

Survey profiles typical AAMA member

Average age 49, with 92% using acupuncture in their practice

AAMA recently surveyed members asking a wide variety of questions. Based on results, the following offers some insight into what makes up a typical member acupuncturist.

Responses came back from 346 physicians, about 20% of Academy membership. Members' top primary specialties (68%) are family medicine, physical medicine and rehabilitation, anesthesiology and internal medicine. More than half of respondents (53%) have acupuncture holistic/integrative as their secondary specialty. Half (52%) are in a solo practice, while 26% are part of a group.

TYPICAL MEMBER

The average age is 49, with 38% being 51-60 years old, 46% under 51 and 11% under 41. 92% of them incorporate acupuncture into their practice. Interestingly, non members surveyed, including former members, are less likely to use acupuncture in their practice... only 59% of former members and 64% of non-members surveyed incorporate acupuncture in their practice.

On average, the survey shows that acupuncture makes up 25%

of members' practices. 34% of respondents report that acupuncture makes up 10% or less of their practice. 22% said it makes up more than 50% of their practice, and 12% said acupuncture makes up 100% of their practice.

Members and non-members who don't use acupuncture cited reasons such as training time and cost, low reimbursement from third parties, reduced demand, length of treatment, lack of hospital facilities and more.

TRAINING

The Helms Medical Institute Medical Acupuncture for Physicians UCLA course was attended by 85% of respondents. The remaining 15% cited 16 different courses and programs as their source of basic training. It's significant to note that 4% received training prior to 1989, before the Academy and HMI. The majority (73%) have been trained since 2000, having practiced medical acupuncture for five years now. Live conferences and journals/books (such as AAMA's Medical Acupuncture and Acupuncture Today) are the most common methods used for continuing education. 63% have attended the AAMA Symposium.

See SURVEY on page 2

AAMA Newsletter to be printed, mailed

E-mail version still available

In response to feedback in member surveys, the AAMA Newsletter will be printed and mailed to the membership, effective with this issue.

In the recent Academy survey, a significant number of members indicated that they are too busy to go online and read the AAMA Newsletter. There's so much material on the Internet, that members rarely find an opportunity to read all of the AAMA Newsletter online. Responses noted that they would prefer to have it in print so they could take it on the plane, read it at breakfast or whenever a free moment presented itself.

Therefore, the Academy staff will now prepare the AAMA Newsletter for print and mail along with an electronic version that will be emailed. It will include highlights of informational items. There will be essential details of medical acupuncture-relevant topics. The newsletter will give members highlights, key items and reference tools – with website addresses of online sources for more indepth coverage and background.

The AAMA Newsletter will be the primary source of timely information for medical acupuncturists. The Academy will use it to give members news when there is information to report, such as upcoming meetings, Academy offerings such as the Symposium, Pre-Symposium, Review Course and workshops, new research, etc.

Once the AAMA Newsletter is finished and sent to the mail house, an e-mail will be sent to the membership announcing that it's available online. Members can then access the newsletter on-line or await the mailed version. The online version will remain there indefinitely, as an archive, so members can return to issues as needed to find information that had been reported in the newsletter.

We're glad that members responded with comments in the surveys. Giving AAMA leaders your comments and feedback allows appropriate changes and responses to members' preferences.

See AAMA NEWSLETTER on page 2

Controversy brewing over AMA-formed group

The AMA has formed a Scope of Practice Partnership (SOPP) to serve as a coordinated resource center for states dealing with scope of practice issues – a move that some alternative medicine practitioners, such as non-physician acupuncturists, find unsettling.

According to a report of the AMA Board of Trustees, the SOPP will study the “qualifications, education, academic requirements, licensure, certification, independent governance, ethical standards, disciplinary processes and peer review of the limited health care providers and limited independent practitioners, as identified by the SOPP.” AMA Policy D-35.993 is titled, “Limited Licensure Health Care Provider Training and Certification Standards” and can be found on AMA’s website (www.ama-assn.org).

The AMA report states that the SOPP was created by a coalition comprised of the AMA, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, American Psychiatric Association, American Society of Anesthesiologists, and American Society of Plastic Surgeons and six state medical associations (California Medical Association, Colorado Medical Soci-

ety, Maine Medical Association, Massachusetts Medical Society, New Mexico Medical Society, and Texas Medical Association).

According to AMA, members of this coalition agreed that it was necessary to concentrate the resources of organized medicine to oppose scope of practice expansions by allied health professionals that threaten the health and safety of the public. The SOPP Steering Committee agreed that this would best be accomplished through a wide-range of efforts, including a combination of legislative, regulatory and judicial advocacy, as well as programs of information, research and education. .

The AAMA Newsletter will report on further developments as this issue progresses.

CAM Reaction

In various association journals and websites (such as Acupuncture Today, American Chiropractic Association and others), non-physician acupuncturists and other complementary and alternative medicine practitioners have expressed concern and displeasure with AMA’s formation of SOPP. Some of these associations are anticipating potential attacks on scope of practice laws and are considering steps to take to ensure their practitioners can continue to practice. The potential for conflict over these issues appears very real, given the emotions expressed.

For more information, visit AMA’s website at www.ama-assn.org and type SOPP in the Search engine.

SURVEY continued from page 1

87% said the Academy’s Medical Acupuncture journal is useful, and 65% said the AAMA Newsletter is useful. However, respondents overwhelmingly requested that the AAMA Newsletter be printed (rather than sent via e-mail). Therefore, starting with this issue, it will be mailed to the membership (in addition to being posted online). See related article on page 1 in this issue.

THE FUTURE

The Academy Board of Directors thanks Drs. Alison Lee, Richard Feely, Anna Kelly, Sandi Amoils, Martha Grout, Mark Strom and Chair Hiroshi Nakazawa for helping craft the survey. They would also like to thank the 346 members, 150 former members and 44 non-members who responded, The Board of Directors is hard at work digesting comments from members and results of the survey. Based on those findings, changes and suggestions will be implemented.

AAMA NEWSLETTER continued from page 1

REGISTER E-MAIL ADDRESS

Members should make sure that the Academy has your current, correct e-mail address if you want to continue receiving electronic announcements from the Academy. Check the e-mail address we have for you by going to the online Membership Directory available in the Member Only section of the Academy website. Or, if you prefer, simply send an e-mail to Editor Barton Ortberg at bdortberg@aol.com requesting that he update your e-mail address.

AAMA WANTS YOUR NEWS

Also, the Academy wants to hear from members with news related to medical acupuncture for the AAMA Newsletter. If you’ve lectured at a meeting, led a workshop, presented at a conference, had an article published, have relevant legislation pending in your state, heard about industry news, etc., please send the details to Editor Barton Ortberg at bdortberg@aol.com.

Members earn DABMA certification

The following AAMA members recently met the stringent requirements of the American Board of Medical Acupuncture (ABMA) and have achieved Board Certification in medical acupuncture. They have earned the designation DABMA (Diplomate, American Board of Medical Acupuncture):

Robert E. Buring, MD, DABMA, Middletown, OH; Pamela J. S. Chapin, MD, DABMA, Albany, OR; Gouri Chaudhuri, MD, DABMA, Wheaton, IL; Remy Coeytaux, MD, DABMA, Chapel Hill, NC; Michael Eisenstadt, MD, DABMA, Knoxville, TN; Aaron Gilbert, MD, DABMA, Chicago, IL; Paris Kharbat, DO, DABMA, Pullman, WA; Dae Song Kim, MD, DABMA, Kings Park, NY; Lynne Macco, MD, DABMA, Huntington, NY; Emily Ratner, MD, DABMA, Stanford, CA; Thomas Roben, DO, DABMA, Las Vegas, NV; Carolyn S. Tolley, MD, DABMA, Holyoke, MA

The Academy has posted online a list of members who are Board Certified at www.medicalacupuncture.org/cme/cme/board_certified.html. A complete list of Diplomates is also posted at the website www.dabma.org. Diplomates (DABMA) are listed alphabetically by last name, along with their location, and dates of certification and expiration.

Call for proposed Symposium presentations

You are invited to apply to present a Free (Oral) Paper, Poster Presentation or Research Paper at AAMA's Symposium 2007 April 26-29, 2007.

SYMPOSIUM ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Members and others interested in presenting a Free Paper Oral Presentation at the 2007 Symposium should submit a one-page abstract (summary) of the proposed oral presentation via email by February 10, 2007 to cjdowden@pacbell.net with the E-mail Subject line reading: AAMA Free Paper, in order to be properly received. Abstracts should have the title, author, affiliation, contact information and abstract text of no more than 250 words.

If your application is approved, you will be notified by February 28, 2007. Approved Free Papers will then be eligible to compete for the Free Paper Awards competition, though presenters are not required to compete for the awards. Free Papers eligible for awards must be original, unpublished papers suitable to be published in the Conference Syllabus. The actual paper must be submitted by March 31, 2007 via e-mail to cjdowden@pacbell.net with the Email Subject line reading: AAMA Free Paper Award Contest, in order to be properly received and considered for the Free Paper Awards. Free Paper Awards will be offered to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place presentations, with \$750 USD, \$500 USD, and \$250 awarded, respectively. Awards will be announced at the close of the Symposium.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Application to make a Poster Presentation should be submitted no later than February 10, 2007. An abstract (summary) of the proposed Poster Presentations should be submitted via email by February 10, 2007, to cjdowden@pacbell.net with the Email Subject line reading: AAMA Poster Presentation, in order to be properly received. Abstracts should have the title, author, affiliation, contact information and abstract body of no more than 250 words.

Poster Presentation Awards will be presented to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place presentations, with \$750, \$500 and \$250 awarded, respectively. Awards will be announced at the close of the Symposium.

If your poster application is accepted, you will be notified by February 28, 2007. For additional information regarding the Symposium Poster Presentations and Competition, go to the Academy website.

RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION

This is a call for entries for the annual Acupuncture Research Award. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-place awards will be presented at the AAMA Symposium 2007. The deadline for submission of research papers for the competition is February 10, 2007. If your paper is selected as one of the winners, you will be notified by March 10, 2007. We are pleased to offer:

- First Place: \$1,500, Symposium Registration, travel to \$500, and three night's hotel lodging for the presenting author. Paper to be presented at AAMA Symposium in Baltimore, MD, April 26-29, 2007.

- Second Place: \$750, Symposium Registration, travel to \$500.

- Third Place: \$350 and Symposium Registration.

The First Place winning paper is to be presented in a 30-minute Plenary Session at the Symposium. Papers for second and third place to be announced at the Symposium. The authors will be acknowledged there.

For complete instructions and rules for participation in the Research Competition, go to the Academy website at www.medicalacupuncture.org.

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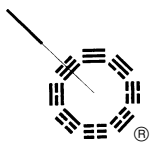
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Nominees sought for AAMA Board of Directors

AAMA members interested in being considered for nomination to the Board of Directors are encouraged to submit a letter indicating their interest, along with a resume, by Feb. 10, 2007. Full members and Fellows are eligible to serve on the Board, which is responsible for developing AAMA policies and overseeing operations. Address your letter to Chairman of the Nominations Committee, c/o AAMA, 4929 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 428, Los Angeles, CA 90010. Also, the Academy is looking for volunteers for committees. For a list and responsibilities, go to www.medicalacupuncture.org and click on AAMA Committees, or contact Executive Administrator James Dowden (cjdowden@pacbell.net, 323/937-5514) or a member of the committee that interests you.

Member News

Jay Abel-Horowitz, MD, and Leonard D. Wright, MD, DABMA, have been appointed to the Michigan Board of Acupuncture, the first acupuncture board to be established by the state. It will set the standards for state registration of non-physician acupuncturists; physician acupuncturists will not be affected. It is expected that registration will have an important impact on acupuncture in Michigan since the status of non-physician acupuncturists has been ambiguous in Michigan until now. It is hoped that this will promote higher quality and greater acceptance of acupuncture in Michigan, which will benefit everyone.

Jay Sandweiss, DO, FAAMA., C-NMM/OMM, will teach the one-day seminar, Integrative Medicine Approach to Back Pain Utilizing Acupuncture, Manual Medicine and Nutrition, from 9 am to 5 pm Dec. 13 at the American Back Society's Annual Meeting. This conference, Advanced Diagnosis & Treatment for Neck & Back Pain, will be Dec. 13-16 at Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. St. Mary's Medical Center, San Francisco, has approved up to 26 hours of Category 1 CME. Visit www.americanbacksoc.org for more details.

The International Congress on Alternative Medicine & Healing, Academic, Practical and Spiritual Aspects of Alternative Medicine and Healing, will be held Oct. 24-26 at the World Trade Center Curacao in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. Acupuncture is among scheduled Congress sections. Exposition booths and abstracts are also planned at this event organized by Petro Internacional, S.A. – International Events. For more information, contact Secretary General Rolf C. Krause (alternativemed.congress@yahoo.com, petro_events@yahoo.com).

Anna C. Kelly, MD, FAAMA, is working with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to get permanent staff privileges to provide medical acupuncture services to the inpatient and the clinic population. She has had temporary privileges since April. This will be the first hospital in Georgia to provide services to the inpatient population. Dr. Kelly is president of the Georgia Chapter of AAMA.

Announcing missions to Nepal, Mexico and Ecuador: Come join the team! **Dr. Bryan L. Frank**, past president of AAMA, has led a recent mission to Salcedo, Ecuador, where the team of 28 served 1,987 patients in the two-week project. Academy members and friends are encouraged to apply for upcoming projects. Medical and non-medical people are needed for all projects, and acupuncture is very welcome. Dr. Frank will lead his 16th project to Nepal in September and will go to Mexico Nov. 9-12; Nepal in February 2007, Ecuador June 9-24, 2007, and Nepal in fall 2007. Members can contact him at www.GlobalMission.us or bfrankmd@hotmail.com.

The **19th Annual AAMA Symposium** will be held on April 27-29, 2007 at Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, 700 Aliceanna St. in Baltimore, MD. The Review Course will be offered on April 24-25, 2007, followed by Pre-Symposium workshops on April 26, 2007 and the Board Certification Exam on April 29, 2007. The Academy has negotiated a special room rate of \$199/night (single/double). To reserve a room at that rate, call the hotel at 800/228-9290 or 410/385-3000 and be sure to mention AAMA by **March 26, 2007**. Reservations

can also be made online by going to www.medicalacupuncture.org, click on 2007 Annual Symposium and then click on the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront link (group code: aamaama).

Preserve the 18th Annual AAMA Pre-Symposium and Symposium 2006 and all that vital information. Listen once again to a motivating, informative address or hear for the first time a compelling session that you may have missed. The CD-ROMs are complete with session audio, video (where noted) and fully synchronized PowerPoints as submitted by presenters for inclusion. They are a great training tool and informational source for those who could not attend. Buy yours by clicking on the CD-ROMs link at www.medicalacupuncture.org or call AAMA (323/937-5514).

Hiroshi Nakazawa, MD, FAAMA, president elect of AAMA, will conduct the seventh annual AAMA Seminar for Japanese Medical Acupuncture Association in Hamamatsu, Japan in October. The seminar will be presented in a clinical setting with lecture, while treating patients in an impromptu fashion for various illnesses and manifestations of their disease conditions. Every year, he covers about 20 patients, all of whom are videotaped for study purposes. Dr. Nakazawa is inviting Japanese acupuncturists to participate in the AAMA Symposium being held in Baltimore, MD in April 2007 to hear **Joseph M. Helms, MD, FAAMA**. The acupuncturists have been using Dr. Helms' Acupuncture Energetics as their text book. Dr Nakazawa has been invited to several Japanese medical schools to present American acupuncture, including AAMA, organization and clinical practice.

Members participating in AAMA's referral program will be happy to hear that 40 calls came into national headquarters and 1,438 unique visits to the website referral page (www.medicalacupuncture.org and click on, Find an Acupuncturist Near You) in **June**, and 102 calls and 1,663 unique visits to the website referral page in **July** from patients seeking medical acupuncturists in their area. The toll-free number that patients are calling is 800/521-2262. Members interested in participating in the Patient Referral Program should visit the physician listings on-line to verify that they are listed. The Academy staff needs explicit notice to include members in the program.

The International Symposium of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques (ICMART), Acupuncture: Art, Evidence and Challenges, and Third International Medical Congress on Acupuncture will be held June 1-3, 2007 at the Fira Palace Hotel in Barcelona, Spain. The preliminary program will be posted online at www.icmart2007.com in October.

Pangea 2006 – A Conference for the Future of Pediatric Wellness – sponsored by Northwestern University and Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago – will be held Oct. 26-28, 2006 at the Westin Michigan Avenue Hotel in downtown Chicago, IL. Physicians and CAM practitioners will be among those participating in a dialogue fostering communication and collaboration with practitioners in their therapeutic work with children. The intent is to provide rigorous research, thought-provoking information and a vision to combine the best healing traditions to care for children and families. Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine has

See MEMBER NEWS on page 5

Chapter News

The Academy recently surveyed Chapters on their officers and membership. Visit www.medicalacupuncture.org and click on Regional Chapters for an up-to-date listing of AAMA Chapter officers, their contact information and members. Think about joining a Chapter to learn more about medical acupuncture specific to your area. And if there's not a Chapter in your region, please consider forming one by contacting Chapter Liaison Dr. Bruce Gilbert (bruce.gilbert@verizon.net).

Arizona

Martha M. Grout, MD, MD(H), FAAMA, has been appointed to the Board of Homeopathic Medical Examiners in Arizona. She has resigned her position on the Board of Acupuncture Examiners, effective as of the last meeting of the Legislative Committee, of which she was chairman. The Arizona Chapter of AAMA has endorsed the appointment of Rebecca Wilks, MD, MD(H), FAAMA, to the Board of Acupuncture Examiners. They have recommended her to Arizona Gov. Napolitano to take Dr. Grout's place on the Acupuncture Board.

Drs. Grout and Wilks recently traveled together with Tony V. Lu, MD, FAAMA, to Mongolia and China, to study with the medicine lama of Mongolia, Dr. D. Natsagdorj, and with the QiGong Master Wan Sujien in Beijing, China. They went to the Beijing Institute of Ba Gua Qi Gong, under the direction of Qi Gong Master Wan Su Jian. They spent 10 days in Beijing and 10 days in Mongolia, where they spent time with the Khamba lama of Mongolia, Dr. D. Natsagdorj. They learned about Mongolian



Traditional Medicine, as well as the techniques of meditation and chanting in the lineage of the Eight Medicine Buddha. They plan to conduct a research project with Dr. Natsagdorj involving traditional Mongolian herbs.

Arizona Chapter meetings are held at 9 am on the second Saturday of each month at Dr. Grout's office. For more details, call 602/787-8500 or e-mail drmartha@crossroadsclinic.net. There are monthly speakers on topics related to medical acupuncture, as well as Chinese and Functional/Integrative medicine. E-mail Rebecca Wilks, MD, at info@drwilks.com to get on the e-mail list for meeting announcements, etc.

New York

The New York Chapter of AAMA is actively seeking new members — members interested in leadership positions and members willing to organize Chapter activities. This is a great opportunity to get involved locally with the Academy. They need your active involvement to be able to continue to expand their activities. Contact Chapter President Bruce R. Gilbert, MD, PhD, at bruce.gilbert@verizon.net or 516/487-2700 for more information.

Ohio

The Ohio Chapter of AAMA continues to hold regular Journal Club meetings. These are excellent opportunities to learn about dynamic changes in medical acupuncture, as well as to interact with like-minded colleagues and to improve acupuncture techniques. E-mail President Dr. Sandi Amoils (amoilss@healthall.com) for details on these meetings.

They would enjoy having more AAMA members in the vicinity participating in their efforts to create a Chapter that's educational and collegial, so please join by contacting Dr. Amoils..

Does your state have a regional AAMA chapter? If not, please consider forming one. Chapters provide fellowship, professional camaraderie, education and curbside consults. E-mail AAMA Chapter Liaison Dr. Bruce Gilbert at bruce.gilbert@verizon.net for details.

MEMBER NEWS continued from page 4

granted up to 18 AMA PRA Category 1 credits to this conference. For more details, visit www.pangea2006.org or call 847/424-0880.

Members are reminded that the Academy's online calendar lists a variety of meetings, workshops and conferences (where CME and CEU credit can be earned) online at www.medicalacupuncture.org (click on Events Calendar). More details on each event can be obtained by visiting the website listed or contacting the sponsoring organization. Academy sponsored events are noted with the logo.

The Acupuncture Society of Michigan will hear **Ed Garbacz, MD**, speak on, Triple Heater Energetics, 8:30 am-5 pm Nov. 18-19 in Walled Lake, MI. AAMA has granted this activity 13 hours of Category 1 CME credit. For more information, contact Alison Lee, MD (248/926-4292, leemedadmin@comcast.net).

The Acubriefs free citation list at www.acubriefs.com/newcitations.htm includes 56 Randomized Controlled Trials (and Abstracts of RCTs). Of those, 26 were sent from their researcher in Beijing, who retrieves them from the National Library.

Mitch Prywes, MD, FAAMA, will present, Low-Level Laser

Therapy, Acupuncture and Energy Medicine: East Meets West in a New Emerging Clinical Paradigm, Nov. 12 at the American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation's 67th Annual Assembly in Honolulu, Hawaii. Other featured speakers with Dr. Prywes include James Oschman, PhD, author of Energy Medicine: The Scientific Basis, and Joseph Kleinkort, PT, MA, PhD. AAPM&R has designated the Assembly for up to 36.5 credits of AMA PRA Category 1. Visit www.aapmr.org/assembly.htm or call (312) 464-9700.

Drs. Angelica Fargas-Babjak and Alejandro Elorriaga Claraco will present, Contemporary Medical Acupuncture For Health Professionals - Spring 2007, Unit 1 (Feb 23-25) - Unit 2 (March 23-25) - Unit 3 (April 20-22) - Unit 4 (May 25-27) and Unit 5 (June 22-24) at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, sponsored by the Department of Anesthesia. The College of Family Physicians of Canada and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada have approved this offering for 126 Mainpro-M1 Credits CFPC. For more information, call 905/521-2100, x75175 or visit www.acupuncturecourses.com.

Please send news items and photos to bdortberg@aol.com.

'And the survey says...'

Members 'too busy,' but we need you!

Is Anybody Home?



By Michael W. Coomes, MD, FAAMA
President, AAMA

It's been a relatively quiet few months in Lake Wobegon County... The combined annual AAMA Symposium/ICMART in Washington, DC was definitely a highlight, but for me, it has been a time of reflection — both professionally and personally. Serving as your president has definitely been both an honor and a challenge.

To be able to serve an organization in which I believe so strongly is a privilege. Having said that, I must also express a persistent frustration having to do with the problem of finding members who are willing to give of their time, talents and energy to improve our organization. Historically, this organization — like many others — has a small group of active members who participate in its governance. Despite calls for participation at the Chapter, Committee and Board levels, we seem to still operate with the same small pool of volunteers.

Survey Results

Your survey responses suggest that we are all "too busy," and many of us face financial pressures with regards to integrating acupuncture into our medical practices. (See article on page 1.) So what does it take to make time in your professional life to give back to an organization that supports you professionally? Speaking for myself, it means I give up a few weekends and some evenings a year to spend time working with like-minded colleagues to advance the interests of medical acupuncture.

The process though, has been as meaningful and important to me as the product. I work in an environment, as many of us do, where I have few medical acupuncture peers to relate to on a daily basis. As a result, I savor the opportunities when I get to meet or commu-

nicate with those like-minded colleagues because it affirms my commitment to medical acupuncture, enhances my enjoyment of my practice and most importantly, helps make me a better physician for patients I serve. Without those rewards, I doubt I would still be practicing medical acupuncture.

The same goes for membership in our regional Chapters. A recent survey of presidents revealed that participation in our Chapters is woefully lacking. Some haven't met for years, while others are disbanding due to lack of interest. These Chapters provide camaraderie, networking, CME activities granted through the AAMA and more. To learn about Chapters in your area, see the AAMA Chapter News column on page 5 in this issue or e-mail Chapter Liaison Dr. Bruce Gilbert at bruce.gilbert@verizon.net. Help keep our Chapters healthy, active and going strong through your involvement.

More personal level

I have found that my medical acupuncture peer group has sustained me in more ways than just professionally. A few weeks ago, my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer. She has seen all the specialists and had all the high-tech tests that medicine has to offer, but it has been difficult to find the kind of healer who understands the importance of treating the spirit, as well as the body.

Inherent in our unique training and hopefully in our attitude lies this precious knowledge. We, as physician acupuncturists, have been blessed to have learned so much more than what we were taught in our traditional medical training.

This unique understanding and body of knowledge is only a beginning; it must be nurtured and expanded. The AAMA exists solely for this purpose — but it requires contributions from all of us if it is to be vibrant, effective and relevant. As Dr. Kim Rotchford reminded us in his guest editorial in AAMA's journal, *Medical Acupuncture* (May 2006), "Our gold is not common gold!" (click on, Vol. 17, No. 3, at www.medicalacupuncture.org).

Academy offering new educational opportunity

On disorders of female reproductive system

AAMA announces a **NEW** education opportunity, Treatment of Disorders of the Female Reproductive System, a workshop focusing on the effective diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the female reproductive systems by the use of acupuncture.

This workshop will be presented in Chicago, IL in December 2006 and again in Atlanta, GA in March 2007 by Edward S. Garbacz, MD, FAAMA who has been a presenter for the Academy for many years, most recently at the 2006 Annual Symposium. The workshop will combine lecture and case presentations for physicians who want to renew their approaches to more common female problems. To assure a high-quality learning experience, attendance will be limited.

Purpose and Objectives

This workshop focuses on the effective diagnosis and treat-

ment of disorders of the female reproductive systems by the use of acupuncture. It was designed to address and treat some of the most common conditions presented by patients. These diseases often lack definitive medical treatment apart from indicated surgery, antibiotic or hormonal treatments.

These forms of treatment unfortunately merely "manage" rather than cure the condition, frequently have limited effectiveness and often possess significant side effects. The proper use of acupuncture, alone or in combination with other alternative or conventional medical treatments, expand the practitioner's "toolbox" of effective therapies.

AAMA has designated the Workshop for a maximum of **14** hours of category 1 credit toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award.

For more details on this workshop and to register, visit www.medicalacupuncture.org and click on this meeting's link or call AAMA (323/937-5514).

NIH clinical trials involving acupuncture in various treatments

The US National Institutes of Health (NIH) has an on-line service outlining clinical trials on various medical studies being conducted across. About 50 of the clinical trials currently listed involve studies on the efficacy of acupuncture — each of which is currently accepting patients. Not only might AAMA members find the descriptions of these clinical trials fascinating, they also might have occasion to refer patients to join one of these clinical trials.

Following are some interesting acupuncture clinical trials listed – all of which are still recruiting patients to participate:

- **“Treatment of Autistic Children Using NAET Procedures”**

Seeking 126 patients, this study began in January and expects to conclude in April 2007. It’s taking place in Orange County, California. The purpose is to determine whether NAET procedures are effective in the treatment of children with allergy-related autism spectrum disorders in restoring their verbal and nonverbal communication.

- **“Acupuncture for Hot Flashes in Menopause”**

Seeking 286 patients, this study began in February and expects to conclude in February 2008. It’s taking place in Norway. It’s investigating whether Traditional Chinese Medicine acupuncture-care decreases the frequency of hot flashes and increases health related quality of life among postmenopausal women.

- **“Acupuncture and Massage for Depression During Pregnancy”**

Seeking 180 patients, this study is taking place in Northern California. It’s evaluating the efficacy of acupuncture and massage for the treatment of depression during pregnancy.

- **“Acupuncture for Urinary Incontinence”**

Seeking 154 patients, this study started in 2005 and expects to conclude in 2010. It’s taking place in Pittsburgh, PA. It will evaluate the effectiveness of acupuncture in decreasing urinary incontinence in women.

- **“Acupuncture and Post-Surgical Wound Healing”**

Seeking 120 patients, this study started in 2005 and expects to conclude in June 2007. It’s taking place in San Francisco, CA. The purpose is to determine if acupuncture improves wound healing.

- **“Acupuncture as Complementary Therapy for Cerebral Palsy”**

Seeking 100 patients, this study started in 2004 and expects to conclude in July 2007. It will examine the effectiveness of acupuncture when used as an adjunct to intense “conventional” physical, occupational and hydro-therapies to improve function and quality of life in children with spastic cerebral palsy. It’s taking place in Tucson, AZ.

- **“Maternal Acupuncture for Substance Abuse”**

Seeking 180 patients, this study started in 2005 in Vancouver, BC, Canada. It will determine the efficacy of daily maternal acupuncture treatments in reducing the frequency and severity of neonatal abstinence syndrome among infants born to substance-using women.

- **“Use of Acupuncture for Stimulation of Labour”**

Seeking 150 patients, this study started in 2002 and expects to conclude in February 2007. It’s taking place in Denmark. It will study acupuncture used as stimulation of labour in case of primary or secondary inertia.

- **“Use of Acupuncture in Children With Autistic Spectrum Disorder”**

Seeking 80 patients, the study started in 2005 and expects to conclude in December 2008. It’s taking place in China. It will study the effect of acupuncture on autism, which is a behaviorally defined, lifelong disorder of the brain, affecting at least 1-2 per 1,000 children.

For a complete list of clinical trials involving acupuncture, visit the NIH site at <http://clinicaltrials.gov> and type acupuncture into the Search engine.

AAMA member earns post that’s first of its kind in veterinary medicine

Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, FAAMA, has been named to a position that is the first of its kind to be endowed in the nation in veterinary medicine. Her professorship of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) at Colorado State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences is endowed.

The position focuses on researching CAM for veterinary practice and the application of alternative medicine approaches proven through sound scientific research to help improve the quality of life for animals with a variety of diseases such as cancer. It’s funded by a \$3 million gift given in 2000 by Charles and Lucia Shipley of Auburndale, MA, with \$600,000 of these funds establishing the endowment for the professorship.

“There is research showing that certain applications of alternative medicine -- such as acupuncture and some herbs -- are meaningful treatments,” said Dr. Robinson. “But, we must be well-informed. Not all alternative and complementary medicine works well, and not all of what’s currently being used in humans

and animals is safe. Our agenda is to be objective and base recommendations for alternative medicine on science and research.”

Robinson’s current research includes the impact of acupuncture on dogs with dry eye, and she is developing the first, complete, neuroanatomically-accurate system of canine acupuncture point locations.

Robinson is a board certified physician in medical acupuncture, a diplomate of the American Board of Medical Acupuncture and a fellow of the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture. She heads the examination committee for the American Board of Medical Acupuncture, which certifies physicians in medical acupuncture. She has served on the board for several years, and uses the experience and expertise she acquired in these leadership roles in human acupuncture to further the professionalism within the veterinary acupuncture profession.

For more details, visit <http://newsinfo.colostate.edu>, click on News Releases Search and type in Narda Robinson.

Medical Acupuncture Research News

The following is a review of reported research results recently announced or released through Internet outlets:

- The abstract, “Pragmatic Randomized Trial Evaluating the Clinical and Economic Effectiveness of Acupuncture for Chronic Low Back Pain,” was published in the American Journal of Epidemiology (DOI:10.1093/aje/kwj224, posted online June 23, 2006). In a randomized controlled trial plus a nonrandomized cohort of 11,630 patients, authors investigated the effectiveness and costs of acupuncture in addition to routine care in the treatment of chronic low back pain and assessed whether the effects of acupuncture differed in randomized and nonrandomized patients. They found that at three months, back function improved by 12.1 points in the acupuncture group and by 2.7 points among controls. Conclusion: Acupuncture plus routine care was associated with marked clinical improvements in these patients and was relatively cost-effective. For details, visit <http://aje.oxfordjournals.org> and type this abstract’s title in Search this Journal.

- The abstract, “Cost-effectiveness of Acupuncture Treatment in Patients with Chronic Neck Pain,” was published in the journal, Pain (DOI:10.1016/j.pain.2006.06.006), posted online July 13, 2006 by the International Association for the Study of Pain (www.iasp-pain.org). It studied 3,451 patients with neck pain at the Institute of Social Medicine in Berlin, Germany, with 1,753 receiving acupuncture as well as conventional treatment and 1,698 in the control group. Results showed that after three months, acupuncture had helped relieve pain. Also, the additional cost of acupuncture provided sufficient ease of pain to make it cost-effective. For details, visit www.sciencedirect.com and type this abstract into the Title search engine.

- The abstract, “Acupuncture for Stroke Rehabilitation,” was published in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (2006, Issue 3, Art. No.: CD004131. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004131.pub2) published online July 19, 2006. This study’s objective was to assess the efficacy and safety of acupuncture for patients with stroke in the sub-acute or chronic stage, comparing acupuncture with control subjects. Five trials of 368 patients were examined, but all were of poor quality, so no definite conclusions could be drawn about the effects of acupuncture. Overall estimates from four trials suggested the odds of improvement in global neurological deficit was higher in the acupuncture group compared with the control group, but more large, high-quality randomized trials are needed, the authors concluded. Although preliminary indications showed no clear evidence of the effects of acupuncture on stroke rehabilitation, acupuncture has biological effects that might improve recovery from stroke or facilitate rehabilitation. For details, visit

www.cochrane.org.au, click on, Cochrane Library, and then type this abstract’s title in the Search engine.

- The abstract, “Acupuncture-Point Stimulation for Chemotherapy-Induced Nausea or Vomiting,” was published in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (2006, Issue 3). The objective was to assess the effectiveness of acupuncture-point stimulation on acute and delayed chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in cancer patients. Eleven trials (N = 1247) were pooled. Overall, acupuncture-point stimulation of all methods combined reduced the incidence of acute vomiting (RR = 0.82; 95% confidence interval 0.69 to 0.99; P = 0.04), but not acute or delayed nausea severity compared to control. This review complements data on post-operative nausea and vomiting, suggesting a biologic effect of acupuncture-point stimulation. For details, visit www.cochrane.org and type this abstract’s title in the Search engine.

- The abstract, “Acupuncture in Patients with Chronic Low Back Pain,” was published in the Archives of Internal Medicine (2006; 166:450-457). They investigated the efficacy of acupuncture compared with minimal acupuncture and with no acupuncture in 298 patients with chronic low back pain. Patients were randomized to treatment with acupuncture, minimal acupuncture (superficial needling at non-acupuncture points), or a waiting list control. Acupuncture and minimal acupuncture were administered by specialized acupuncture physicians in 30 outpatient centers, and consisted of 12 sessions per patient over 8 weeks. Conclusion: Acupuncture was more effective in improving pain than no acupuncture treatment in patients with chronic low back pain, whereas there were no significant differences between acupuncture and minimal acupuncture. For details, visit <http://archinte.ama-assn.org> and type this abstract’s title in Search this Journal.

- The abstract, “Acupuncture for Neck Disorders,” was published in the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews (DOI: 2006, Issue 3), posted online July 19, 2006. Neck pain is one of the three most frequently reported complaints of the musculoskeletal system. In this review, it was defined as the stimulation of one or more specific points on the body, by the insertion of needles, to achieve a desirable effect. Individuals with chronic neck pain who received acupuncture reported, on average, better pain relief immediately after treatment and in the short term than those who received sham treatments. Individuals with chronic neck pain with symptoms radiating to the arms who received acupuncture reported, on average, better pain relief in the short-term than those who were on a waiting list. For details, visit www.cochrane.org.au, click on, Cochrane Library, and then on this abstract’s title under Issue 3.

Please e-mail information you find on research involving the effectiveness of medical acupuncture to bdortberg@aol.com.



AAMA adds textbook to Bookstore

The well regarded textbook, Five Element Constitutional Acupuncture, provides a clear, detailed and accessible presentation of the main features of this treatment. It has been added to the Academy's Book Store. It covers the context and history of this form of acupuncture, as well as the relevant Chinese medicine theory. This text has also been added to the list of recommended readings for those preparing for the ABMA examination.

Features:

- A clear and authoritative exploration of five element constitutional acupuncture
- An unambiguous description of the principle aspects of diagnosis within this system, ironing out inconsistencies of-



ten present in discussions of these aspects

- An inspirational encapsulation of a popular style and approach in acupuncture, of interest to all schools of thought in Oriental medicine

The authors are **Angela Hicks**, MA, DipCHM, MBACc, MRCHM, **John Hicks**, PhD, DrAc, DipCHM, MBACc, MRCHM, and **Peter Mole**, MA (Oxon), MAc, MBACc, all with the College of Integrated Chinese Medicine, Reading, Berkshire, UK. The hardback publication is published by Churchill Livingstone.

AAMA Associate, Full and Fellow members receive a 15% discount on book purchases made through the AAMA Book Store. To order Item 95-53 (regular \$69.95, practice member price \$59.45), visit www.medicalacupuncture.org and click on, AAMA Store, or call Academy headquarters (323/937-5514).

AAMA repeating successful educational opportunity

On neuromusculoskeletal pain

AAMA has announced a repeat offering of an education program that was well received this summer. — a workshop exploring the role of spinal segmental sensitization (SSS) in chronic neuromusculoskeletal pain – in November in Fort Worth, TX.

New Frontiers in the Matrix of Neuromusculoskeletal

Classified Ads

- Medical acupuncture practice with 30-year patient network for sale in Berkeley, CA. Creative arrangement. HMI/UCLA/Stanford graduate only. E-mail cb@hmieducation.com.
- Medical acupuncturist/internal medicine physician needed for private practice in Bethesda, MD. Training in medical acupuncture and interest in integrative medicine desired. Fax CV to 202/318-7557 or e-mail to IntegralEdinMD@hotmail.com.
- Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group, PC has an immediate opening for a physician acupuncturist one day per week at the George Mason Clinic in Falls Church, VA. A physician in primary care, neurology, rheumatology, orthopedics or PM&R preferred. Will do general intake h and p to access for integrative modalities for the patient's condition. The patient mix is 95% adult. Medical conditions are predominantly chronic pain, oncology and women's health. Physician must have training in acupuncture, and knowledge of additional CAM modalities is preferred. Respond with CV via e-mail to Kelly.l.vrana@kp.org or apply online at <http://physiciancareers.kp.org>.

To list a medical acupuncture-related employment opportunity or practice for sale here at no cost, send details to Barton Ortberg (bdortberg@aol.com, fax 323/937-0959).

Pain: Integrating Pain Mechanisms with Objective Physical Findings and Needling Strategies was first presented in June and July 2005 to great reviews. This workshop will be presented again in November by Jay P. Shah, MD, a physiatrist and clinical researcher in Bethesda, MD.

The workshop will combine lecture, case presentations, and therapeutic exercises for physicians who want to update their knowledge of pain mechanisms, improve their palpation skills and learn objective clinical findings that can be integrated with needling and physical medicine strategies. To assure a high-quality learning experience, attendance is limited to 30 participants per workshop.

Purpose and Objectives

Spinal Segmental Sensitization (SSS) is a hyperactive state of the dorsal horn caused by bombardment of nociceptive impulses from sensitized damaged tissue. Manifestations in the sensitized spinal segment include dermatomal allodynia and hyperalgesia, sclerotomal tenderness and myofascial trigger points (MTrPs) within the involved myotomes.

Improved examination techniques that are objective and quantitative, are used to identify the tissues and pain mechanisms involved in the patient with chronic pain. These easy-to-learn techniques are very helpful in the evaluation and management of chronic pain. Furthermore, their application before and after treatments aimed at desensitizing the involved spinal segment provides the clinician and patient objective, reproducible physical findings to guide treatment outcomes.

CME Accreditation

AAMA has designated the Workshop for a maximum of 14 hours of category 1 credit toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award.

For more details on this workshop and to register, visit www.medicalacupuncture.org and click on this meeting's link or call AAMA (323/937-5514).

Events Related to Medical Acupuncture

- Oct.26-28, 2006** **Pangea 2006 -- A Conference for Future of Pediatric Wellness** Chicago, IL
www.pangea2006.org, info@pangea2006.org, 847/424-0880, 18 CME Sponsor: Northwestern University
- Oct. 28-29, 2006** **Auricular Therapy (basic and advanced)** Rockville, MD (14 CEU)
 Nader Soliman, MD, alternativemedicineseminars.com, 301/251-2335 Sponsor: Alternative Medicine Seminars
- Nov. 4-5, 2006** **New Frontiers in the Matrix of Neuromusculoskeletal Pain** Forth Worth, TX
 Jay P. Shah, MD, www.medicalacupuncture.org, 323/937-5514 Sponsor: AAMA, 14 CME
- Nov. 9-12, 2006** **American Academy of Physical Med. & Rehab. 67th Annual Assembly** Honolulu, Hawaii
 Mitch Prywes, MD, presents on Nov. 12, www.aapmr.org/assembly.htm Sponsor: AAPM&R, 36.5 CME
- Nov. 10-12, 2006** **Intl. CAM EXPO West -- Complementary & Natural Healthcare** Hyatt Regency, Los Angeles, CA
www.camexpowest.com, 972/620-3023, 17.25 CME Sponsor: Beth Israel Medical Center
- Nov. 18-19, 2006** **Acupuncture Society of Michigan Fall Meeting** Walled Lake, MI
 Edward S. Garbacz, MD, leemedadmin@comcast.net, 248/926-4292 Sponsor: AAMA, 13 CME
- Dec. 2-3, 2006** **Treatment of Disorders of the Female Reproductive System** Chicago, IL
 Also March 10-11, 2007, Atlanta, GA, Edward S. Garbacz, MD Sponsor: AAMA, 14 CME
- Dec. 2-3, 2006** **Pain MegaShow: PENS and Beyond (Helms Medical Institute)** Tempe, AZ
 Joseph Helms, MD, et al, www.hmiacupuncture.com, 510/649-8488 Sponsor: HMI, 16-24 CME
- Dec. 13-16, 2006** **American Back Society's Annual Meeting 2006** Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV
 Jay Sandweiss, DO, et al, www.americanbacksoc.org, 800/828-0738 Sponsor: St. Mary's Med. Ctr., 26 CME
- April 24-25, 2007** **Medical Acupuncture Review Course** Baltimore Marriott (410/385-3000)
 323/937-5514, www.medicalacupuncture.org Sponsor: AAMA, 22 CME
- April 26, 2007** **AAMA Pre-Symposium** Baltimore Marriott (410/385-3000)
 323/937-5514, www.medicalacupuncture.org, 7.5 CME Sponsor: AAMA
- April 27-29, 2007** **19th Annual AAMA Symposium** Baltimore Marriott (410/385-3000)
 323/937-5514, www.medicalacupuncture.org, 22 CME Sponsor: AAMA
- May 11-13, 2007** **International Congress on Complementary Medicine Research** Munich, Germany
 +49 (0)89-726 697 0, www.cmr-muc2007.de, info@cmr-muc2007.de Sponsor: ISCMR
- June 1-3, 2007** **ICMART 2007 & 3rd International Medical Congress on Acupuncture** Barcelona, Spain
 +34 933238573, www.icmart2007.com, icmart2007@activacongresos.com Sponsor: ICMART

For more events, visit www.medicalacupuncture.org and click on Events Calendar.