

## **Abstract**

This master's thesis is looking to expand on the previously written bachelor's thesis describing the current situation of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in the Czech Republic. It represents an attempt to interpret medicine as paradigm while reflecting the current political environment. The relevance of the topic is proved by the recently increasing interest of media which have been covering the Czech-Chinese Centre for TCM in Hradec Kralove and activities of the Ministry of Health in discussions about possible synergies between modern medicine and TCM. The thesis compares modern medicine and TCM from the perspective of the theory of paradigms and relativity of knowledge by Thomas Kuhn. It aims to test aspects of the theory by conducting research among practitioners and students of TCM. The thesis also tries to find parallels between the two medicinal approaches and to identify their respective advantages and disadvantages. It attempts to gauge how challenging it is for students of TCM to comprehend two different medicinal approaches and whether they had any issues understanding them. Among other goals of the thesis is to give some insight into the process and possible future trends of the legal basis of TCM in the Czech Republic.

In order to accomplish these goals, a set of questionnaires was given to two groups – practitioners and students of TCM. The questions were formulated in a way that would reflect different levels of experience with TCM of both groups. The results from this practical part of thesis are compared with findings from the theoretical part and the conclusions are also presented in the form of graphs.

The increasing tendency of integrating both medicinal paradigms is among the principal findings of the thesis. Respondents mostly did not have problems with understanding paradigms of TCM even though they are based on fundamentally different philosophy and approach to health than it is common in our cultural environment. I believe that the public state of knowledge of TCM would be a good area for further research. The increasing interest in studying TCM and references from practitioners with many years of experience suggest that the public is more and more appreciative of this alternative medicine. The environment for legalization of TCM is therefore growingly favourable. However, the goal of legally establishing the profession of TCM practitioner is still not in sight.