

# FOREWORD

Dear readers,

Integration medicine is rapidly developing on a worldwide basis. Conferences such as the 20<sup>th</sup> WFAS conference, the 4<sup>th</sup> International TCM and Auricomedical Congress and the 4<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Traditional Medicine are leading TCM into a new era.

The development of TCM in Holland and Belgium will be further consolidated with the recent establishment of the Acupuncture Network (The Netherlands/Flemish Belgium) (AN). Educational institutes and professional associations will combine forces to provide quality standards for acupuncturist and TCM practitioners.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2008 the third Hwa To international symposium will be organized in cooperation with the Acupuncture Network. Organizations from China and Europe have already shown their support. We want to invite integration therapists to submit their abstracts on Neurology, Pain Management and Endocrinology to the symposium organization (page 58).

This issue features interesting articles, among which are an article on Acupuncture and knee pain (page 3) and an article on the mechanisms of laser needle acupuncture (page 33). The author, prof. dr. Detlef Schikora, and others will visit the Netherlands on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2008 to give several lectures regarding the use and efficacy of laser acupuncture.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue and we wish you all the best in the year 2008!

Ms. Cherine Blankevoort

