



ICMART LEXICON of Medical Acupuncture

ICMART

International
Council of
Medical
Acupuncture and
Related
Techniques





ICMART LEXICON OF MEDICAL ACUPUNCTURE

DEDICATION

It gives me great pleasure to present the ICMART *Lexicon* of Medical Acupuncture. The *Lexicon* is the product of many hours of reflection and effort and is offered in the spirit of international cooperation and understanding.

In a rapidly shrinking world, this Second Edition of our *Lexicon* is a tribute to our commitment to the health and well-being of our patients and to the validity and necessity of Medical Acupuncture internationally.

Marshall H. Sager

Chair, Education Chapter

April, 2011



INTRODUCTION

The Beijing Declaration, Adopted by the WHO Congress on Traditional Medicine, Beijing, China, 8 November 2008, affirmed the uniqueness of traditional medical practices among the various Member States. The Declaration recognized that Member States have different domestic legislation, approaches, regulatory responsibilities and delivery models and that these distinctions result in therapies and practices which may vary greatly from country to country and from region to region. The Declaration stated the need for action and cooperation by the international community, governments, health professionals and workers, to ensure proper use of traditional medicine as an important component contributing to the health of all people, in accordance with national capacity, priorities and relevant legislation. The Declaration left the establishment of systems for the qualification, accreditation or licensing of traditional medicine practitioners to individual governments.

Acupuncture is one of the oldest and most widely practiced forms of “traditional medical practices” referred to in the Beijing Declaration. Acupuncture has been used as a healing modality for at least 5,000 years, pre-dating recorded history. It was not just practiced in China. Ancient Egyptian scripts indicated the use of acupuncture as early as 1550 B.C. . The South African Bantu tribesman, Arabs, Inuits, South Indians and Eskimos have evidence suggesting the use of acupuncture to cure disease. Throughout the world, ancient legends describe the discovery of acupuncture when a soldier, injured by an arrow on the battlefield, noted relief from medical conditions in places other than which the arrow struck.

In recognition of the Beijing Declaration, and with the goal of implementing its directives, the ICMART Lexicon of Medical Acupuncture has been created to detail the appropriate education, training and practice requirements for safe, competent and effective physician practiced acupuncture, internationally referred to as “Medical Acupuncture,” for use in public and private health services throughout the world.



The basis of all Medical Acupuncture practice is Western physician education and training. This *Lexicon* will not address medical school/university training. Rather, it will use the education and training of a licensed physician as a starting point from which to add specialized training in Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques.

The uniqueness of physician practiced acupuncture, Medical Acupuncture, lies in the numerous benefits of having a practitioner who has the ability to use Medical Acupuncture alone, as an alternative or compliment to conventional therapies, or in addition to conventional, mainstream therapies, in what is referred to as an integrative approach.

As stated in the Beijing Declaration, by custom and tradition, physician practiced acupuncture has developed according to national and regional standards. While some terms and methodologies may appear universal, what seems to be identical terminology among various international practices could, in fact, reflect strongly divergent ideologies and techniques.

PURPOSE AND GOALS

The past decades have shown an exponential increase in the use of complementary and alternative medical therapies throughout the world. The Model Guidelines for the Use of Complementary and Alternative Therapies by Medical Doctors in the European Union recognized that all complimentary and alternative therapies, including Medical Acupuncture, must be practiced in a manner consistent with safe and responsible medicine.

Affirming that objective, and recognizing the uniqueness of Medical Acupuncture, the purpose of the ICMART *Lexicon* of Medical Acupuncture is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by codifying national and/or regional Medical Acupuncture



education, training and practice requirements for physicians. The goal of the *Lexicon* is to become the accepted standard for Medical Acupuncture education, training and practice throughout the various regions and nations of the world.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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