ABSTRACT

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) has been common practice for many years, and part of the treatment plan of several million patients in the world. This includes areas such as Great Britain, USA, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Switzerland and China. However, its possibilities in the territory of the Czech Republic are limited and insufficiently mapped (the area of practicing TCM for non-medical education practitioners). The thesis analyzes the current situation of doctors and practitioners applying TCM in the territory of the Czech Republic compared to other countries where TCM has been successfully established within the health system for many years. It also aims to find out how doctors and practitioners advocate their focus, what reasons they present for treatment with the TCM and how they deal with the criticism of their colleagues from the West. The work will include findings on why conventional physicians are heading towards Eastern medicine. Due to the debate of the topic, the thesis will continue to deal with the legislative anchoring of TCM in the laws of the Czech Republic and the world.

The theoretical part of the thesis presents basic concepts related to the history and philosophy of the TCM. It also describes methods of diagnostics, treatment and pillars that the TCM supports (acupuncture, phytotherapy, dietetics, Qi-gong and Tuina massages). The findings from Eastern medicine are compared with modern medicine, and at the same time they investigate the differences that each one brings. The thesis presents facts about why Eastern and Western medicine should work together to promote patient health. Further, the thesis focuses on the structure of TCM study and legislative anchoring of TCM in the laws of the Czech Republic in comparison with the world. At the same time, important personalities, both Czech and foreign, are presented.

The empirical part of the thesis focuses on qualitative research which develops the overall findings on acquired data from deep semi-structured interviews with physicians and practitioners of TCM, which gives a comprehensive picture of the situation of TCM in the Czech Republic.

Key words: Traditional Chinese Medicine, TCM, Alternative medicine, Acupuncture, Physician, TCM Therapist, Legislation, Healing