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Editors of This Issue:
Roger Tsao, Yong Ming Li

Legal Advisor
Li Yang, Attorney at Law
Office: 718 445-7140

WWWQ News 望闻问切

Newsletter of American TCM Society
美国中医针灸学会 通讯

Feb 14, 2010 NO: 10
Spring Festival Issue



About WWWQ

Wang 望: inspection
Wen 闻: listening & smelling
Wen 问: inquiry
Qie 切: palpation

Nomination of ATCMS Board Members for the 2nd Term

Dear ATCMS members:

Happy Chinese New Year! We wish you all an auspicious Year of Tiger!!!

In the past two years, The ATCMS Board, under the support and efforts of all board members and other colleagues, has accomplished the projected works in compliance with our By-laws.

According to the By-laws, the Board is undertaking the Nomination for the 2nd term. Appointed by the Standing Board of ATCMS, Drs. Yong Ming Li, Guoguang Chen and John Pai will compose the Committee of Board Election Affairs so as to accomplish the task of Nomination. The Board members, on behalf of all ATCMS members, will democratically engage in the discussions and decision-makings on important agendas. The Board will assure that ATCMS will do its best to represent and reflect the benefits of all TCM and Acupuncture professionals. Being the back-bone of ATCMS, the Board members are obligated to partake with keenness all the activities in our professional community. All board members are to serve a two-year term and can be nominated automatically for the following terms.

Among those 49 current board members, Drs. Yong Ming Li and John Pai will not be nominated due to their new responsibilities for our society. Dr. Yueling Li moved to Virginia thence requested not to be nominated. These 36 board members, including Drs. Zhengying Bao, Dazhi Chen, Gui Chen, Lihua Chen, Jue Cheng, Jihong Ding, Jie Fu, Magnolia Goh, Yue Han, Emily Hu, Jing Huo, Jing Jiang, Brian Kuo, David Xu Li, Hui Li, Xiaoyu Li, Xianghong Liao, Hongwei Liu, Ming Liu, Faith Mao, Peter Ng, Angel Ren, Jie Shi, Dongxing Sun, Hongxing Wang, Wei Wei, Wanmei Woo, Dadong Wu, Jun Xu, Ming Yang, Xiujuan Yang, Peijun Zeng, Lina Zhao, Guoping Zheng, Ling Zheng, and Xin Zheng, will be automatically nominated for the 2nd term, since they have actively participated in our activities and fulfilled their responsibilities. However, there are 10 other Board members who have not fulfilled their responsibilities will not be nominated based on the By-laws that "Any Board members who has been absent for one-half or more of the Board Meetings during their terms will lose the right to be nominated."

In addition to the 36 members above, who will be automatically nominated, we welcome more nominations of new board members. Membership is not required, but each new candidate should be recommended by at least two ATCMS members.

It is our sincere wish that our members would contribute their time and energy to ATCMS as Board members. We also wish our members would not hesitate to recommend other members whose expertise could enhance ATCMS to the level of excellent quality, high efficiency as well as multi-functions. So let's work together to open a new era for TCM in the United States of America.

To accomplish the task of nomination, please fill out the attached Nomination Forms with your recommended persons and Fax your forms to us through 212-689-1898, by March 1, 2010.

Our Committee of Board Election Affairs will review the information in the Nomination Forms in order to list out all the qualified nominees. The results will be published on our website by mid-March.

Thank you for your attentions.

Committee of Board Election Affairs,
Standing Board of ATCMS

February 14, 2010

Contacts:	Tel.	E-Mail
Dr. Yong Ming Li	908-463-1448	yqli@aol.com
Dr. Guoguang Chen	718-445-4187	nyggchen@aol.com
Dr. John Pai	917-657-5858	paiwj@yahoo.com

The First ATCMS Spring Seminar in 2010

Dear members and colleagues:

The Tiger year of 2010 has arrived. Though we all have our own plans and expectations, but we still share one common wish for happiness, peace and prosperity. Our dream should come true only by our united efforts. Therefore, we need to reinforce our knowledge and skills. For this, our Society will provide sufficient opportunities in the form of seminars for continuous education.

The first academic seminar will be held between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 14, 2010 at Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 135-20 39th Ave., Flushing. Those who attend will earn 5 NCCAOM PDA credits.

This seminar will include two lectures, respectively on clinical practice and the 3rd party reimbursement on acupuncture treatments. The first lecture, “Western diagnosis and TCM management for common skin diseases” will be presented by Dr. Yong Ming Li. Dr. Li is a licensed physician, board-certified pathologist, dermatopathologist, acupuncturist, and TCM herbalist. He earned a BM from Liaoning College of TCM, MS from Illinois State University, and PhD in molecular immunology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and completed residency at North Shore University Hospital and fellowship at Ackerman Academy-Columbia University. He has published over 100 papers and abstracts, and received several research awards, grants, and four US patents. Currently, Dr. Li is practicing skin pathology and acupuncture with herbs in NJ and also serves as a member in several expert committees of NIH. In his seminar, Dr. Li will emphasize on:

1. The classification of commonly seen skin diseases in the USA.
2. Clinical features and diagnosis of malignant skin tumors.
3. Commonly seen inflammatory skin diseases and conditions may be managed by TCM therapies.
4. Application of TCM diagnostic in the examination and screening of skin diseases.
5. Case analysis on TCM management.

The second lecture: “How to deal with insurance companies for denied claims” will be presented by Dr. Ling Zheng. Dr. Zheng graduated from Dept. of Medicine, Fujian Medical University, China. As a licensed acupuncturist, he has been practicing Acupuncture in New York since 1994. During his long-term practice, Dr. Zheng has accumulated plenty of knowledge and experiences on the medical billing. He used to successfully hold many lectures in the medical billing, including “How to verify the patient’s insurance benefits for acupuncture”, “How to evaluate the patient’s acupuncture benefits so as to accept or refuse to take the patient’s insurance”, and “How to complete Form CMS-1500 with proper ICD and CPT codes”. In this particular lecture, Dr. Zheng will use actual cases to emphasize on how to deal with the denied claims. He will discuss: commonly encountered replies from the insurance company; how to decipher the statement from insurance company; most happened reasons of denials; how to deal with both bad and difficult accounts, as well as how to appeal for denied claims.

Our first 2010 academic activity has abundant contents for practical usage. It is not only a class meeting for learning, but also a chance for exchange and communication. We are looking forward to seeing you at the seminar.

(Roger Tsao)

Renew or Register for 2010 ATCMS Membership

As the regulations of the ATCMS By-Laws, ATCMS members need to pay for annual membership fee. All paid members will receive a discount rate for attending ATCMS sponsored seminars, and enjoy other related benefits and rights.

Now, it is the time to pay for 2010’ ATCMS membership fee. As usual, the annual (Jan.1—Dec.31) membership fee will be \$50 for each member. Please make a check payable to “ATCMS”, and mail it to: American TCM Society, 14 East 34th Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10016. You may also pay your membership onsite when you attend the upcoming ATCMS seminar.

ATCMS is a non-profits professional organization registered in New York State. All incomes of this organization, including membership fee, will be used only for those expenses related to ATCMS affairs. All Board members and members serving ATCMS are on volunteer basis. ATCMS has established a financial administrative committee and all financial activities will follow the established procedures and regulations. The ATCMS annual financial statement will be displayed every year.

(ATCMS Standing Board)

News in Brief

Acupuncture Reduces Hot Flashes, Improves Sex Drive for Breast Cancer Patients:

Study results show that acupuncture, when compared to drug therapy, has a longer-lasting effect on the reduction of hot flashes and night sweats for women receiving hormone therapy for breast cancer treatment. Women also report that acupuncture improves their energy and clarity of thought.

Journal of Clinical Oncology www.tcmstudent.com

A broader Definition of Healthcare:

Proposals before the Senate would allow treatment plans to incorporate alternative medicines, including acupuncture and dietary supplements. Insurers and some scientists object.

Reporting from Washington — Acupuncturists... would be brought more squarely into the mainstream of American medicine under the health legislation now before the Senate. The legislation would allow doctors to incorporate alternative health providers in some treatment plans. It also includes language that some believe could require insurance companies to expand their coverage for alternative therapies, on which Americans now spend \$34 billion a year. From www.latimes.com

Moxibustion Does Not Aid in Breech Infants:

A double-blind randomized study with over 200 women reported that the use of moxibustion does not influence breech position infants. J Obstetrics and Gynecology, Nov, 2009

Auricular Acupuncture Eases Back Pain in Pregnant Women:

A study published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology shows that one week of continuous auricular acupuncture significantly decreases the pain and disability experienced by women with pregnancy-related low back and posterior pelvic pain. J Obstetrics and Gynecology, June, 2009.

Acupuncture Lessens Pain in Brain Not Body, Scientists Discovered:

Acupuncture works by making the brain, rather than the body, no longer experience pain, according to new research. The findings suggest that acupuncture has a significant effect on specific nerve structures. Scientists who scanned the brains of volunteers as they were given the Chinese therapy found it deactivated pathways that govern pain. The findings, published in Brain Research, suggest acupuncture has a significant effect on specific nerve structures. From www.telegraph.co.uk

(Jing Huo)

Appreciate Your Support to Haiti Earthquake Victims

At the beginning of the year, while people of various ethnical backgrounds were praying for their own families, a miserable disaster descended upon Haiti. It was on Jan. 12 of this year at Port of Prince, the Capitol of Haiti. The strong (grade 7) earthquake suddenly ruined most of the buildings and families. According to the statistics of UN, the earthquake has claimed over 200 thousand people's lives and made another 1 million homeless. The whole world was shocked by the tragedy. And many nations and governments, including the U.S.A. and China, started providing great amount of humanistic helps to Haiti. The Secretariat of ATCMS has since then received numerous phones to inquire about donations. We really respect and support their kindly intention. Due to legal limitation of our society's position, we will not collect money directly but make every effort to open channels for our members' donation. We strongly support and encourage our members to make donations through the existing organizations. Following are several reputable organizations for your reference:

Red Cross:

International Relief Fund American Red Cross

P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013. Tel. 800-733-2767 www.redcross.org

Others:

Tzu Chi (American Headquarter): www.us.tzuchi.org; BLIA, Donation for Haiti, www.blia.org; Dong Chu Buddhist Temple, www.ddmusa.org

(ATCMS)

The ATCMS Stance toward the Promotion of FPD

Recently, discussions have been going on in the American Acupuncture community concerning FPD (First Professional Doctorate). This issue, conducted by ACAOM, has been discussed for quite some years. Many viewpoints have been presented without enough progresses. This FPD issue actually means offering Doctorate titles to the Masters of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (A 3-year program) by requiring them to go back to school for one more year of study. In the past, Chiropractors and Physical Therapists have succeeded in enhancing their professional status by using the same concept.

With regard to the professional title, as FPD for L.Ac., ATCMS has conducted its investigation and discussion.

In general, the idea of FPD would lead us to a right direction. The commonly used FPD title will certainly enhance the professional status of Acupuncture and TCM providers. More importantly is that FPD can create a condition which will strongly reinforce our efforts in opening the doors to the third party reimbursements.

However, judging from the situation in which the majority of our members are standing, we would possibly face the following facts:

- 1) The promotion of FPD will create two levels in our professional community. Namely, those who are FPD entitled, and those who are not. Nevertheless, there will be no difference in the right of practicing under the current State Law of Acupuncture. But still there is no guarantee that the law will not be changed in the future. If it does happen, those who are not entitled with FPD will automatically be relegated to the lower level. They will not only become stressed out at patients' market research, but also have to worry about being discriminated by the insurance companies who always want to save up on their expenses.
- 2) Most of our members graduated from the 5-year Medical or TCM schools in People's Republic of China. Although by the Law of China, they were granted only Bachelor of Medicine. But the contents involved in those 5 yr. programs actually far exceed those 4 yr. counterpart in the U.S.A. Our members with such a substantial background are commonly recognized as experts in TCM field. However, if FPD is approved, many of our colleagues would have to spend tremendous amount of time and money to acquire such a degree if someday the State Laws are amended to require FPD as a proof of the practitioner's qualification. Besides, some of our members might not even be admitted to such study programs due to the limitation in English. Under such circumstances, it is not only unfair to us, but also causes enormous damages to the TCM profession.
- 1) The last and the most important point is the Accredibility of FPD title in American Society. Although we are simulating the systems used by Chiropractors and Physical Therapists. But don't forget their knowledge is part of the Western Health Science. So it is easier to establish a system for teaching and examining acceptable to the U.S.A. Meanwhile, TCM as a science stemmed from Oriental Medicine, would raise a question that who is the most eligible one to establish a qualified and acknowledgeable system for teaching and examining. So even we all obtain such a degree, it is still questionable that American health-care profession and insurance companies would accept it.

In summary, it is our wish to present the following proposals for ACAOM and NCCAOM to refer to when they engage in establishing the system of FPD as well as directing their member schools in conducting the school policies.

- A) Due to the fact that most of the Medical and TCM Schools in China are acknowledged by WHO, the graduates from those schools are considered equivalent to M.D. in the U.S.A. and eligible to take the Medical Board Examination to become M.D. Therefore, we suggest that ACAOM and NCCAOM establish a Special Reviewing System to accredit those who graduated from the schools acknowledged by WHO and grant them the FPD title without requiring them to go back to the study programs redundant to them. For such a purpose, ATCMS is willing to collaborate with ACAOM as well as NCCAOM.
- B) For the practicing L.Ac. who are on the way to obtain the Transitional Doctorate degree based on their Master Degree, we suggest that credit-hours be granted to them on the basis of their clinical practicing.

Regarding the issue of FPD, ATCMS will continue communicating with ACAOM. Our possible support will be based on the premise of fairly protecting the benefits of our members. We will also pay attention very closely to the details of FPD accreditation procedure, as well as how we would participate in such project with discretion. We will continue reporting to our members the latest progress of this issue.

(Roger Tsao)

NOMINATION FORM
For 2nd TERM of ATCMS BOARD MEMBERS

1) Candidate Information:

Name: _____; Email: _____

Tel: (H) _____ (W) _____ (C) _____ Fax: _____

Mailing address: _____

2) Abilities of Candidate:

- A) Ability of social activity: () excellent; () average.
- B) Ability to use English: () read; () write; () speak
- C) Ability to use computer: () excellent; () good; () average
- D) Other specialties: _____

3) What part of work do you think the candidate is willing to join:

- () Academic, () Secretary, () Member rights & benefits, () Insurance affair, () Member communication,
- () legislative issue, () Public relation, () News Letter, () Willing to be assigned

4) More information regarding the candidate:

A) Education:

School graduated	Year graduated	Degree obtained
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- | | | |
|----------|-------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | _____ |

B) Working experience:

Organization	time	title
--------------	------	-------

- | | | |
|----------|-------|-------|
| 1. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | _____ |

C) Is this candidate a licensed acupuncturist in any state of the U.S.? () Yes; () No.

5) Recommender information:

Name in Chinese: _____; Name in English: _____

Telephone: _____; E-mail: _____

6) Signature of Recommender: _____ Date: _____

Note: 1) One form can only be used for one recommendation. Please copy the form if you would like to recommend more than one candidate. You may recommend up to 3 candidates. 2) The candidate must be recommended by two or more members. 3) Your completed nomination form must be submitted to the Committee of Board Election Affair, via fax (212-689-1898), by deadline on March 1, 2010.

Headline

ATCMS Seminar

Date and Time: March 14, 2010, Sunday, 1:00pm--6:00pm
(12:30pm--1:00pm: Registration)

Location: Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 7th Floor (Diamond Room)
135-20 39th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11354

Topics and Speakers:

1. Common Skin Diseases: Western Diagnosis and TCM Treatments
---- Yong Ming Li, M.D., Ph.D., L.Ac., President of ATCMS
2. How to deal with insurance carrier for a denied or mishandled claim
---- Ling Zheng, L.Ac.; Secretary-in-General of ATCMS.

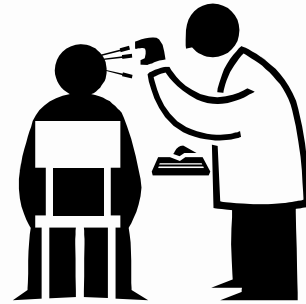
PDA Credit: NCCAOM 5 Credit Points

Fee: 1. ATCMS member (who has paid for 2009' membership fee): \$40;
2. Student with ID: \$40;
3. Other: \$80

Contact Phone: (212) 689-1773 (Dr.Zheng); (718) 897-8952 (Dr.Zheng)



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New York, NY 10016, U.S.A.
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