



# New MSc programme

Exciting changes afoot. Charlotte Brydon-Smith puts the questions to **Tony Booker**

### What inspired you to rewrite the College's Chinese herbal medicine programme?

It's definitely been a joint effort between various staff members. Following on from the success of our undergraduate BSc (Hons) Acupuncture course we felt what was needed was a postgraduate qualification in herbs with robust educational credentials. That's what really started the ball rolling towards launching an MSc, with Greg Lampert doing much of the detailed work involved in developing the syllabus, and Di Eckersley using her expertise to bring it in line with the educational requirements of a masters course.



### What are the main changes afoot?

We'll be offering three courses (subject to validation). The **one-year postgraduate certificate course** for acupuncturists will cover, amongst other things, the use of pre-prepared formulae (**patents**) and entitle graduates to prescribe them. The natural next

step for postgraduate certificate holders will be our **postgraduate diploma course**, and the third option will be our new **MSc**, which will confer full practitioner status. In all cases accreditation of prior learning will determine the precise details of an applicant's course.

We have taken on some **new lecturers** who will bring additional energy and ideas to the mix, including some great home-study packages in the western science elements. We also have a **new dispensary** and a **student herb clinic** that's open to the public which will give students the dispensary training they need early on in the programme.

### How will interested students or practitioners benefit from these changes?

This new programme is going to be challenging and stimulating but I also think it's going to be fun. We have some great lecturers who really bring their subjects to life. We'll be visiting the Bristol Chinese Herb Garden during the dispensary training, and making trips to the herbarium and laboratories at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Couple this with the warm and friendly learning environment for which this College is known, and you have a sure recipe for success.

If you'd like to discuss any aspect of this training, and what it can offer you please arrange to speak to me by ringing **0118 950 8880** or email **tony.booker@cicm.org.uk**

For more details of this training visit our website **cicm.org.uk**