CAM-Research in Austria

A Survey 2009 and steps towards a roadmap

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www.gesundheitsforschung.at
ESIHR

• European Society of Integrative Health Research (Vienna, Austria)

  • Society for the promotion of CAM Research by networking and knowledge sharing

  • Workshops and Projects

• In collaboration with

SClgenia Research Support, Project Design & Management
www.scigenia.com
CONTENT

• Overview

• Some specific results

• Conclusions and Outlook
CAM Research in Austria

Survey and Workshop

• carried out in 2009 by ESIHR
• Survey financed by the Federal Ministry of Science and Research
• Content:
  ▪ CAM research topics
  ▪ priorities of researchers for a CAM research roadmap
  ▪ financial needs
• Workshop sponsored by the
  ▪ Federal Ministry of Science and Research and the
  ▪ Federal Ministry of Health
METHODS USED

• Questionnaire
  – qualitative and
  – quantitative items

• About 200 questionnaires sent to
  – individual researchers
  – institutions and
  – practitioners

• 122 respondents: 40% female researchers
QUESTIONARE

6 categories of research fields (multiple choices possible):

- Traditional Alternative Medical Systems in Non-European Cultures (e.g. TCM, Ayurveda,...)
- Biological Therapies and Traditional European Medicine (e.g. phytotherapy, Kneipp, domestic cures, climate therapy, etc.)
- Manipulative body based Therapies (e.g. osteopathy, massage therapies, manual therapies)
- Mind-Body Therapies (e.g. Yoga, TaiChi, relaxing techniques, meditation, etc.)
- Methods emerging from TEM (e.g. Homeopathy, Anthroposophy,...)
- Other fields
MAIN RESULTS

• Survey of CAM research fields in Austria
  – Importance of CAM research in universities and non-university research institutions
  – High diversity of research topics and CAM-practices
  – High importance of research on medicinal plants (Pharmacognosy, Phytotherapy) and natural products

• Respondents’ priorities for CAM research

• Projects sizes and needs for public funding
CONTENT

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The main research institutions are located in the capital (Vienna) and other university cities.
Self Assessment of Researchers

- Traditional Alternative Medical Systems in Non-European Cultures: 46
- Biological Therapies and Traditional European Medicine (TEM): 48
- Manipulative body related Therapies: 38
- Mind-Body-Therapies: 30
- Therapies emerging from TEM: 38
- Other research fields: 34
Current Research Topics

- Traditional Alternative Medical Systems in Non-European Cultures: 39 cases
- Biological Therapies and Traditional European Medicine (TEM): 26 cases
- Manipulative body related Therapies: 28 cases
- Mind-Body-Therapies: 25 cases
- Therapies emerging from TEM: 36 cases
- Other research fields: 28 cases
Research Topics 2011

- Traditional Alternative Medical Systems in Non-European Cultures: 24
- Biological Therapies and Traditional European Medicine (TEM): 17
- Manipulative body related Therapies: 17
- Mind-Body-Therapies: 15
- Therapies emerging from TEM: 14
- Other research fields: 14
Priority 1 Research Topics

- Traditional Alternative Medical Systems in Non-European Cultures: 36
- Biological Therapies and Traditional European Medicine (TEM): 33
- Manipulative body related Therapies: 28
- Mind-Body-Therapies: 25
- Therapies emerging from TEM: 24
- Other research fields: 24
Project Size 2009

- Blue: up to €20,000 (30 projects)
- Red: up to €50,000 (7 projects)
- Green: up to €100,000 (19 projects)
- Purple: up to €200,000 (6 projects)
- Cyan: > €200,000 (7 projects)
About 50% of the CAM researchers who need additional financial resources aim for public subsidies.
Workshop CAM Research

Recommended focus for future research promotion:
• Emphasis on European traditions of healing
• Scientific foundation and evaluation of holistic approaches
• Prevention and therapies based on native medicinal herbs
• Manipulative body related therapies and Mind-body-therapies as new fields of research
• Scientific foundation of CAM-methods to raise Austria’s competitiveness in the international health tourism

Aim: Improved supply quality by research
CONTENT

- Overview
- Some specific results
- Conclusions and Outlook
Conclusions 1

CAM research should be supported by public sources:

• CAM research offers the opportunity to improve health services, but there is a substantial need for research:
  • Models (for prognoses) to be developed,
  • Modes of action to be found and
  • CAM-methods evaluated.
• There is a wide range of relevant research projects in Austria,
• many CAM-research projects need public funding.
Conclusions 2

• **Networking activities (national and EU level):**
  - to stimulate partnerships and
  - to promote CAM research.

• **Workshops supported by public authorities and/or private sponsors:**
  - to present and discuss results of CAM-research
  - to present intended research projects
  - to offer a forum for investors and CAM-researchers
  - to discuss research roadmaps and financial needs and support
Outlook

To integrate the currently scattered researchers in a research community and to provide a long term perspective as well we suggest installing

a national coordination and contact point

in order to

• actively promote networking
• constitute a national research platform
• serve as an international contact point
• promote public awareness
• promote public health