, Centre for Complementary Medicine Research, Technische Universität, Munich, Germany.

“We will develop a comprehensive understanding of the current status of CAM in Europe, which will serve as a starting point for future research activities”.

The research group consists of 16 scientific partner organisations from 12 European countries. The project is supported by an Advisory Board, which reflects the relevant stakeholder organisations including patients, practitioners, providers and consumers.

“In 2008, the European Commission for the first time announced a sponsorship in the field of complementary medicine – in the context of the 7th Framework Programme. The funding of CAMbrella crowns the efforts of numerous European initiatives and organisations for getting complementary medicine into an European focus” says Dr. Weidenhammer.

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A pan-European research network for complementary and alternative medicine CAM

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