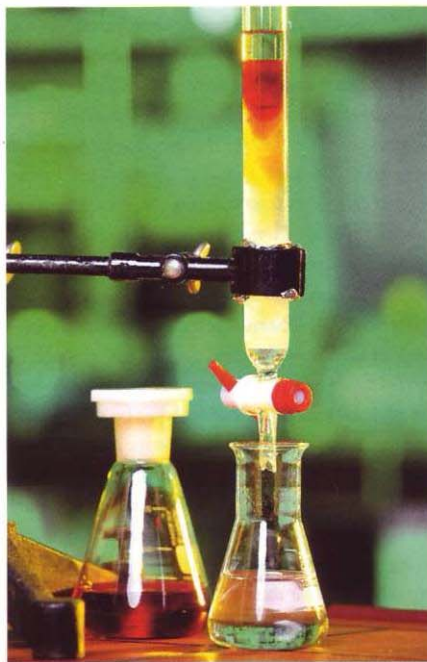


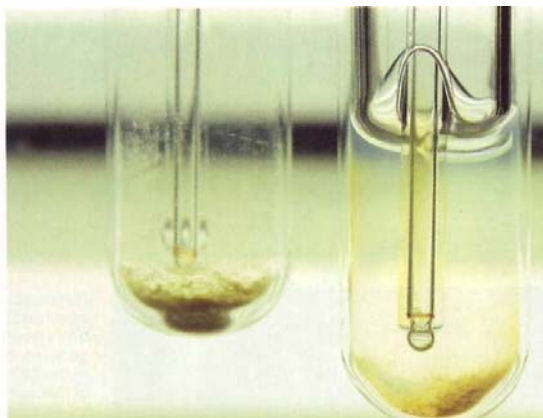
An entirely different area of medicine is being researched by the TCM Center in Graz. For what patients are turning to, at least as a supplement to conventional medicine, is scientifically not always un-

controversial - Traditional Chinese Medicine. At the Interuniversity Competence Center the effect of far eastern herbs and various acupuncture methods are examined according to western criteria. First of all, herbs have to be clearly identified. Due to the enormous size of China there are various designations for many species of plants, which means that the first priority of analyses is the clear identification and classification of plants, explains Rudolf Bauer, head of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the Department of Pharmacognosy at Karl-Franzens-University in Graz. This has not taken place exclusively under the microscope for some time now, rather by acquiring genetic fingerprints. Then tests are made concerning the effectiveness of specific substances. A relevant metabolic profile is created with the help of thin-layer chromatography. For the respective plant to be actually included in the pharmacopeia, a concentration of a substance at a certain amount must be demonstrated, the possible side effects clarified and toxicological substances ruled out. For example, Bauer's research team has patented a substance that is highly effective against mycobacteria – the catalysts for tuberculosis. Naturally, there is close cooperation with Chinese partners. While the natural



**What substance works and how well? Evaluating medications and their uses, informing physicians, systematising knowledge – new foundations for preventive decisions in the healthcare industry.**

**High-tech-procedures in acupuncture and pharmacological research: "Scientifically demystifying TCM" is our motto when analysing Chinese healing traditions based on conventional medical criteria.**



scientific research concerning methods takes place in Austria, clinical data providing information on findings in the application come primarily from China. This is also true for acupuncture. Gerhard Litscher, head of the Research Unit for Biomedical Engineering in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine at the University of Medicine in Graz has worked on high-tech acupuncture for over ten years. This enables an entirely pain-free treatment, for punctures can be eliminated using a laser needle or electro-acupuncture. This also enables the development of an objectification of acupuncture techniques through the exclusion of the placebo effect. For example, changes in brainwaves and in peripheral circulation, as in the hands, have been ascertained upon application; further tests are underway. What Litscher as well as Bauer emphatically point out: "What we are doing is basic research according to the rules of conventional medicine."

## TCM

**THE RESEARCH CENTER** for Traditional Chinese Medicine studies far eastern herbs and high-tech acupuncture methods in cooperation with Chinese scientists. Information under: <http://www.tcm-graz.at>