

# CHINA UPDATES

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## **Novel Chinese Herbal Medicine May Help In Healing Spinal Cord Injuries**

Researchers have found that the Chinese herbal medicine, known as Ji-Sui-Kang (JSK), improved spinal cord injury outcomes in rats.

The study, published in *Restorative Neurology and Neuroscience*, showed that JSK improved locomotor function, reduced tissue damage, and preserved the structure of neural cells in rats with spinal cord injuries.

Although Chinese herbal medicines have traditionally been used for a variety of ailments, the rationale for their use relies more on anecdotal evidence than the results of modern-day controlled experiments.

"A number of anecdotal reports from Chinese medicine practitioners indicate that treatment with a novel herbal formulation, JSK, for periods of one week or three months improved functional recovery," explains co-lead investigator Dr Shucui Jiang.

"Our present study provides an important and necessary foundation for further studies of JSK."

In this study, rats began JSK treatment immediately after undergoing spinal cord injury. Within 7 days, hind limb locomotor function was

China Updates is a service provided by U.S.-China Health Products Association. The Newsletters are issued approximately three times a month. China Updates provides news on regulatory environment, new legislation, association activities and any information related to China's natural health products industry.

significantly better in JSK-treated rats compared to those receiving only saline.

JSK-treated rats continued to have better motor function than controls throughout the 21-day test period and treated animals appeared to support their weight better and have more coordinated movements.

“Our data suggest that JSK may enhance tissue recovery by reducing cell growth inhibitors and by promoting the proliferation of cells within the injured spinal cord,” said co-lead investigator Professor Michel P. Rathbone.

According to the researchers, JSK targets multiple biochemical and cellular pathways that may help protect

against the primary traumatic injury as well as subsequent secondary injuries that evolve over time.

Although the complete herbal composition of JSK was not disclosed for proprietary reasons, some of its ingredients include Ginseng, Rhizoma (chuan xiong), Glycyrrhizae Radix (gan cao), Paeoniae Alba Radix (bai shao) and Cinnamomi Cortex (rou gui). (Source: Asian Scientist)

## Export of Plant Extracts in China Increased

According to statistics from China Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Medicines & Health Products, the export of plant extracts in the first half of this year has reached \$694 million, a year-on-year increase of 17.16 %.

The recent years see an increase of demand for plant extracts in international market, including that in America, India and Germany.

Many mainstream medicine and health products companies in China become aware of the growth and are planning to tap in to the market. Companies including JIAHERB in Shanxi province and Ganzhou Julong High-tech Co. in Jiangxi province are experiencing explosive growth in plant extracts export, which tend to further the export growth of China’s traditional medicine. (Source: China News Agency)

## Organic Milk Powder Sold in China

Concerning the quality of milk powder, some Chinese parents start to consider buying organic milk powder.

According to maternity website, China’s dairy company Ausnutria bought Hyproca, a Dutch dairy brand, last year. Hyproca is a company with 115 years of experience in making dairy products. It is also the largest producer of goat milk powder and the only organic milk powder production company in Holland. As organic milk is demanding in its dairy source, which needs to be from organic pasture that is free of pesticide for over three years, the acquisition helped Ausnutria to get ahead in organic milk market.

The quality of Ausnutria’s organic products has passed the test by Peking University, China’s leading academic establishment, and is said to be able to alleviate the burden put on baby’s kidney and facilitate the absorbing of nutrition. Statistics showed that the organic milk powder by Ausnutria is the first in this kind in

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China's market, and has won support from the customers and is sold well in domestic market. (Source: China News Agency)

### Authority Emphasized on Cracking Down Online Fake Drug Selling

Recently, China's national online information office and CFDA called up more than 20 companies of web portal, e-commerce website and search portal to reiterate the importance of cracking down online fake drug selling.

At this moment, 159 companies nationwide have acquired the certificate to trade drugs online, while 101 of them can sell drugs to customers directly online. However, as illegal drug sellers can easily set up websites to sell fake drugs and it is hard to trace them, the public has lost confidence in online trading regarding drugs and health products. Many illegal drug dealers are setting up server for their website outside the country, which makes the regulation even harder.

To tackle the problem illustrated above, the CFDA cooperated with national online information office, Ministry of Industry & Information Technology, Ministry of Public Security and State Administration of Industry & Commerce to launch cracking-down on illegal drug selling online.

The authority asked the internet companies to delete illegal advertisement on drugs voluntarily and the search portals need to put the information of legal drug sites ahead in the search results. The internet companies are asked to roll out specific systems to regulate and inspect the information of related websites. The communication channel of the illegal drug websites need to be cut off in time, said the authority.

China's southern Guangdong province steps up efforts to upgrade the sales method of health products in the province, and set up long-term system to regulate the online sales. (Source: CFDA)

### Health Products Online Store Launched in Guangdong

On Aug,12, guided by the local FDA and initiated by Southern News website, the website of Guangdong Health Products Store was launched officially.

The online store has gathered big-brands of health products based in the province. The store targets at health product companies in the province and will take efforts to regulate the online health food sales, product introduction and promotion of health food culture so as to build a high-quality sales channel to win over customers.

The product data in this website is gathered from the online database of local FDA, so customers can search for reliable information of related companies in this website, including the issuing number of the health food, the quality of the company and its advertisement approval. In this way, customers can get a better idea of the production company, which makes it impossible for the illegal productions to fake any information.

The website invited 22 companies to take the lead to sell their health products in the website. All products sold in this website are guaranteed to be legally registered products.

The Guangdong Health Products Store is the first website in this kind in China. It aims to help promote the local health products brands and set up high-quality e-commerce website to promote product network. (Source: CFDA)

## Fake Health Products Checked

According to the website of CFDA, since the authority launched crack-down on fake health products since May, the authorities nationwide have detained about 645,000 boxes (bottles) of illegal health products with the value of 370 million yuan (\$60.45 million).



According to the authority, local FDA branches nationwide have deployed over 490,000 staffs to devote into this crack-down, and have inspected over 263,000 health product companies. The underperforming companies were fined by 11 million yuan (\$1.8 million) in total. The public security bureaus were involved in 208 cases. (Source: China News Website)

## Wine Website Launched in China

China's online wine website is launched recently, aiming at spreading information of wine industry,

integrating the organic wine industry resources and expanding the online service of wine industry. "The customers need a platform to be informed of organic food and food safety," said Han Jianping, CEO of China Organic Wine Website.

Since customers are inclined to buy green and healthy organic food, the organic wine appears to be promising in the market. According to people who are in charge of the website, though the competition of wine companies in China is fierce, most of them don't know much about the features and production areas of organic wine. To promote knowledge of organic wine, the website will put a lot of efforts to promote organic wine.

A sales manager of a domestic organic wine company said that when they promoted organic wine in Zhejiang province and Fujian province, the local customers were very interested in the organic wine coming from west part of the country.

Now the competition on wine sales online is becoming increasingly fierce. "We will focus on providing service," said operation manager of the Website. "Wine sales will experience segmentation in the e-commerce platform."

Recently, many wine sellers have been devoted to promoting their high-end products online. To gain edge in the market, some online stores cooperate with chateaus directly and provide high-end wines directly to the domestic consumer, which is seen as a very promising business strategy. (Source: China News Agency)

## Too much aluminum in third of Chinese diets

More than 30 percent of Chinese people's diets contain more aluminum than recommended, research has found.

Excessive ingestion of aluminum can lead to neurological and respiratory problems and affect bone development.

Some 40 percent of excess aluminum in Chinese diets is found in flour, according to Chen Junshi, a food expert.

Baking powders, such as alum, added to flour are mainly to blame, say experts.



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While they help make flour products look and taste better, they are overused by some Chinese food manufacturers.

While the World Health Organization recommends a weekly intake of no more than 2 milligrams per kilogram of body weight, 32.5 percent Chinese people ingest levels above this, researchers found.

Some 44 percent of the excess amount comes from flour, followed by steamed bread (24 percent) and fried dough sticks (10 percent) — a traditional snack for breakfast.

People in northern China — who traditionally prefer flour-based products such as noodles — absorb four times as much aluminum as those in the south, the study found.

And 43 percent of children aged between four and six eat 2.6 times the maximum recommended amount, Guangzhou Daily reported.

Research was based on 6,600 samples of 11 kinds of food. (Source: People's Daily)

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