



Folder eCC\_00014724 is in stage Annual\_Report\_Due

**Name of the University, Hospital, Research Institute, Academy or Ministry**

UiT The Arctic University of Norway

**Name of the Division, Department, Unit, Section or Area**

National Research Center in Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NAFKAM)

**City**

Tromso

**Reference Number**

NOR-20

**Title**

WHO Collaborating Centre for Traditional Medicine

**Report Year**

02-2016 to 02-2017

**1. Please briefly describe the progress made in the implementation of your agreed workplan as WHO collaborating centre during the past 12 months (or the reporting period listed above). Please report on how each workplan activity was implemented, if any outputs have been delivered, if any results have been achieved and if any difficulties have been encountered during this time. If an activity has previously been completed, has not started yet, or been placed on hold, please indicate this.**

**Activity 1**

Title: Collaborate with WHO on collecting and analyzing data on legal status and regulation of T & CM, and on developing global information platforms on country-specific regulation and legal status of T & CM.

Description: NAFKAM will together with WHO/HQ in Geneva, collect, update and analyze data with regard to legal status and regulation of T & CM.

The analysis can also involve appropriate standardization of information and presentation of the data.

Together with WHO, NAFKAM will contribute to collecting, analyzing and disseminating country-specific data globally according to the specific workplan jointly prepared with WHO later.

**Comments from NAFKAM:**

Data on regulation of T&CM in 39 European countries are published on the NAFKAM CAM regulation website (<http://nafkam-camregulation.uit.no/>). During 2016 we have updated the website with new regulation.

NAFKAM and our research collaboration partner at ITD-HST University in Bangalore, India have planned similar fact-finding projects for T&CM regulation in Asia, but the work was paused in 2016 due to funding challenges. NAFKAM is writing research articles dealing with regulation of T&CM. Standardization and supervision are focus topics.

NAFKAM is ready to assist in the analysis of the WHO database on regulation and legal status of T&CM as soon as the data are ready for analysis.

**Activity 2**

Title: Support WHO in the development of understanding for, and establishment of competence networks and research on risk, patient safety and quality assurance in T & CM.

Description: The T & CM field has not been systematically researched with regard to harm. NAFKAM and WHO will jointly strengthen the knowledge and dissemination of risk and safety understanding in T & CM use by:

1. Support WHO in the WHO project of quality improvement and safety of T&CM services.
2. Encouraging and supporting international competence networks representing health authorities, T & CM associations, researchers, T & CM providers, and patient organizations in order to strengthen qualified service and patient safety understanding on T & CM treatments.



Comments from NAFKAM

Ad 1. Quality improvement and safety of T&CM services.

Acupuncture has been chosen as the first T&CM area that WHO will focus on. According to the Project Proposal on Safe and High Quality Acupuncture, the first objective is to compile an overview of knowledge and understanding of safety and quality challenges in acupuncture practices and to identify priority challenges. WHO has invited NAFKAM to search and compile publications and information worldwide. After the 2nd round review of the Strategy of Literature Retrieval for the Project on Safe and High Quality in September 2015, and our director's meeting with the Beijing partner collaborating center, NAFKAM has not been contacted by WHO about a start-up of the literature retrieval work for the project.

In December 2016, NAFKAM received the "Request of comment on the working draft of WHO Benchmark for Practice in Acupuncture (ATT: WHO CC for TRM)". NAFKAM accepted this invitation and responded with comprehensive comments on the document in due time within 31. January 2017.

Ad. 2. Supporting international competence networks.

NAFKAM is strongly involved in conferences, research development and international competence networks focusing on strengthening qualified service and patient safety understanding on T & CM treatments. Most of the researchers at NAFKAM join international T&CM research conferences with presentations and research collaboration. Detailed lists of publications and research activities for each of NAFKAM's employees are to be found on [https://en.uit.no/om/enhet/forsiden?p\\_dimension\\_id=88112](https://en.uit.no/om/enhet/forsiden?p_dimension_id=88112)  
- and then search for the employees at the top of the page.

In September 2016 NAFKAM was invited to head one session at the Norwegian Patient Safety Conference 2016. The session on "Alternative treatment and risk" consisted of 6 presentations held by researchers from NAFKAM, focusing on differing challenges related to T&CM. The conference is an important part of "The Norwegian Patient Safety Programme: In Safe Hands".

Patient safety has been a strategic focus topic for NAFKAM since 2014. In 2016 NAFKAM researchers have published 12 research articles focusing on patient safety. Employees from NAFKAM have participated in a large number of meetings with networks representing health authorities, T & CM associations, researchers, T & CM providers, and patient organizations both in Norway and abroad. Our national public information website <http://www.nifab.no/> publishes facts on safety and risk in their T&CM fact articles.

**Activity 3**

Title: Organize training programs/workshops/symposia on research approaches and evaluation of T & CM in collaboration with WHO and WHO CCs.

Description: NAFKAM will initiate a yearly international training program/workshop/symposium in the field of research methodology in T & CM in collaboration with WHO and ISCMR (International Society of Complementary Medicine Research). In the four coming years the topics will be chosen in collaboration with WHO, the other WHO CCs in T & CM and ISCMR. Dependent on funding possibilities the training programs/workshops will cover the costs for at least two trainees each time, as requested by WHO.



Comments from NAFKAM:

NAFKAM's Director, professor Vinjar Fønnebø is from 2015-2017 elected president of The International Society for Complementary Medicine Research (ISCMR). Head of administration at NAFKAM, Agnes Gullingsrud Fjeldstad was elected treasurer in the same period. ISCMR is "an international professional, multidisciplinary, non-profit scientific organization that is devoted to fostering complementary and integrative medicine research and provides a platform for knowledge and information exchange to enhance international communication and collaboration". (Ref: <http://www.iscmr.org/content/about-iscmr>).

ISCMR partners every year with a local host to arrange the International Conference on Complementary Medicine Research. In 2016 this conference took place in Las Vegas, USA. ISCMR is also planning a special workshop in 2017, in collaboration with WHO, on authoring and reviewing scientific papers in the area of T&CM.

Professor Terje Alraek is representing NAFKAM in a research collaboration with Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine (KIOM). KIOM is a WHO collaborating center. As a result of brainstorming and workshops, they have established "The international Pattern Identification Network group (IPING)". IPING is a non-profit scientific research network aimed at exchanging information about pattern identification (PI) and international collaboration on PI research. More information to be found: <http://bss.re.kr/academy/home.do>.

This collaboration has resulted in the following research articles in 2016.

Current research and future directions in pattern identification: Results of an international symposium. Lee MS, Lee JA, Alraek T, Bian ZX, Birch S, Goto H, Jung J, Kao ST, Moon SK, Park B, Park KM, You S, Yun KJ, Zaslowski C. *Chin J Integr Med*. 2016 Dec;22(12):947-955.

Standardization and future directions in pattern identification research: International brainstorming session. Jung J, Park B, Lee JA, You S, Alraek T, Bian ZX, Birch S, Kim TH, Xu H, Zaslowski C, Kang BK, Lee MS. *Chin J Integr Med*. 2016 Sep;22(9):714-20.

**Activity 4**

Title: Engage in international collaborative efforts, and provide consultation relative to T & CM research and training, upon the request of WHO.

Description: NAFKAM will take an active part in international efforts with regard to collaborative research as well as information issues around T & CM. Such efforts can be, but is not limited to, research projects, surveys of T & CM practices, consulting with regard to organizational issues concerning T & CM, T & CM training, coordinated public information.

NAFKAM will provide consultation services globally in the same areas at the request of WHO.

Comments from NAFKAM

Dr Sungchol Kim, the WHO Regional Advisor for traditional medicine in South-East Asia region, invited in December 2016 NAFKAM to perform technical support to the WHO South-East Asia regional traditional medicine program. The document "Proposed Core and Reference Indicators for Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine (T/CAM) in South-East Asia" is drafted to be used in a project focusing on "strengthening traditional medicine performance monitoring system in order to promote evidence based decision making". NAFKAM have responded positively that we strongly supports the initiative to strengthen the traditional medicine performance monitoring system, and want to make a technical review of this document, both content and form and layout. Details of collaboration on this technical support is ongoing as of February 2017.

**2. Please briefly describe your collaboration with WHO in regards to the activities of the WHO collaborating centre during the past 12 months (e.g. means of communication, frequency of contact, visits to or from WHO). Please feel free to mention any difficulties encountered (if any) and to provide suggestions for increased or improved communication (if applicable).**



Comments from NAFKAM:

The Redesignation contract 02.2016-02.2020 was concluded in February 2016. The process was without problems or delays.

The Collaboration activities have been followed up by NAFKAM by emails, telephone conferences and meetings with WHO and collaborating partners. The communication has been constructive and positive. For some activities NAFKAM are waiting for a WHO initiative and response.

**3. Please briefly describe any interactions or collaborations with other WHO collaborating centres in the context of the implementation of the above activities (if any). If you are part of a network of WHO collaborating centres, please also mention the name of the network, and describe any involvement in the network during the last 12 months.**

Comments from NAFKAM:

See our collaboration with KIOM in Korea above.

**4. Please briefly describe any type of technical, programmatic, advisory or other support received from WHO during the past 12 months for the implementation of the agreed activities listed above (if any).**

Comments from NAFKAM

None except for the discussions already mentioned above.