



**HCOWA**  
ASSOCIATION



**Health** *pulse*



**5TH CONFERENCE**

## **SEMINAR ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF SMART CHINESE MEDICINE IN HEALTHCARE**

**THEME:** BRIDGING TRADITION AND TECHNOLOGY: AI-DRIVEN  
INNOVATIONS IN AFRICAN AND CHINESE MEDICINE







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# Event Introduction

Welcome to the **5th** edition of the Special Edition magazine by the Health Community of West Africa (HCOWA) Association. This special issue captures the essence and impact of the 5th AI in Healthcare Seminar held on **April 4th, 2025**, at the HCOWA Headquarters, La Trade Fair, Accra. Under the powerful and forward-thinking theme **“Bridging Tradition and Technology: AI-Driven Innovations in Africa and Chinese Medicine,”** the event brought together a distinguished group of experts, thought leaders, and stakeholders from across the healthcare and technology sectors to explore the transformative role artificial intelligence (AI) can play in the development, application, and regulation of

herbal medicine in Africa.

As modern medicine continues to evolve, the world is gradually awakening to the deep-rooted value and effectiveness of traditional healing systems. African herbal medicine, much like Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), carries centuries of knowledge passed down through generations. However, to meet the rising expectations of today’s healthcare consumers and align with global health standards, the herbal medicine industry must embrace technological innovation—particularly AI. This seminar was designed to provide a platform for dialogue, knowledge sharing, and collaborative visioning around this critical subject.

One of the keynote speakers, **Dr. Yakubu Tubor Yusuf**, Registrar of the Traditional Medicine Practice Council (TMPC), provided a compelling perspective on the relevance of traditional medicine in today’s healthcare ecosystem. A graduate of KNUST and a passionate advocate for the integration of herbal medicine into mainstream health delivery, Dr. Yusuf emphasized that traditional medicine is not outdated—it is a reservoir of knowledge that can be amplified and modernized through AI. He noted that many modern pharmaceutical solutions originated from herbal traditions, and now, AI presents an opportunity to elevate traditional practices with data-driven precision and accessibility.

Adding to the dialogue was **Dr. Sandra Ashong**, President of the Ghana Association of Medical Herbalists, who brought to light the critical structure of the herbal medicine ecosystem, including research, regulation, cultivation, clinical practice, education, and product development. She underscored that AI is no longer a distant concept but a reality that is being applied in various areas of herbal medicine, from diagnosing conditions to improving product efficacy and safety. Dr. Ashong advocated for sustained investment in innovation, urging practitioners and stakeholders to adapt and grow with technological advancements to remain relevant and impactful.

**Mr. Okogye Abibiduro Nana Kwadwo Obiri**, General Secretary of the Ghana Federation of Traditional Medicine Practitioners Associations (GHAFTRAM), reinforced the sentiment that the future of traditional medicine in Africa lies in its ability to evolve. In his view, AI is the catalyst that can help reposition herbal medicine as a reliable and globally recognized solution. He emphasized the need for collaboration, capacity-building, and technological training to prepare the next generation of practitioners for a hybrid model of healthcare that respects tradition while embracing innovation. Perhaps one of the most captivating presentations came from

Dr. Ohene Kwabena Safo, General Manager of Kantanka Herbal Pharmaceuticals and Research Centre, who demonstrated how his facility is leveraging modern tools to enhance herbal care delivery. From drone-assisted medicine delivery systems to wearable smart rings that help patients manage their health data, Dr. Safo presented a clear vision of what the future could look like when AI is seamlessly integrated into traditional healthcare systems. He emphasized the importance of standardizing practices, production processes, and professional training—the “three Ps”—to enable a smooth merger between tradition and technology.

This edition is more than a report—it is a visionary collection of knowledge, experiences, and strategies that illustrate the vast potential of AI to transform herbal medicine in Africa. As you turn each page, you'll discover inspiring stories, thought-provoking insights, and actionable ideas. Let us continue to build bridges between our past and our future, where the ancient wisdom of herbal medicine and the precision of artificial intelligence come together to shape a healthier, more inclusive Africa.

### **Fostering Collaboration and Future Integration.**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the president of HCOWA, Sihong Jiang and two prominent Ghanaian herbal medicine institutions; Kantanka Herbal Pharmaceutical and Research Centre and The Ghana Association of Medical Herbalists.

This partnership aims to enhance the quality and efficacy of herbal products through collaborative research, development, and commercialization. By combining their expertise, they can improve the healthcare sector in Ghana, marking a significant milestone in promoting traditional medicine in Ghana.

The Health Community of West Africa Association remains at the forefront of innovative healthcare solutions, championing the integration of herbal medicines to enhance medical outcomes and address regional health challenges.

The seminar concluded with interactive discussions and socialization, where participants expressed strong interests in exploring and integrating AI in the development of herbal medicine.







# SECTION



(SPEECHES)



## GUEST OF HONOUR

**DR. YAKUBU TUBOR YUSUF**

REGISTRAR OF THE TRADITIONAL  
MEDICINE PRACTICE COUNCIL





## KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE REGISTRAR OF THE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PRACTICE COUNCIL, **DR. YUSUF YAKUBU**, ON THE THEME: BRIDGING TRADITION AND TECHNOLOGY: AI-DRIVEN INNOVATIONS IN AFRICAN AND CHINESE MEDICINE.

**D**istinguished guests, our host the Health Community of West Africa – HCOWA, esteemed practitioners, researchers, innovators, and participants, I bring you greetings from the ministry of health and TMPC. We stand today at a historic crossroads - where the ancient wisdom of our ancestors meets the limitless potential of tomorrow's technology. As the newly appointed Registrar of the Traditional Medicine Practice Council of Ghana, I welcome you to this pivotal moment in our journey.

For millennia, traditional healing practices have been the lifeblood of healthcare across Africa and China. These systems weren't merely collections of remedies- they were comprehensive frameworks of knowledge, meticulously refined through generations of practice and observation. Today, artificial intelligence offers us not just tools, but a revolutionary approach to amplify this ancestral wisdom.

Traditional medicine systems across Africa and China have not only serve as the cornerstone of healthcare for millions but have also been the wellspring from which modern pharmaceuticals have drawn inspiration and compounds. Our ancestors developed sophisticated understanding of medicinal plants that continue to revolutionize global healthcare today. We need look no further than the remarkable story of Tu Youyou, the Chinese pharmaceutical chemist whose study of ancient Chinese medical texts led to her discovery of artemisinin from sweet wormwood (*Artemisia annua*), a plant used in Traditional Chinese Medicine for over 2,000 years.

This discovery, which earned her the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 2015, has saved millions of lives through effective malaria treatment worldwide. Similarly, African traditional medicine has contributed significantly to global pharmacology, with plants like *Prunus Africana* (Pygeum) for prostate conditions and *Harpagophytum procumbens* (devil's claw) for inflammatory disorders. These remarkable examples demonstrate that traditional knowledge isn't merely historical - it remains a vital, untapped resource for addressing contemporary health challenges when approached with scientific rigor and respect.

### The Challenge Before Us

The threats to our traditional medicine heritage are real and urgent:

- Undocumented formulations disappearing with each elder who passes
- Inconsistent preparation methods limiting clinical reliability

- Insufficient scientific validation is hindering mainstream acceptance
- The accelerating loss of indigenous knowledge in our digital age

These challenges demand bold, innovative solutions that our government has committed to delivering.

### Government's Vision For Traditional Medicine

The current administration has laid out a comprehensive strategy for traditional and alternative medicine development, recognizing its critical importance to our healthcare system. This vision includes:

1. Expanding academic research by encouraging more public universities to establish dedicated herbal medicine research departments - creating innovation hubs that will drive knowledge development in the sector.
2. Mainstreaming proven traditional practices in patient management at district hospitals - bringing the benefits of our healing traditions directly to the people who need them most.
3. Fostering strategic partnerships between herbal medicinal research institutions and pharmaceutical industries-both locally and internationally - to revolutionize diagnostics, medicine production, and treatment protocols.
4. Strengthening regulatory frameworks through the review of the Ghana Health Service and Teaching Hospitals Act to enhance quality control of plant medicinal products and establish rigorous standards for clinical trials and licensing.
5. Promoting investment in scientific innovation- leveraging modern methods, technological breakthroughs, and advanced equipment to identify active plant ingredients and produce safe, effective herbal medicines.

### The Digital Revolution In Traditional Medicine

The digital transformation of healthcare isn't merely an option for traditional medicine-it's an imperative. As we embrace this new era, we must recognize the unique opportunities it presents:

## Data-Driven Healing:

Through AI analysis, we can now collect and interpret vast amounts of clinical data, refining herbal treatments and creating truly personalized care protocols. The intuitive knowledge of our traditional healers can now be augmented with predictive analytics that forecast treatment outcomes based on comprehensive patient profiles.

## Telemedicine For Equitable Access

In our district and community health facilities, digital platforms are breaking down barriers to care. Medical herbalists can now reach patients in the most remote villages through text messages, phone consultations, and video calls - bringing the healing power of our traditions to every corner of Ghana.

## Digital Marketplaces

Our rich heritage of herbal remedies can now reach global markets through online platforms. This isn't just commerce - it's cultural diplomacy, sharing the profound healing traditions of Ghana with the world while creating economic opportunities for our practitioners.

## Collaborative Networks

Digital platforms are enabling unprecedented collaboration between traditional practitioners and conventional healthcare providers. These partnerships are not just bridging different healing philosophies — they're creating integrated approaches that harness the best of all medical traditions.

## The AI Revolution

**Artificial intelligence represents the next frontier in this Digital transformation:** Machine learning algorithms can analyze thousands of traditional formulations, identifying patterns invisible to the human eye. Natural language processing can preserve oral traditions and ancient texts, creating searchable repositories of wisdom that might otherwise be lost. Computer vision technology can ensure accurate plant identification and standardization, addressing one of the most persistent challenges in herbal medicine.

## Our Path Forward

As we embrace these transformative technologies, we must be guided by unwavering principles:

**Practitioner-Centered Innovation:** Technology must amplify the knowledge and skills of our healers, not replace their judgment or diminish their role.

**Protection Of Indigenous Knowledge:** As we digitize traditional wisdom, we must ensure that communities retain ownership and benefit from any resulting innovations.

**Ethical Implementation:** Privacy, consent, and equitable access must form the foundation of all AI applications in traditional medicine.

**Cross-Cultural Collaboration:** The partnership between African and Chinese medicine systems demonstrates the power of respectful knowledge exchange while preserving the unique aspects of each tradition.

## The TMPC Commitment

The Traditional Medicine Practice Council is committed to creating an enabling regulatory environment that encourages innovation while safeguarding public health and traditional knowledge. We are developing comprehensive guidelines for AI applications in traditional medicine and establishing strategic partnerships with technology developers, research institutions, and practitioner associations.

## Call to Action

I challenge each of you today:  
Think boldly about the possibilities that lie at the intersection of ancient wisdom and cutting-edge technology.

Remain grounded in the values that have sustained traditional medicine for generations. Join us in creating a future where traditional medicine is enhanced - not replaced - by technological innovation.

Together, we will build a healthcare system that honors our past while embracing the future - a system that combines the intuitive wisdom of our ancestors with the analytical power of artificial intelligence.

*Thank you*



# Healing Power of Acupuncture

Balancing Wellness  
Ancient Tradition



THE FUTURE OF  
HEALTHCARE IS

DEPARTMENTS IN HO

**A SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GHANA ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL HERBALISTS DR. SANDRA ASHONG ON THE THEME BRIDGING TRADITION AND TECHNOLOGY: AI-DRIVEN INNOVATIONS IN AFRICA AND CHINESE MEDICINE.**

The Guest of Honor, Prof Alex Asaase, The Registrar of TMPC Dr. MH Yakubu Tubor Yusuf, President of the Health Community of West Africa Association-Madam Sihong Jang, Okogye Abibiduro Nana Obiri, General Secretary of Ghafram, Organizers and the media, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

## Good morning

I bring you all greetings from the GAMH. We are very grateful to be a part of this agenda of advancement in technology in the traditional Medicine Industry spearheaded by the Health Community of West Africa.

Our industry in the past has been seen to be unorthodox and primitive; however, the gradual advancement of technology has brought the neo-herbalism and to better advancement and shift though we still maintain our indigenous and tradition practice.

The theme for today's Seminar is bridging tradition and technology. Ai- driven innovations in African and Chinese medicine. The Herbal medicine industry is made up of regulation, research, clinical medicine practice, manufacturing, cultivation and Education which are striving to enhance their progress to meet the demands and expectations of their customers, utilizing various methodologies. The Herbal medicine industry is a critical field that plays a vital role in saving lives. It now

should operate based on continuous innovation and the adoption of new technologies to address healthcare issues and its challenges.

Artificial intelligence (AI) technologies have now been explored in all fields and disciplines of herbal medicine by herbal medicine experts including medical herbalists in recent years.

**Research and Drug Discovery:** Al-powered methods, such as machine learning, deep learning, network pharmacology, bioinformatics, systems biology, chemical informatics, and computer vision, can link chemical composition, herbal medicine, drugs, target, symptoms, and diseases.

In other words, AI provides new approaches to exploring ancient literature on TM, enabling the screening of major components of herbs or formula, revealing the mechanism of action, and guiding the precise use of TM.

The drug discovery process has traditionally been time-consuming and costly. AI is changing this by analyzing vast datasets to identify potential drug candidates, predict efficacy and streamline clinical trials. AI's ability to sift through complex biological data helps researchers identify promising compounds faster, ultimately accelerating the development of new treatments.

## Clinical Care Delivery

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the healthcare field, it will transform how herbal medical professionals diagnose, treat and care for patients. The integration of AI into healthcare processes brings a wave of innovations that will improve diagnostic accuracy, personalize treatments and streamline operational workflows. AI will help optimize healthcare resources by automating routine administrative tasks, allowing healthcare providers to spend more time with patients.

In addition, AI helps hospitals and clinics predict patient demand, ensuring that staff, equipment and facilities are used more efficiently. Some key areas where AI can be leveraged:

- **Medical Imaging** - Medical imaging is one of the most successful applications of AI in healthcare. Algorithms (particularly deep learning) are used to analyze radiology images such as X-rays, CT scans, and MRIs. These AI-powered tools can identify abnormalities like tumors, fractures, or signs of disease more accurately and efficiently than many traditional methods, in turn enabling healthcare professionals to make faster, more reliable diagnoses.
- **Predictive Analytics** - AI can be applied in predictive analytics to help healthcare providers anticipate patient outcomes. Predictive models analyze patient data, including medical history, lifestyle, and other risk factors, to forecast potential health issues before they become critical. This empowers healthcare professionals to take preemptive actions to prevent disease or manage chronic conditions more effectively.
- **Virtual Health Assistants/ Medical Herbalists**- AI-powered virtual health assistants can provide patients with around-the-clock access to healthcare information and support. These healthcare professionals can answer questions, provide herbal medication reminders and even schedule appointments. This enhances patient engagement and empowers individuals to take an active role in managing their health.

## Manufacturing

In the manufacturing sector, AI has several applications, including quality control, predictive maintenance, and supply chain optimization. By leveraging AI, manufacturers can improve accuracy, reduce operational costs, and enhance productivity thus producing in large quantities.

The application of AI in manufacturing encompasses a wide range of technologies, including machine learning, natural language processing, robotics, and computer vision. These technologies can be used in various stages of the manufacturing process, from design and production to quality assurance and distribution.

There are so many areas that AI innovators can partner with herbal medicine practitioners.

- **Areas of regulation of traditional medicine practitioners** by providing accurate detailed information on every practitioner by employing AI tools thus sanitizing the industry.
- **Intellectual property rights protection:** improving process efficiencies, for efficient data analysis and for managing trademark portfolios. AI tools to assist in searching, reviewing and analyzing IP registers, including trademarks, designs and patents for the purpose of freedom to operate analysis.
- **In the Formal and informal education of traditional medicine:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to revolutionize the way we teach and learn, making education more personalized, efficient, and effective.
- **Biodiversity, conservation and sustainable Harvesting** through AI powered monitoring, data driven conservation, genetic research though it is not entirely a silver bullet.
- **Technology transfer and commercialization of best products and practices**

As medical herbalists with versatile disciplines from the clinic to the research center, to the manufacturing hub, to the lecture room and then to regulation, we play a major role in smart herbal medicine. We are the intermediary between allopathic medicine and indigenous medicine. Any field in the industry that encompasses traditional knowledge with modern scientific research needs all the Medical Herbalists in the fields of development of phytomedicines, research and development, smart diagnostic herbal medicine equipment etc.

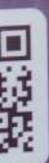
AI in medicine has come to stay. I call on all stakeholders in the traditional medicine industry to embrace AI in our line of work where necessary. Traditional medicine is no more primitive.

Bridging the gap between traditional medicine and technology is the way to go.

**Long Live Herbal Medicine,  
Long Live GAMH,  
Long live HCOWAA,  
Long live Ghana.**

*Thank you.*





## SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF GHAFTRAM OKOGYE ABIBIDURO NANA OBIRION ON THE THEME BRIDGING TRADITION AND TECHNOLOGY: AI-DRIVEN INNOVATIONS IN AFRICA AND CHINESE MEDICINE.

**D**istinguished Guests, Esteemed Colleagues and Friends of Traditional Medicine, It is an honor to stand before you today as the General Secretary of the Ghana Federation of Traditional Medicine Practitioners Associations (GHAFTRAM) to discuss an exciting and timely topic: **Bridging Traditional and Technology: AI-Driven Innovations in Africa and Chinese Medicine.**

This subject not only defines the future of herbal medicine but also underscores our commitment to harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance traditional healing practices. We live in an era where technology is revolutionizing all sectors, including healthcare.

Traditional medicine, with its deep-rooted cultural heritage and proven efficacy, must not be left behind. AI presents an opportunity to modernize, validate, and expand our traditional healing systems for the benefit of all. My speech today will focus on five key themes that outline the role AI can play in the advancement of traditional medicine.

### The Future of Herbal Medicine in AI.

The integration of AI in herbal medicine marks a new chapter in healthcare. AI-powered algorithms can analyze vast datasets on medicinal plants, their bioactive compounds, and their therapeutic effects.

This enables practitioners to develop evidence-based herbal formulations that meet global safety and efficacy standards. Furthermore, AI can support the standardization of herbal medicine, ensuring consistency in potency and dosage, thus increasing acceptance in both local and international markets.

AI will also improve access to herbal medicine through digital platforms that connect patients with qualified traditional practitioners. Mobile health (mHealth) applications powered by AI can offer personalized herbal recommendations based on an individual's health profile, making traditional medicine more accessible and user-friendly.

### How AI Can Enhance Research, Diagnosis, and Treatment in Traditional Medicine?

AI-driven technologies are already transforming modern medicine, and traditional medicine stands to benefit immensely.

**Research:** AI can accelerate the discovery of new herbal compounds by analyzing historical texts, laboratory studies, and clinical trials. Machine learning can predict the efficacy and potential side effects of herbal combinations, reducing the time needed for research and development.

**Diagnosis:** AI-powered diagnostic tools can assist traditional medicine practitioners in identifying diseases with greater accuracy. By integrating AI with biosensors and wearable devices, practitioners can monitor patients' vital signs and predict health risks based on historical data.

**Treatment:** AI can help in personalizing herbal treatments by analyzing genetic, lifestyle, and environmental factors. By leveraging AI-driven insights, traditional practitioners can create customized herbal formulations that align with individual patient needs.

Opportunities for Collaboration Between Innovators and Traditional Medicine Practitioners.

The successful integration of AI in traditional medicine requires strong collaboration between traditional healers, scientists, AI innovators, and policymakers. Key areas for partnership include:

- **Development of AI-Driven Databases:** A centralized digital repository of African medicinal plants, their uses, and pharmacological properties will facilitate knowledge sharing and innovation.
- **Smart Herbal Manufacturing:** AI can streamline the production of herbal medicines by ensuring quality control and optimizing processing techniques.
- **Education and Training:** Capacity-building initiatives that equip traditional medicine practitioners with knowledge in AI applications will foster digital transformation in the sector.
- **International Collaboration:** Learning from China's experience in merging AI with Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) can provide Africa with valuable insights on best practices and policies.

The Role of GHAFTRAM in Advancing Smart Herbal Medicine. As the umbrella body for traditional medicine practitioners in Ghana, GHAFTRAM is committed to leading the charge in embracing AI-driven innovations. Our initiatives include:

- **Promoting AI Research:** We are fostering partnerships with universities and tech institutions to advance AI research in traditional medicine.
- **Standardization and Regulation:** GHAFTRAM is advocating for policies that integrate AI into traditional medicine without compromising safety and efficacy.
- **Digital Health Platforms:** We are exploring digital solutions that will allow patients to access certified traditional medicine practitioners through AI-powered telemedicine.
- **Public Awareness:** GHAFTRAM is working to educate the public and policymakers on the benefits of AI-enhanced traditional medicine to gain widespread acceptance.

Policy Recommendations for Integrating AI into Traditional Medicine. For AI to be successfully integrated into traditional medicine, we need supportive policies and regulatory frameworks. GHAFTRAM proposes the following:

- **Government Support:** Policies should promote investment in AI-driven herbal medicine research and innovation.
- **Ethical AI Implementation:** AI in traditional medicine should be developed with ethical considerations, ensuring that indigenous knowledge is protected and not exploited.
- **Training and Certification:** Traditional practitioners should receive training in AI applications to enhance their diagnostic and treatment capabilities.
- **Data Governance:** There should be a legal framework for the protection and management of traditional medicine data, ensuring intellectual property rights are upheld.
- **Public-Private Partnerships:** Governments, private tech firms, and traditional medicine bodies should collaborate to create AI-powered solutions tailored for Africa's healthcare needs.

## CONCLUSION

Ladies and gentlemen, the future of traditional medicine in Africa is bright, and AI is the key to unlocking its full potential. By leveraging AI, we can modernize traditional medicine, enhance its credibility, and expand its reach to benefit millions.

GHAFTRAM stands ready to champion this transformation, ensuring that traditional medicine continues to play a vital role in Africa's healthcare system. Let us embrace innovation, foster collaboration, and work towards a future where AI and traditional medicine complement each other to create a healthier, more inclusive world.

*Thank you!*



# Healing Power of Acupuncture

Balancing Wellness To  
Ancient Tradition



**KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR (MED) OHENE KWABENA SAFO ON THE THEME: BRIDGING TRADITION AND TECHNOLOGY: AI-DRIVEN INNOVATIONS IN AFRICAN AND CHINESE MEDICINE.**

**Hello**, our distinguished president of HCOWA, the Registrar, I will stand on all existing protocols. Good morning once again. Greetings from Apostle Dr. Kwadwo Safo, the group chair of the Kantanka group of companies, the founder and leader for Kantanka Herbal Pharmaceuticals and Research Centre.

My name is Dr Ohene Kwabena Safo, and I'm here to throw some light on AI-driven innovations in African and Chinese Medicine. As far as this inspiration is concerned. Right in my hands here is a smart ring.

So somebody may ask, what is AI? Everybody is talking about AI. So right here we have people chatting with AI through ChatGPT, we have people using Google AI in the background. There are self-driving cars in the States, Tesla, that's AI robotics.

Everything around us is getting into the domain of AI. So leveraging on AI is a must do, and the earlier you join this particular revolution, the better. So those of us from Kantanka, are confident that the path HCOWA is turning is consistent with our vision, which is achievement of universal health coverage through provision of evidence-based quality herbal, organic products that promote healing and longevity. That is our direction.

As some of us may know Kantanka for a lot of innovations he has demonstrated in the past and he's still doing how technology and AI can help us solve problems. The word

is problem solving hence anytime you hear AI, think of human learning, then machine learning, think of reasoning and think of problem solving. That is why we are here today.

I might say, that as a quality expert, way back in the 2000s I was very particular about change, which is standard. The UK Health System realized a gap in their healthcare delivery, so they went to Toyota to actually benchmark or study what they were doing in Toyota and see how they can cause a revolution in their health care system. Upon their arrival, a particular methodology or approach that was used, was called the Lean methodology, which was the approach in problem solving and improvements at Toyota production System.

The UK Health System took this idea up, and now, if you go to UK, their health system is improved.

The reason I'm particular about standardization before I zoom into AI is that if you don't standardize, what are you going to integrate? And AI is a system, so if you put in garbage, garbage equally comes out. But if you have standards, that demonstrate your potential, intentions and your strategic objectives, then it is going to serve as a guide for you as far as this revolution is concerned. So standardization is very critical before we push in AI. And in our system, where there are gaps which we are all aware of, it is necessary we look at that.

I'll be approaching AI in three directions. I call them the three Ps. Products, Practice and the Practitioner.

That is how we are going to discuss how AI is coming to cause a revolution in our system. And as I said, this whole session we are having here is geared towards problem-solving, which is what we at Kantanka stand for. Our mandate is to help champion the strategies in universal health care and achievement of SDG goal 3; which is health care for all by 2030. So, under product-related problems, one may ask, what are the various problems we have as far as traditional medicine here in this country is concerned?

We like standardization, as I rightly said, and during herbal remedies, there are often challenges with composition often. There are challenges with dosage and challenges with potency or efficacy in terms of its consistency. So, if you take orthodox products, you realize they go through a robust system of clinical trial from phase one through to phase four, which this enables them to gather enough data to support every claim and that is what we at Kantanka call evidence-based plant medicine research, because if you don't have enough evidence to support your claim, it is difficult for anybody to believe you.

As a medical doctor, when you come to me and tell me you are using herbal medicine X for condition A, I will ask you what proof you have. So, the problem of dosage is one which we have as far as our product is concerned. Again, we have problems with batch-to-batch variation, because we don't have systems. As I mentioned earlier, anytime you hear standardization, three players come in. It's training, even audited. Do you have systems that ensure that the product you are producing for the public has consistency in its value delivery? It is a challenge.

A lot of people can't bet on this, and even if they do by word of mouth, they don't have systems to validate these claims. That is where we are coming from. That is the second problem.

There's a problem of validation. I must say, the indigenous traditional knowledge, which is herbal medicine, is very powerful. As the previous speaker said, we do 40% of orthodox products originated from herbal medicine, from the plants. So you can never do away with healthcare without herbal medicine. And WHO has said 8 out of 10 people actually are using the traditional complementary medicine as their source of healthcare.

So in order to achieve agenda ... orthodox and herbal medicine, concerning new products which have produced, we should be able to detect the phytochemistry. We can say with these compounds, you can cure 123, from prediction before we even get into the domain of clinical trials. AI comes in here, again AI comes in to ensure that there is authenticity and batch to batch variation is minimized.

So AI comes in to help you pick up variations and ensure every product you are producing as a production firm is

consistent with minimum variation. Also, AI comes in to give you other forms of intellect or things, as far as packaging is concerned. If you take a product from Kantanka, we have a QR code on the product where when scanned, the QR code takes you straight to our website, demonstrating that you are dealing with an original product from Kantanka. Again, we have temper proof logo or hologram, which, when touched or opened, one would realize that it would inscribe from Kantanka and change to void, informing the individual that he/she has actually tampered with the product.

All these engineering approaches were developed with AI technology to ensure we are able to have quality original products on without counterfeit. The second problem with the three-piece piece is practice. So practice-related problems has got to do with enough evidence.

We are aware that the indigenous traditional knowledge, which is herbal medicine knowledge, is powerful. We are from the soil. Hence, anything that comes from the soil it put together very well, helps in healing and longevity, and there's no doubt about that, but we have to make sure there is enough evidence and taking the right dosage.

Lack of documentation is another problem, inconsistency and drug herb interaction. We are in an era where WHO is looking at integration of orthodox products and herbal products or traditional complement medicine. With this integration, AI would facilitate the process very, very well. Why am I saying that? If we have big data, enough information fed into AI and is able to inform us that maybe Immulate does not work well with, let's say, Agbeve tonic, because it is fed into a system.

Immediately you want to give someone Immulate

and Agbeve tonic the system will tell you there is a herb - herb interaction between drug A and drug B, so hold on. That is how it comes in to help you control that. Again, if you are given a herbal product in combination with an orthodox product, AI will come in to give you warnings or establish a claim of interaction between these products, and this helps you leverage on products that can integrate and give you better outcomes. So AI comes in to help with the prediction and fits you in with the necessary information and at the level of practice as well.

There can be a platform which is in our local dialect where our practitioners, who can't even speak English, can learn from a Twi-based or a Ga based training system. The practices, the standards when it comes to herbal medicine. So when they learn this from there, that platform, which is AI generated, is going to serve as a tuition platform for them to gather the body of knowledge because there's a minimum body of knowledge you need to deliver value without which it is difficult for you to actually get to your strategic objective of realizing quality health care for your people.



Under practitioners, which is my last P we are looking at problems of regulation and problems of geographical location. So as we talk about AI, the concern is one, if you take orthodox space where I practice, and if you take the herbal space where I practice as well, so I have two legs, one leg in the medical and dental council, and I have another leg in the traditional medicine practice council. And the future I'm looking at is how these two institutions can sit and actually integrate because that's where the standardization will come from. Then AI will come in to solidify whatever input or data you've gathered from the integration to ensure what we are doing is fit for the purpose.

Now, regulation is very key because it ensures that all the systems we are going to practice with at product level, practitioner level and also at practices level, is standardized, so anything going out of scope would be detected and dealt with to prevent the innocent public from having access to counterfeit products. So integration at that level is very key and in standardization.

Again, for those in the rural areas, through AI, they will be able to access these quality herbal products if we have a system that is ensuring that you would today through Momo, you are able to have it's a very visible platform to purchase items. So now, if you have Momo and you can buy anything from a platform, and we have a system where it's like a herbal shop that is regulated.

Now, anybody, no matter their location, can order a

controlled herbal product which is controlled. And if we can advance, then drones can even deliver these herbal products to your GPS, because the whole system is integrated, and AI is already doing this in several places. As I bring my session to an end, my concern has got to do with standardization before the integration of AI, because you don't have standards with of integration of orthodox and herbal to start with, or even standards within the herbal space proper, it will difficult for you to regulate your products, your practice and your practitioner before we come in with the regulation, as far as AI is concerned, and again, ethical concerns when it comes to AI should also be considered.

In summary, we are looking at enhancing the credibility of traditional medicine through scientific validation. That is one. Two, we are looking at improving safety and efficacy with smart quality control. Three, we are looking at bridging the gaps between traditional healers and modern herbal or healthcare providers. And four, we want to speed up the innovation of drug development using indigenous traditional knowledge as a base. I'll end with this quote that "There is cost and risk for every program of action, but that's far less than the cost and risk of comfortable in action". So for every action we are taking, there will be challenges in this journey of AI, but let us be ready for the journey, for the change is necessary.

So with this ring, as I leave, I'm able to check the pulse rate of my clients, no matter where they are. I'm able to check their sleep patterns. This is a smart ring. I'm able to check their oxygen saturation. I'm able to detect how they are doing with their respiratory rates, all because of AI, and that is where the world is going. So, let's get ready and know that AI is fit for purpose.

*Thank you!*





**SPEECH DELIVERED BY CLINIC MANAGER OF ESSENCE CLINIC AND MEDICAL LABORATORY, **BENJAMIN MENSAH KWEI**, AT THE SEMINAR ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF SMART CHINESE MEDICINE IN HEALTHCARE ON AI IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE PRACTICE.**

Good morning, distinguished traditional medicine practitioners, esteemed guests, and colleagues.

It is a great honor to stand before you today as we discuss the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in traditional medicine practice. As we embrace the fusion of ancient wisdom with modern technology, one thing remains clear— accurate diagnosis is the foundation of effective treatment.

One of the challenges that has hindered to full integration and acceptance of traditional medicine practice in Ghana is the ability of the practice to access and use modern diagnostic and case investigative modalities to arrive at precise case definitions and treatment

As a partner of HCOWA, Essence Medical Laboratory Limited is committed to supporting traditional medicine practitioners with reliable and high-quality diagnostic services. Our state-of-the-art laboratory is equipped with advanced testing technology to help you make

precise, evidence-based decisions for your patients. Whether you need blood tests like Hematology, Chemistry, Microbiology, or Imaging such as ECG, X-ray, Echo, and ultrasonography or Specialized Diagnostics Like Immunology tests, Tumor makers, HPV screening, etc., we provide fast, accurate, and affordable services tailored to complement your practice.

By partnering with Essence, you gain access to world-class laboratory support that enhances your ability to integrate AI-driven insights into traditional healing. I encourage each of you to engage our services and experience the difference that quality diagnostics can make in your practice.

We also have customized service for traditional medicine centers for partner and integrated laboratory solutions with a fast turnaround time for all laboratory requests referred to us.

Together, we can build a stronger, more effective healthcare system that blends tradition with innovation.

*Thank you!*



# SECTION



## SIGNING OF MOUs



## HCOWA ASSOCIATION SIGNS MOU WITH GHANA ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL HERBALISTS

As part of its ongoing mission to advance traditional healthcare through innovation, the Health Community of West Africa (HCOWA) Association has signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ghana Association of Medical Herbalists. This agreement, formalized during the 5th AI in Healthcare Seminar on April 4th, 2025, at the HCOWA Headquarters in La Trade Fair, aims to promote the development and application of Smart Chinese Medicine in Ghana's healthcare system through collaborative research, innovation, and capacity building.

The partnership seeks to bridge Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Ghanaian herbal medicine by leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to improve diagnostic accuracy, enhance clinical practices, and promote the credibility of herbal medicine. It was signed under the seminar's theme: "Bridging Tradition and Technology: AI-Driven Innovations in African and Chinese Medicine."

Key objectives of this partnership include:

Promoting collaboration between TCM and Ghanaian herbal medicine to enhance treatment methodologies and research.

Establishing joint academic exchange programs and research initiatives to strengthen herbal medicine expertise.

Supporting infrastructure upgrades for herbal medical facilities and providing access to AI-powered clinical tools.

Advocating for policy reforms that integrate herbal medicine into Ghana's mainstream healthcare system.

Creating platforms for herbal medicine practitioners to network through workshops, conferences, and the annual HCOWA Health Industry Summit.

**Sihong Jiang**, President of HCOWA Association, expressed strong optimism about the partnership's potential. She believes the agreement will foster innovation, improve patient care, and set new standards for herbal medicine practice across the region.







## HCOWA ASSOCIATION SIGNS MOU WITH KANTANKA HERBAL PHARMACEUTICALS & RESEARCH CENTRE

In another strategic move to strengthen traditional medicine systems with modern technology, HCOWA Association has also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kantanka Herbal Pharmaceuticals & Research Centre. This landmark agreement was signed during the same seminar on April 4th, 2025, aiming to explore synergies between Artificial Intelligence (AI) and herbal medicine in both clinical application and production.

The MoU is designed to enhance cooperation between the two entities in the areas of smart healthcare delivery, AI integration, and technological advancements in herbal medicine. The collaboration will focus on research-driven initiatives, infrastructure development, and the modernization of herbal medicine through AI tools.

### Key goals of the partnership include:

- Leveraging AI for efficient herbal medicine diagnosis and treatment systems.

- Upgrading the research and clinical capabilities of Kantanka Herbal Centre to improve healthcare outcomes.

- Introducing AI-powered tools such as intelligent diagnostic equipment and health monitoring devices to enhance practitioner capabilities.

- Promoting standardized practices across the herbal industry through joint development

strategies.

Facilitating innovation in medicine distribution, including the use of smart delivery systems like drones and wearable tech.

With this partnership, Kantanka Herbal Pharmaceuticals is poised to take a leading role in the modernization of traditional medicine in Ghana. The collaborative efforts will also contribute to the larger HCOWA vision of building resilient, inclusive, and tech-enabled healthcare ecosystems across West Africa.

HCOWA President, **Sihong Jiang**, reaffirmed the association's commitment to fostering impactful collaborations that bring together tradition and innovation to elevate healthcare services and accessibility throughout the subregion.













## KANTANKA HERBAL PHARMACEUTICALS AND RESEARCH CENTRE (KHPRC)

**Kantanka Herbal Pharmaceuticals and Research Centre (KHPRC)** stands as an icon of innovation and healing in the realm of natural medicine. Founded by Apostle Emeritus Prof. Ing. Kwadwo Safo, KHPRC was established with a resolute vision—to serve Ghana, Africa, and the global community with high-quality organic herbal products that promote healing, vitality, and longevity.

As a standard-setting pharmaceutical and research institution, KHPRC combines indigenous African herbal wisdom with cutting-edge scientific research to produce natural remedies that are both safe and effective. At the heart of its operations lies a commitment to Evidence-Based Plant Medicine Research (EBPMR), which forms the foundation for all products developed at the Centre.

One of its flagship innovations, IMMULATE, was developed as a response to the modern double-burden of disease—communicable and non-communicable. Designed as a potent herbal supplement, IMMULATE is rich in anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, and immune-modulating properties. It works at the cellular level to arrest or reverse disease progression, thereby contributing to improved health outcomes.

KHPRC operates under a guiding philosophy: any food, drug, or medicinal substance that deviates from nature poses long-term risks to human health. Instead, the Centre believes in the power of organic, plant-based compounds that are naturally aligned with the human biological system. This principle underscores its unwavering dedication to developing herbal medicines that support the body's own healing mechanisms.

### Vision

KHPRC aspires to become the leading herbal pharmaceutical company in Africa and beyond,

recognized for its research-based, high-quality natural health products. It aims to set a new benchmark for excellence and efficacy in the herbal medicine industry through scientific integrity and innovation.

### Mission

KHPRC is committed to contributing to the global goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by producing and delivering premium organic herbal products. Its mission is to promote healing and enhance longevity using natural remedies developed through rigorous research, serving both local and international communities.

### Objectives

KHPRC's strategic goals reflect its commitment to transforming healthcare through herbal innovation:

1. To provide Ghanaians and Africans with accessible, organic herbal medicine.
2. To unlock the full therapeutic potential of indigenous herbal traditions through continuous evidence-based research.
3. To champion integrative and holistic healthcare practices across Ghana, Africa, and globally.
4. To offer effective treatments for both communicable and non-communicable diseases through a fusion of traditional and modern medical practices.

At **KHPRC**, the convergence of ancestral knowledge and modern science is not just an approach—it is a movement. The Centre continues to redefine the role of herbal medicine in contemporary healthcare by pioneering innovative solutions and setting new standards in natural therapeutics. With a relentless pursuit of excellence, **KHPRC is poised to transform lives—naturally**





## GHANA ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL HERBALISTS

# GHANA ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL HERBALISTS

**The Ghana Association of Medical Herbalists (GAMH)** is the sole professional body for licensed Medical Herbalists in Ghana. Established on June 8, 2006, following the launch of the BSc Herbal Medicine programme at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), GAMH has become the leading authority in the promotion and regulation of herbal medicine practice and products in the country.

It is a community of qualified practitioners dedicated to delivering safe, effective, and culturally respectful herbal treatments. Our members are at the forefront of integrative healthcare in Ghana, treating hundreds of thousands of patients annually.

### Vision

To be the leading professional body that champions the integration, innovation, and scientific advancement of herbal medicine in Ghana, contributing to a holistic and accessible healthcare system for all.

### Mission

To promote the highest standards in herbal medicine through dedicated efforts in academia, rigorous research, clinical practice, and sustainable manufacturing.

We are committed to advancing evidence-based practices, fostering collaboration across health sectors, and delivering safe, effective, and culturally respectful herbal treatments to improve public health and wellness.

### Core Mandate

- **Regulation & Professionalism:** Every GAMH member holds a professional license after six years of rigorous training. This includes a four-year BSc degree in

Herbal Medicine, a year of hospital internship during national service, and an additional year of clinical training. Continued professional development is mandatory to maintain registration.

- **Public Confidence:** Patients can trust that any practitioner with the Dr. (MH) title is certified, competent, and held to high standards of ethical and professional conduct.
- **Education & Training:** We support academic institutions, offer mentorship to herbal medicine students, and organize educational events such as symposiums, conferences, school talks, and workshops.
- **Collaboration:** GAMH actively partners with organizations across the health and education sectors to promote public awareness and improve herbal healthcare delivery.
- **Media & Advocacy:** We are committed to public education on the efficacy and safe use of herbal medicines through various media platforms.

The Ghana Association of Medical Herbalists (GAMH) stands as a beacon of trust, innovation, and excellence in the field of herbal medicine. Through a commitment to patient care, scientific advancement, and cultural relevance, we are transforming healthcare in Ghana. By treating hundreds of thousands annually, promoting evidence-based practices, and bridging traditional knowledge with modern medicine, they are not only improving lives but also shaping a more inclusive, sustainable, and accessible healthcare future for all.

# SECTION



GALLERY FROM  
THE DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF  
SMART CHINESE MEDICINE IN HEALTHCARE  
SEMINAR



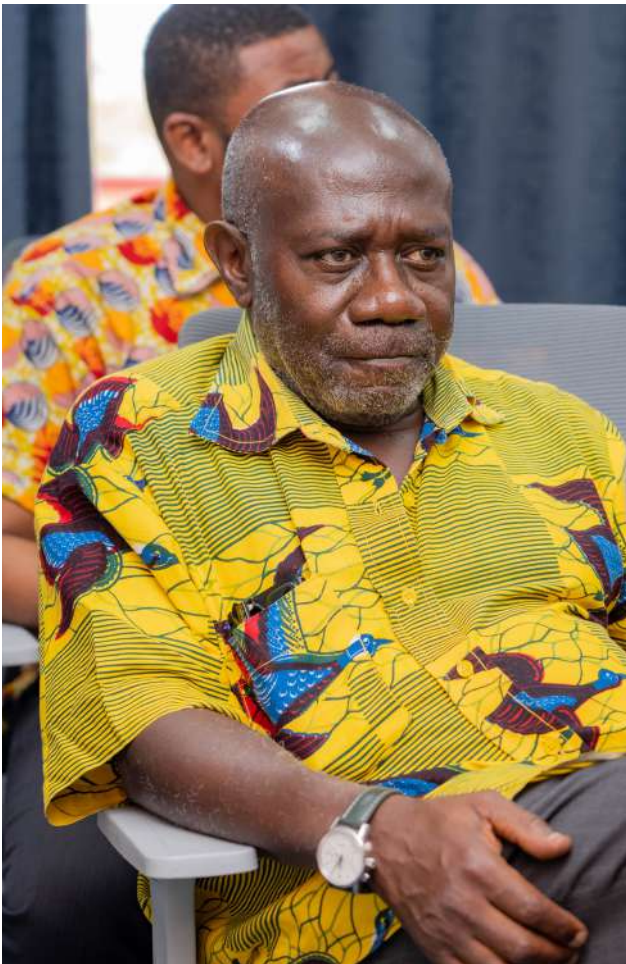






















## 2025 ANNUAL WEST AFRICAN HEALTHCARE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION EVENT SCHEDULE

No.	Event Date	Event Theme
1.	January	Promoting Regional Integration Of AI In Healthcare To Enhance Service Delivery
2.	February	Seminar on AI Diagnosis and Treatment Deployment Framework and Application Standards
3.	March	AI Diagnosis and Treatment: A Multilateral Symposium on IVD and Smart Diagnostics
4.	March	AI Diagnosis and Treatment: A Multilateral Symposium on Medical Imaging and Smart Diagnosis
5.	April	AI Diagnosis and Treatment: Seminar on the Development and Applied Medicine of Smart Chinese Medicine
6.	April	AI CDC - Seminar on National Intelligent CDC Deployment Framework and Application Standards
7.	May	AI Supply - Seminar on the Deployment Framework and Application Standards of Medical Supply Systems for Medicines, Consumables, Reagents, etc
8.	May	AI Applications — West African Hospital Needs Exchange Meeting
9.	June	West Africa Medical Mission First Study and Exchange Activities-Cheng-du Station (Tentative)



No.	Event Date	Event Theme
10.	June	West Africa Medical Delegation Preliminary Investigation and Exchange Activities-Changsha Station (Tentative) China-Africa Economic and Trade Forum - Medical Cooperation Forum
11.	July	West Africa Medical Mission Preliminary Investigation and Exchange Activities-Jilin Station (Tentative)
12.	July	The 2025 China-West Africa Medical Expo will be an online warm-up exchange meeting for enterprises and hospitals
13.	August	China-West Africa Medical Expo & AI Health In-depth Application Summit
14.	August	2025 West African Government Summit on Centralized Procurement and Project Cooperation
15.	August	The first batch of AI diagnosis and treatment pilot hospital experience exchange meeting and smart medical cooperation summit
16.	September	West African FDA Joint Access Symposium
17	October	Open Seminar on HeFRAAI Standards of Care for West African Countries
18	November	The annual summit of the Ministry of Health of West African countries on the development of artificial intelligence and health

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**2025 中国西非医疗健康产业博览会  
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2025**

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Manufacturers



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## KEY BENEFITS

- Study Visits and Exchange Opportunities
- Academic Exchanges and Training
- Event Participation
- Facility Support
- Policy Advocacy
- Magazine Partnership
- AI Treatment Department and National Disease Control System

**TOGETHER, WE CAN**  
**ADVANCE HEALTHCARE**



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