

# EsSalud, WHO Collaborating Center for Traditional and Complementary Medicine in Peru

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Dear Editor,

Since the foundation of the World Health Organization (WHO), there are the so-called collaborating centers (CC), institutions of excellence in a given subject, designated by the CEO, in order to systematize and develop WHO programs, in addition to strategic support for the organization, guaranteeing the execution of activities, as well as generating institutional capacities in the countries [1]. The first CC was the Biological Department of the Statens Serum Institute of Copenhagen in 1948, and currently there are 846 CC that make up the international CC network [2, 3].

After the WHO determined the importance of incorporating Traditional and Complementary Medicine (TCM), many countries responded by articulating their ancestral knowledge within their current health systems with the acceptance of TCM, due to low risk, cultural acceptance, and increasing numbers of chronic diseases, as well as the high costs of conventional health care [4, 5]. Thanks to this response, over 23 CC for TCM have been recognized, Peru (in 2019) being the first CC for TCM designated in Latin America [1] (Table 1).

Not far from that reality, there has been a complementary medicine service since 1998 in Peru, inserted in one of the three major health systems of the country, Seguro Social de Salud (EsSalud), which is currently treating nearly one million patients in its three levels of health care (55 care units, 29 care centers, and 1 palliative care unit); thus, guaranteeing an integral attention with an intercultural approach to the patient, since they are evaluated considering biological, psycho-emotional, spiritual, and social aspects [6].

The CC for TCM in Peru has become a leader in South America in order to achieve the dialogue between TCM and the health

systems, working together with public institutions, universities, and research institutes, in order to achieve health services with an integrative vision with intercultural relevance, health professionals specialized in TCIM (traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine), and sufficient levels of evidence that demonstrate cost-effectiveness in the care of the patient, their family, and the community.

## Disclosure Statement

Martha Villar López works in the management of complementary medicine Seguro Social de Salud (EsSalud).

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## Author Contributions

J.V.-G. drafted the manuscript. J.J.H.-R. and M.V.L. drafted, revised, and corrected the manuscript.

**Table 1.** WHO collaboration center for traditional medicine

Region/Country	City	Institution's name	Date of appointment	Centers, <i>n</i>
<b>America</b>				
Peru	Lima	Seguro Social de Salud del Perú (EsSalud)	Jan 25, 2019	1
USA	Chicago	University of Illinois at Chicago	Sep 23, 2016	1
<b>Europe</b>				
Italy	Milan	University of Milan	Jul 11, 1997	1
Norway	Tromso	UiT – The Arctic University of Norway	Feb 11, 2008	1
<b>South-East Asia</b>				
Thailand	Bangkok	Mahidol University	Feb 8, 2018	1
India	New Delhi	Morarji Desai National Yoga Institute	Mar 5, 2013	1
	Jamnagar	Ayurved University of Gujarat	Apr 5, 2013	1
<b>West Pacific</b>				
China	Hong Kong SAR	Department of Health, Hong Kong SAR	Apr 20, 2012	1
	Beijing	Institute of Chinese Materia Medica, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences	Aug 5, 1983	5
		Institute of Acupuncture & Moxibustion, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences	Aug 5, 1983	
		Institute of Clinical Research & Information, China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences	Aug 5, 1983	
		National Institutes for Food and Drug Control (NIFDC)	Mar 7, 2017	
		Institute of Medical Plant Development (IMPLAD), China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences	Feb 12, 1986	
	Shanghai	Fudan University Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine	May 8, 1983 Aug 5, 1983	2
	Nanjing	Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine	Aug 5, 1983	1
Macao	Health Bureau, Macao SAR Government	Aug 3, 2015	1	
Republic of Korea	Daejeon	Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine	Feb 24, 2011	1
	Seoul	Kyung Hee University	Apr 18, 1988	1
Japan	Toyama	University of Toyama	Apr 23, 1988	1
	Tokyo	Kitasato University	Feb 11, 1986	1
Australia	Melbourne	RMIT University	Sep 16, 2005	1
Vietnam	Hanoi	National hospital of Traditional Medicine	Feb 29, 1988	1

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