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Hong Kong establishes first Calculus Bovis research centre for traditional medicines

November 16, 2026 | News

To advance alternative development, commercialisation and internationalisation of rare and endangered Chinese medicine



The School of Chinese Medicine (SCM) at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) and Poseidon Pharmaceutical Company Limited have jointly established the 'Hong Kong Calculus Bovis Research Centre'. As Hong Kong's first research platform dedicated to Calculus Bovis and related studies, the Research Centre aims to advance the development, commercialisation and internationalisation of alternatives to rare and endangered Chinese medicinal materials.

Natural Calculus Bovis, derived from bovine gallstones, is a precious and scarce traditional Chinese medicine. It is an ingredient in many well-known Chinese medicine formulae such as *Peaceful Palace Bovine Bezoar Pill* and *Pian Zai Huang*. In clinical Chinese medicine, Calculus Bovis is commonly used to clear heat and detoxify the body, and to treat conditions such as stroke with phlegm. Modern pharmacological studies have also demonstrated a range of bioactivities, including anti-inflammatory, anti-tumour and neuroprotective effects, highlighting its significant development potential in areas such as neurological and autoimmune diseases.

To address the scarcity of natural Calculus Bovis and a growing market demand, the Research Centre will focus on research into *in-vitro cultured Calculus Bovis*. Recognised by national authorities as a substitute for natural Calculus Bovis, *in-vitro cultured Calculus Bovis* has been included in the *Pharmacopoeia of the People's Republic of China*. By artificially replicating the bovine physiological environment, this technology enables precise quality control and large-scale production of Calculus Bovis, significantly reducing costs and transforming a rare and endangered Chinese medicine into a standardised and more accessible therapeutic product that benefits the wider public.