

AMAC NEWS

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AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ACUPUNCTURE COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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TCM LEGISLATION

On 24th January 2008, Dr. Chin Chan, Federal President, flew into Perth. The next day, he and Dr. Kay Keng Khoo had an appointment to meet the Honourable Jim McGinty, Health Minister for WA. The main purpose of the meeting was to re-iterate the position of the College, which is that medical practitioners should be exempted from the requirements of the proposed Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Bill for WA. This meeting was scheduled for noon on Friday at the Minister's electorate office in Fremantle. This was later changed to 2:00 pm. On approaching Fremantle, we received a phone call from our colleague in Fremantle, Dr. John Troy, that the Minister was still in his Ministerial office in Perth, where we should meet him. On reaching London House in CBD Perth, we discovered a large gathering of journalists and camera people milling around the foyer of the building. We were so absorbed in our own presentation to the Minister that we were oblivious to the fact that the large press entourage signified a political storm had erupted following the announcement few moments earlier that day that the Health Departmental Head, Dr. Neale Fong had tendered his resignation to the Minister.

The Minister Jim McGinty received us promptly and courteously. We proceeded to make our power-point presentations. Dr. Chan's presentation was on the background information on the history of our College, education programme, and Fellowship examination standards. These cumulative efforts have achieved our present position of recognition by RACGP, with which we co-operated in a joint committee and the Federal Government has recognized that our Part 1 or fellowship standards are requisites to claim acupuncture numbers in the 193 series. Dr. Khoo's presentation was on the reasons for seeking exemption of medical practitioners from the TCM legislation. This request is based on the threefold reasons of assurance of quality, safety and research, which are being stated in these ways:

- (1) JCCMA of RACGP, of which AMAC has representatives, sets the standard of acupuncture taught to medical practitioners throughout Australia, and monitors the standard continuously;
- (2) In primary care setting, the delivery of acupuncture treatment by medical practitioners, has the additional and vitally

important assurance, that undifferentiated symptoms are managed by access to proper scientific investigations;

- (3) The future of acupuncture is enhanced by research using all available scientific tools and clinically by randomized control trials, performed by medical practitioners.

BACKGROUND OF TCM LEGISLATION

In Victoria

In the year 2000 the Victorian Government, without consultation with AMAC, an important stakeholder, passed the Chinese Medicine Registration Act 2000 (Vic) (CMR Act), which required medical practitioners who practise acupuncture to register with the Chinese Medicine Registration Board of Victoria (CMRBV). AMAC objected to this requirement, stating Medical Practitioners should be regulated and disciplined by Medical Board of each State. Later, the Health Legislation (Further Amendment) Act 2003 (Vic) amended the registration Act, so that medical practitioners who practise acupuncture do not have to be registered with CMRB of Victoria. Instead they may apply for endorsement or notation of registration from the Medical Practitioners Board of Victoria (MPBV).

However, another significant event took place. The Chinese Medicine Registration Act 2000 (Vic) was repealed and new legislation was introduced on 1 July 2007 - "The Health Professions Registration Act 2005". The Health Review first took place in 2005, and continued for two years. The Australian Medical Acupuncture College was not asked for input during the two years that the new Act was being formulated, in spite of the fact that AMAC is a major stakeholder in the process. This new Act encompasses all practitioners of TCM, including doctors. It would appear that the CMRBV may have the power to control the registration of doctors who practise acupuncture. The Victoria Minister of Health is now questioning whether the AMAC education program complies with the new "The Health Professions Registration Act 2005". AMAC is working with the MPBV to deal with this matter. In this respect, Dr. Chin Chan had convened a meeting of the Education Committee in Sydney over the weekend of 2nd and 3rd February 2008.

BACKGROUND OF TCM LEGISLATION (cont)

In New South Wales

The Government of NSW has been considering formulating legislation for the regulation of TCM practitioners. On 24th June 2005, Dr. Kit Sun Lau, then State President and Dr. Roberta Chow, Past State President, made a lengthy submission to the Chair of Joint Parliamentary Committee of NSW. This submission was supported by 14 references. The submission stated that AMAC has over 32 years, established standards for education, evaluation, examination, quality assurance, and continuing medical education for Medical Practitioners. In formulating regulation for TCM therapists by the Government, it is of paramount importance that the public are assured of the necessary standard of practice and the safety of those who seek their treatments. In NSW the process is temporarily stalled, awaiting a parliamentary decision.

In Western Australia

On 6th July 2005, the Government of WA issued a discussion paper on "Regulation of Practitioners of Chinese Medicine in WA." Interested parties were invited to respond. On 22nd August 2005, Dr. David Mitchell, then Federal President, and Dr. Kay Keng Khoo, State President made submissions to the Government of WA, seeking exemption of medical practitioners in WA from the legislation; alternately the Medical Board of

WA should register medical practitioners in their practice of acupuncture.

Furthermore AMAC(WA) sought the support of AMA(WA), RACGP(WA), and Medical Board WA to strengthen our position. We can only give you the reply of AMA(WA) to the Government of WA as the then President, Dr. Paul Skerritt copied his reply to one of us,

"We (AMA) are strongly of the view that it would be inappropriate for medical practitioners practicing acupuncture to be under such a board as might supervise non medical persons involved in such matters. We believe that our medical colleagues should continue to have their practice regulated and, if necessary disciplined by the Medical Board of WA.

The Australian Medical Acupuncture College is a respected professional and educational body that sets high standards for its members which would be a suitable guide for the Medical Board."

Our meeting with Health Minister Jim McGinty on 25th January 2005, was a timely one as we were informed a draft legislation was nearing final stage of preparation before presenting it to the Cabinet. Furthermore, we were pleased that the Health Minister had also invited to the meeting the Senior Legal Advisor in the Legal & Legislative Service of the Department of Health, who is responsible

for drafting the Bill. We found the exchange of questions and answers during the meeting had strengthened our position, and corrected any possible wrong perceptions generated by significant "others" who had painted AMAC in a totally different light, a negative one of course. We left the meeting with the Minister and her Legal Adviser feeling confident that we have given them a significantly better image of AMAC.

National registration of doctors is on the horizon, and it is imperative that the "ideal outcome" (as mentioned above) be achieved in the states outside of Victoria. When national registration comes to pass, the issue of registering medical acupuncturists will arise. If Victoria has the only legislation dealing with this issue then the national registration board may decide to adopt the Victoria model, potentially putting medical acupuncturists under a TCM registration board. However if there are other states with legislation which keeps the medical acupuncturists under the jurisdiction of the medical boards then we would be in a much stronger position to argue in favour of adopting this model.

We will keep you informed of progress in this important matter.

Dr. Kay Keng Khoo, and

Dr. Chin Chan.

EDUCATION MATTERS

New list of acupuncture textbooks has been agreed to at the last AGM Education meeting. It is strongly advised that all students have, or at least have access to all the basic texts and look at the extended reading list as well. You would not be able to pass the AMAC exam, part 1 or 2 unless you have studied these books and attended one of the accredited courses on offer by the college.

Basic texts:

General:

- (i) Practice of Acupuncture (Hekker et al – Thieme Publishers)
- (ii) The Channels of Acupuncture Maciocia (Elsevier)
- (iii) Scientific Appraisal of Acupuncture (Ernst and White)
- (iv) How to Read a Paper 3rd Edition 2006 (Prof Trisha Greenhalgh – BMJ Publications)
- (v) Neuroacupuncture (Z H Cho)
- (vi) Medical Acupuncture, A Western Scientific Approach (Filshie and White) I believe a new edition of this book is due out very soon. She is coming to our AGM – maybe she will let us know for certain.
- (vii) Microacupuncture Systems (Thieme)

Musculoskeletal Therapeutics:

- (ix) Close to the Bone Legge (Sydney College Press)

Extended reading:

The Placebo Affect, an Interdisciplinary Exploration (Ed. Anne Harrington – published in 2000, but a very interesting book – could be used in conjunction with Mike Butler's lectures which are available on CD)

Fundamentals of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Maciocia – new edition just out!)

The Web that has no Weaver (Ted Kaptchuk)

Ear Acupuncture (Kropej)

YNSA (Yamamoto – new English edition MAY be coming out...)

By Dr. Andrew Hollo,

Chair, Education Committee



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PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN DIFFERENT STATES

New South Wales

Sunday 27th April 2008

Venue: Northern Sydney Education Centre, North Ryde
Topic: Macro and Micro Approaches to Common Clinical Presentations

Speakers: Timothy Wong, Emily Teo, Im Quah-Smith, & Lucy Murphy.

Saturday - Sunday 2nd - 3rd August 2008

Venue: Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore,
Topic: Medical Acupuncture in Integrative Care,

Keynote speaker: Professor Thomas Lundberg

Saturday - Sunday 15th - 16th November 2008

Venue: Novotel Hotel, Darling Harbour, Sydney
Federal AGM and Scientific Meeting

Queensland

October/November 2007 Introductory Course (see photo)

Saturday - Sunday 19th - 20th April 2008

Venue: Gold Coast International Hotel
Topic: Saturday: Revision: Dr. David Lee;
Sunday: Advanced segment: "The Oro-Facial Complex,"
Dr. Willie Mok

Category 1 & Category 2 points are available:

Absolute deadline for Cat 1 Pre-test is March 28th 2008;

No late Cat 1 registration will be accepted.

Contact: Mrs. Derryn Dowdle at amacqadmin@bigpond.com

Mobile: 0439 549 085

Fax: 07 4636 1499

For registration details and accommodation booking forms

Saturday - Sunday 19th - 20th July 2008

Venue: Brisbane,
Topic: AGM & Scientific Meeting

Saturday - Sunday 29th - 30th November 2008

Venue: Brisbane
Topic: Education Meeting

Victoria

Saturday 19th July 2008

Venue: Bayview on the Park, Queens Road, Melbourne

Time: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Topic: AGM

Scientific Meeting: Category 1 Activity

Differential diagnosis of Epigastric Pain

6:30 pm: Dinner

Western Australia

Saturday-Sunday 1st-2nd March 2008

Category 1 activity at Geographe Resort, Busselton (see photo)

Saturday 10th May 2008

Venue: Duxton Hotel, 1 St George's Terrace, Perth

Scientific Meeting.

Saturday 5th July 2008

Venue: Duxton Hotel, 1 St. George's Terrace, Perth

Topic: AGM

Scientific meeting: An introduction to Yamamoto New Scalp Acupuncture by Leo

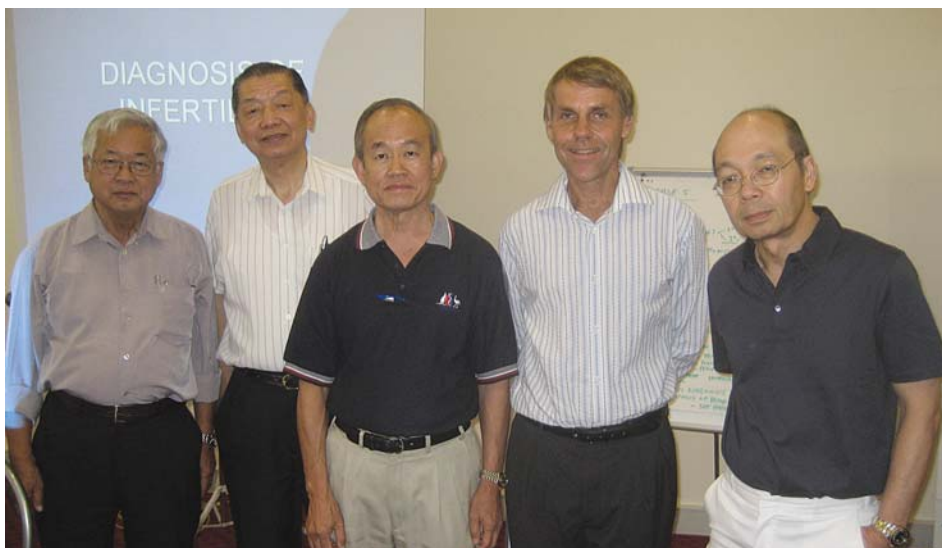
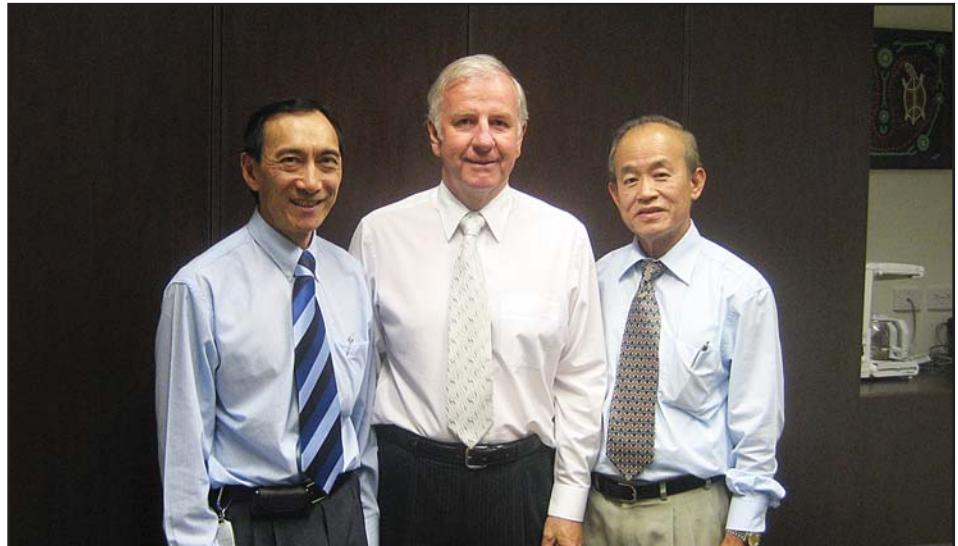
Foong, in preparation for Yamamoto himself coming to Perth in April 2009;

Side effects of Chinese herbs by William Ng

AMAC-Qld ran an introductory acupuncture course for GPs on 6th-7th October 2007 and 17th-18th November 2007. This is a group photo of lecturers and participants at the November course.



Left to right: Dr. Chin Chan, Honourable Jim McGinty, Health Minister, WA; and Kay Keng Khoo, taken on Friday 25th January 2008, at the Minister's Office in Perth, at a meeting, during which AMAC made representation to the Minister to exempt Medical Acupuncturists from the TCM regulation legislation in WA.



Left to right: Philip Soh, A.C. Ng (speakers); Kay Keng Khoo, G. Glazov and Leo Foong (organizers) at the long weekend Category 1 Scientific Meeting at the vine yard region of Busselton, in Western Australia. The topic discussed over 1st-2nd March 2008 was Western and TCM concepts and managements of Dysmenorrhoea and Infertility. 32 Medical Practitioners plus their family members attended the Labour Day week-end activities.



Federal President, Dr. Chin Chan joined State President Dr. Mark Teng and members of AMAC NSW in celebrating Chinese New year. The lion appeared pleased with the Ang Pow that was given.