Traditional Chinese Medicine Records

Professor Athula Ginige and Professor Anthony Maeder from the School of Computing and Mathematics, Professor Alan Bensoussan from the Centre for Complementary Medicine Research and Dr Xiaoshu Zhu from the School of Biomedical and Health Sciences together with Surity Pty. Ltd., have been awarded a UWS Research Partnership grant to develop an electronic medical record information system for traditional Chinese medicine practitioners.

'This project will research, design and develop an electronic medical record information system enabling traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners to efficiently capture and manage patient consultations electronically,' explains Professor Ginige. 'There are an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 TCM practitioners in Australia who from July 2012 will be required to comply with national registration requirements in order to practice. Generally there are no widely used systems to record electronically individual patient consultations with TCM practitioners. This information about consultations can be designed to promote efficiency for practitioners and increased clinical safety for patients.'

The research team will investigate the best characteristics and functionality of user interfaces which is essential for TCM practitioners to accept the proposed system. They will explore how can pre-existing TCM knowledge (related to diagnosis and treatment processes) can be easily integrated into the proposed system. The development of the prototype will be undertaken using a scenario based design approach on identified scenarios. To develop the prototype user-interface, a range of applied technologies will be trialled and a fully functional prototype will then be evaluated by practitioners.

The project will establish a prototype system that allows all TCM consultation activities to potentially interface with standard systems used by western medicine practitioners like Medical Director and other e-Health software. In the long term, this will facilitate integrated record management, including all medical and allied healthcare and increase patient safety.

Project Title: Electronic Health Record Data Capture and Management in Chinese Medicine Consultations
Funding has been set at: $25,000
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http://www.uws.edu.au/computing_mathematics
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The industry partner Surity Pty Ltd is an Australian SME focused on health software development, with existing products in pathology and clinical documentation. In addition to technical expertise they are contributing $25,000 to this project.