

## INTEGRATING TRADITIONAL AND COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE INTO MEDICAL SCHOOL CURRICULA IN UGANDA

**Specific objective:** To determine the proportion and characteristics of students at the College of Health Sciences who endorse inclusion of traditional and complementary medicine education into the medical school curricula in Uganda.

**Participants:** Medical students at Makerere University College of Health Sciences  
Years of study: 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Time:** The interview is expected to last about 45 minutes.

**Informed consent:** Purpose of interview will be explained to participants and signed informed consent sought before interview.

**Venue:** A quiet room or open space to ensure openness and avoid interferences.

**Recordings:** Participants will fill in questionnaire in presence of investigators/research assistants.

**Introduction:** In this study we aim to assess the feasibility and acceptability of integration of Traditional and Complementary Medicine principles and practices into the medical school curricula in Uganda. Knowledge from this study can provide guidance on the training needs of physicians and traditional and complementary medicine practitioners which could enhance integration of T&CM with mainstream biomedicine.

**Questionnaire for medical students on the use and disposition to include traditional and complementary medicine into medical school curricula in Uganda**

*Please tick in the appropriate boxes:-*

1. Study number: .....

2. Age: \_\_\_\_\_ (years)

3. Gender: M ☐ F ☐

4. Currently rotating in department of

a) Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Paediatrics	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Obstetrics & Gynaecology	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Psychiatry	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Other departments	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Not in rotation	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. Region of origin in Uganda

a) Northern	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) North Eastern	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Eastern	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) West Nile	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Mid-western	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) South western	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Central	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Year of study in medical school

a) 1st	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 2nd	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) 3rd	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) 4th	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) 5th	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Have you ever used Traditional and Complementary Medicines (T&CM) on yourself?

a) No ☐

b) Yes ☐

8. Have you ever recommended use of Traditional and Complementary Medicines (T&CM) in the recent 6 months?

- a) No ☐
- b) Yes ☐

9. You have adequate knowledge on the safety and efficacy of T&CM.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

10. You are up-to-date with the best available evidence on T&CM use.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

11. Do you want to learn more about T&CM?      a) No ☐  
b) Yes ☐

12. What are the sources of information on T&CM use available to you for reference if you need to?

- a) Internet-based journals ☐
- b) Text books ☐
- c) Other healthcare professionals ☐
- d) ITCM practitioners ☐
- e) Others, please specify: .....

13. How would you respond if a patient asked you about T&CM during consultations?

- a) Encourage them to continue use ☐
- b) Advise them to stop ☐
- c) Neither encourage nor discourage ☐
- d) Others, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

14. The practice of T&CM should be integrated in the mainstream biomedical system in Uganda.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

15. The practitioners of T&CM could be allowed to refer patients to the biomedical health facilities.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

16. The practitioners of T&CM could be allowed to visit their patients at the biomedical facilities and share their concerns with the healthcare professionals as partners in the care of the patients.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

17. When you eventually graduate from medical school, you would be willing to join a T&CM institute to be taught in more details on T&CM theories, principles and practices.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

18. When you eventually graduate from medical school, you would consider T&CM practice as: (***Tick all that apply***)

- a) Alternative to biomedicine ☐

- b) Complementary to biomedicine ☐
- c) Not related to biomedicine ☐
- d) Not necessary ☐
- e) Not evidence-based and dangerous to health ☐

19. When you eventually graduate from medical school, you would be willing to refer some of your patients to T&CM practitioners.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

20. When you eventually graduate from medical school, you would be willing to discuss use of T&CM with some of your patients who ask about or are interested in knowing more about T&CM.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

21. Encouraging use of T&CM in health facilities promotes the ethical principles of: (*Tick all that apply*).

- a) Patients' autonomy ☐
- b) Patients' confidentiality ☐
- c) Beneficence ☐
- d) Non-maleficence ☐
- e) Paternalism ☐
- e) No biomedical principle is promoted by use of T&CM in health facilities ☐

22. The theories, principles and practice of T&CM should be included in the medical school curricula in Uganda.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

**NB: Skip to question 25 if you disagree or strongly disagree**

23. If you agree or strongly agree to include T&CM in the medical school curricula in Uganda, at what level of training should these theories and principles be included? (*Tick any two that apply*)

- a) 1st ☐
- b) 2nd ☐
- c) 3rd ☐
- d) 4th ☐
- e) 5th ☐

24. If you agree or strongly agree to include T&CM in the medical school curricula in Uganda, what method of teaching or training should be used to teach T&CM theories and principles be included? (*Tick all that apply*)

- a) Lectures ☐
- b) Tutorials ☐
- c) Practical in skills labs (simulations and demonstrations) ☐
- d) Observations and site visits to T&CM practitioners ☐
- e) Assign personal readings followed with discussions ☐

25. The curricula of the health training institutions can not include topics on T&CM and there is no need to increase number of training years because T&CM is being given deeper and broader attention in the curricula.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

26. If T&CM were to be included in the medical school curricula, the course should be:

- a) Elective/optional ☐
- b) Compulsory ☐
- c) Not certain ☐

27. If T&CM were to be included in the medical school curricula, the course should be:

- a) Examinable ☐
- b) Audited (students not to be examined on it) ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- c) Not certain

28. If T&CM were to be included in the medical school curricula, the course should be taught by:

- a) Medical doctors trained in T&CM ☐
- b) T&CM practitioners themselves ☐
- c) Both medical doctors and T&CM practitioners ☐

29. An independent T&CM institute should be built to train T&CM practitioners on aspects of biomedicine.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

30. An independent T&CM institute should be built to train biomedical healthcare professionals as part of in-service training on aspects (theories and principles) of T&CM.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

31. There are some benefits from use of T&CM for some illnesses and these benefits can be derived through integration of T&CM with biomedicine.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐
- e) Strongly disagree ☐

32. There are no estimable benefits from use of T&CMs and therefore no need to incorporate T&CM into biomedicine practice.

- a) Strongly agree ☐
- b) Agree ☐
- c) Not certain ☐
- d) Disagree ☐

e) Strongly disagree ☐

33. Encouraging use of T&CM in health facilities poses threat to the health of the public.

a) Strongly agree ☐

b) Agree ☐

c) Not certain ☐

d) Disagree ☐

e) Strongly disagree ☐

Interviewer:

Name	<input type="text"/>
Signature	<input type="text"/>
Date	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>

**Thank you for your cooperation and time.**