

## ***History of Professional Acupuncture Associations in Oregon***

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*Compiled by Becca Seitz, April 2013*

### **1973**

- The National Acupuncture Association [NAA] (Los Angeles) held a seminar in Portland for physicians and dentists. This conference generated a positive response from both groups.
- Dr. Michael Yan Ferng, Dr. Duke Won and Dr. Wing Won began using acupuncture. They were all arrested. At the trials the judge dismissed the cases but warned them that 'the practice of acupuncture was illegal in Oregon, except when done by MD's or DO's.
- SB 489 - Many of these doctors' patients signed petitions and asked their legislators to pass a bill that would allow acupuncturists legal status. Senator Wally Carson and Representative Gordon McPherson were the chief sponsors of the bill.
- Acupuncture was put under the auspices of the Board of Medical Examiners. The new law gave the BME the authority to promulgate rules and regulations that would govern the practice of acupuncture in Oregon, including the education, testing and other aspects.
- Passed in 1973, one of the most stringent of the early BME regulations required a physician referral for each patient but they also required that each practitioner have ONE specified and approved physician. This was the 'resident' or supervising physician for the acupuncturist. Patients could NOT just get a referral from any MD or DO.

### **1974**

- February 2, 1974 - The first letter and proposal of organization of the Oregon Acupuncture Association (OAA) by Nung Kuo.

### **1975**

- Naturopaths and Chiropractors made their first attempts through their boards to get permission to practice acupuncture. Their requests were denied.
- March 23, 1975 – First preparatory meeting – Nung Kuo was authorized to prepare the Constitution of the OAA.
- April 20, 1975 – Second preparatory meeting - elected officers of ad hoc committee for the OAA. Chairman – Nung Kuo, Public Relations Officer - Yuet Sun Chan, Secretary – Chon Gee Shen
- August 3, 1975 – First official OAA meeting - Elected officers: President – Mi Fu Shu, Vice President and Executive Secretary – Nung Kuo, Research and Studies Department Head – Kok-Yuen Leung, Publications Department Head – Yuet Sun Chan, Secretary and Treasurer – Chin Gee Shen, Acupuncture Educational Committee – Yuet Sun Chan, Kok-Yuen Leung and Nung Kuo, Acupuncture Regularizing Committee – Mi Fu Shu, Kok-Yuen Leung, Chon Gee Shen and Nung Kuo.
- September 28, 1975 – OAA registered with the Secretary of State and prepared the by-laws.

### **1976**

- Board Members : President – Nung Kuo, Vice President & Executive Secretary – Yuet Sun Chan, Secretary & Treasurer – Chih-Kang Tai, Research and Studies Department Head – Kok-Yuen Leung, Publications Department Head – Mi Fu Shu
- March 4 – 5, 1976 – Dr. Manaka Seminar held at the Hilton Hotel in Portland, OR. 26 members attended.

- May 2, 1976 – Fourth official meeting - Approved By-Laws

## **1977**

- Board Members: President - Professor Nung Kuo, Vice President - Professor Yet Sun Chan, Treasurer - Chik-Kang, Members at Large - Professor Kok-Yuen Leung and Dr. Wai Tak Cheung

## **1978**

- Board Members: President - Professor Yuet Sun Chan, Vice President - Professor Leung, Treasurer - Dr Wai Tak Cheung
- The ‘supervising physician’ regulation was removed per the request of Gene Bruno to the BME, as he argued that any MD in Oregon is as fully trained in western medicine as any other MD and it was not only a hardship to patients but discrimination against their physicians to restrict their access to acupuncture in this way. However, a referral was still needed from an Oregon physician.

## **1979**

- Many of the original members of the OAA had either moved or passed away, leaving little structure. Dr. Cheung and Gene Bruno took the lead of the OAA.

## **The Early 1980s**

- Board Members : Gene Bruno, Wai Tak Chung, Eric Stephens, Malvin Finkelstein, Stu Greenleaf , Betty Chen, Jerry Senogles and Jim Hauser

## **1981**

- Law passed allowing acupuncturists to see patients if they obtained a diagnosis from a MD or DO, eliminating the need for a referral.

## **1984-1988**

- Board Members : Gene Bruno, Wai Tak Chung, Eric Stephens, Malvin Finkelstein, Stu Greenleaf , Betty Chen, Jerry Senogles, Jim Hauser, Larry Weinstein, Patti Peterson, Philip Himburg, Michael Kane, Durk Hein and Francis Li.
- Attempts were made every session to pass a new scope of practice bill, all of which failed.

## **1988**

- OAA hired Stephen Kafoury as lobbyist.

## **1989**

- Insurance Equality – Law requiring health insurance companies to reimburse Licensed Acupuncturists for performing acupuncture just as they would an MD. – Passed.

## **1989 – 2008**

- OAA worked with the Oregon Veterinary Medical Examining Board to clarify ORS 686.040 (4), which allowed allied health practitioners to practice their scope on animals upon obtaining a referral from a licensed veterinarian for treatment.
- OAA regularly contributed to and promoted the Portland Chinese Classical Garden in NW Portland.

- OAA proposed the idea of educational requirements for MD's and DO's to practice acupuncture.
- OAA sponsored AOM Day events at local stores.
- OAA promoted the use of the official title, Licensed Acupuncturist, to distinguish us from other practitioners who may practice acupuncture, and to reflect the process that we go through to become a practitioner.
- Oregon's Pain Management Commission- OAA actively worked on the PMC video shown to all health care practitioners in Oregon to be sure that it contained accurate and favorable information about acupuncture.
- OAA sponsored the TOO Seminars (Treasures of Oregon) for local practitioners to both present to and learn from their colleagues while gaining Continuing Education credits.
- OAA sponsored rafting trips for members.
- Events: Annual Conferences

### **1991**

- Licensed Acupuncturist – Law changed our title from “Registered Acupuncturist” to “Licensed Acupuncturist,” accurately reflecting the fact that acupuncturists must pass a licensing exam. This also improved our status under some state laws.
- Independent Practitioner Status – LAcS obtained “independent practitioner” status, removing the requirement that a patient obtain a physician referral or their medical records before receiving acupuncture.

### **1993**

- Comprehensive “Scope of Practice” – OAA, with much help from Stuart Greenleaf, passed a comprehensive “scope of practice” law, greatly expanding the modalities performed by LAcS from only acupuncture to all of Chinese medicine, including Chinese herbs, Oriental massage, Oriental diagnosis, moxibustion, diet advice, etc. This law was monumental. It also paved the way for many legislative steps, and improved the likelihood for legislating insurance coverage of acupuncture.

### **1994**

- The Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Society of Oregon (AOMSO) was formed.

### **1995**

- Acupuncture Detox – This OAA legislation made acupuncture mandatory prior to beginning methadone maintenance. Unfortunately, the governor vetoed the law.

### **1997**

- Acupuncture Committee – This OAA law restructured the Acupuncture Committee of the Board of Medical Examiners to parallel the balance of the other BME committees. It reduced MD membership by one, to the Acupuncture Committee now was six members: three LAcS, two physicians, and one BME member (a physician).
- Good Samaritan Law – This OAA law added LAcS to the “Good Samaritan” law, allowing us to perform medical procedures (according to our scope of practice) in an emergency situation, and to be held harmless.

### **1999**

- Intern Bill – The OAA worked with the BME to develop this legislation and the language in the Oregon Administrative Rules to enable interns to complete their clinical practice under legal guidelines.

## **2001**

- Board Members: President – Peter Martin, Vice President – Natalie Arndt, Secretary – Lisa Francolini, Treasurer – Jane McKee, Membership – Rob Shinney

## **2002**

- Board Members: President – Natalie Arndt, Vice President – Shannon Duncan, Secretary – Karen Goodell, Treasurer – Liane Venzke, Membership – Steve Snyder
- OAA took action against the attempt to limit access to acupuncture by patients covered by the Oregon Health Plan (OHP). Although it still covered acupuncture as a treatment, the Health Outcomes Committee recommended limiting the scope of treatment and list of covered services drastically. This amounted to an elimination of OHP coverage for any acupuncture treatment except HIV, substance abuse, and comfort care (terminal care). In response, the OAA formed an OHP Task Force, chaired by Peter Chabarek.

## **2003**

- Board Members: President – Peter Martin, Vice President – Jane McKee, Secretary – Lisa Francolini, Treasurer – Natalie Arndt, Membership – Rob Shinney
- Measures 28 and 30 - The OAA worked with lobbyist Stephen Kafoury, Richard Hammersclag and Pat Culliton from the Society for Acupuncture Research to influence a reversal of the decision. The failure of Measures 28 and 30 severely limited progress. Due to mobilization by OCOM, the OAAOM, and The Portland Alternative Health Center (PAHC), acupuncture was retained on 5 Lines of the Prioritized List.

## **2004**

- Board Members: President – Sabine Pater, Vice President – Shannon Duncan, Secretary – Natalie Arndt, Treasurer – David Tara, Membership – Lindsey Armstrong
- The OAA, along with several other groups, worked to block making it only possible to bill PIP insurance if the practitioner is a part of the insurance panel.

## **2005**

- Board Members: President – Sabine Pater / David Tara, Vice President – Erico Schleicher, Secretary – Natalie Arndt, Treasurer – Laura McGraw, Membership – Deborah Lang / Barbara Nizch
- SB 285 – The OAA worked to add Licensed Acupuncturists to the Pain Management Commission.
- SB 936 – The OAA worked to make technical changes for non-Oregon licensees to be able to demonstrate acupuncture at seminars.
- The Oregon Bar Association, with support from the OAA, led three bills in 2005 (one passed) to ensure due process for licensees being Investigated.
- HB 2672 – The OAA successfully led an opposition to this bill which would have required retail sellers of Oriental herbs to label products with common names, content and weight and register with the BME (OMB).

## **2006**

- Board Members: President – David Tara , Vice President – Erico Schleicher, Secretary – Caryn Tierney, Treasurer – Laura McGraw, Membership – Natalie Arndt
- The OAA proposed creating its own acupuncture licensing board with the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) administering the office work. Members voted to decline this proposal.

## 2007

- Board Members: President – David Tara, Vice President – Martin Brother, Secretary – Caryn Tierney, Treasurer – Laura McGraw, Membership – Liane Venzke
- OCOM was granted accreditation for their Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM) Program.
- Oregon Senate Bill 59 – The OAA helped to reinstate a law passed by the Oregon Legislature in 1989 (with the support of the OAA). This law required those insurance carriers whose plans are written in Oregon and cover acupuncture services to reimburse Licensed Acupuncturists as well as MDs. The 1989 law was subject to another section in the statutes that "sunsetted" the bill and similar health care mandates after a certain period of time.
- Oregon Senate Bill 329 – Passed in the final days of the session. The OAA helped pass the bill set out a framework for major reform of Oregon's health care "system," and established the Health Care Fund Board to design an insurance exchange for small employers and individuals.
- Oregon House Bill 3089 – The OAA helped to get authorized Licensed Acupuncturists who have earned the degree of Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine to use the title "doctor" in the clinical setting. As with others who have health care doctorates, but who are not MDs, acupuncturists must use the full title when the term "doctor" is used in written form.
- The OAA created and passed a Code of Ethics, partially because the OMB told the OAA that they would use recognized standards of the acupuncture community when evaluating a licensee's conduct. This was presented to the AAC in 2007.
- Events: April 14, 2007 – Annual Conference

## 2008

- Board Members: President – Lisa Rohleder, Vice President – Martin Brother, Secretary – Carol Griesmeyer, Treasurer – Brynn Graham, Membership – Liane Venzke
- Events: April 12-13, 2008 – Annual Conference
- September 14, 2008 – Oregon Acupuncture Association (OAA) and Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Society of Oregon (AOMSO, started in 1994) unify as the Oregon Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (OAAOM).
- 2008-2009 Interim OAAOM Board Members: President – Siamak Shirazi, Vice President – Donna Stewart, Secretary – Carol Griesmeyer, Membership & Public Relations – PK Melethil, Finance Committee Chair – Carla Ralston, Conference Committee Chair – Mona Searles, Legislative Committee Chair – M Margaret Sanger, Board Members at Large – Hilary Laferriere and Jan Van Es, Alternates – Ellen Shefi and Jean Dugan

## 2009

- Board Members: President – Hilary Laferriere, Vice President – Jan Van Es, Secretary – Sparks Baughman, Treasurer – Mona Searles, Membership Director & Public Relations Committee Chair – PK Melethil, Legislative Chair – Christo Gorawski, Board Member at Large – Shalena Havens
- Physical Therapists first brought the idea of teaching "dry needling" to Oregon.
- OAAOM hired half-time Administrative Director, Erin Leider & retained part-time lobbyist since 1988, Stephen Kafoury.

## 2010

- Board Members: President – Hilary Laferriere, Vice President – Collin Stoll, Secretary – Joanna Flores, Treasurer – Mona Searless, Membership Director – Beth Howlett, Legislative Chair – Christo Gorawski, Board Members at Large – Dixie Young, Laura Ocker, Al Thieme, OCOM Student Representative – Malinda Finnell, NCNM Student Representative – Adam Burrill
- Stephen Kafoury coordinated meeting with Darren Coffman, Director of the Health Services Commission and Catherine Livingston, Medical Director. Oregon Health Plan Task Force re-formed (was last active around 2003) with Laura Ocker chairing the OHP Task Force. OCOM Research Department collaborated. Gradually new conditions were added to OHP through process of presenting evidence to the Oregon Health Authority. Project is ongoing as of 2013.
- Portland Acupuncture Project – Installed 35-foot tall acupuncture needles around Portland.
- Events : October 24, 2010 – Screening of “9000 Needles”, August 15, 2010 – Membership Drive

## 2011

- Board Members: President – Laura Ocker, Vice President – Collin Stoll, Secretary – Joanna Flores, Treasurer – Bijana Devo Kadakia, Membership Director – Beth Howlett, Legislative Director – Alfred Thieme, Board Members at Large – Dixie Young, Leah Yamaguchi, Wendy Childs, Anabelle Snow, OCOM Student Representative – Sarah Hammer
- SB 780 - The OAAOM introduced a bill to keep non-acupuncturists from practicing acupuncture (under the name “dry needling”) without being fully trained, licensed and credentialed. Sen. Monnes Anderson did not want to hear a scope of practice bill, and did not let this bill come to a hearing.
- OBCE “dry needling” rule went into effect allowing chiropractors to practice "dry needling" with 24 hours of training. Within a couple of months, the OAAOM hired attorney Thane Tienson, who achieved a Stay or Injunction of the Rule. Still in effect as of April 2013.
- Events : December 2, 2011 – Panel Discussion on Lab Testing in Acupuncture Practice, October 23, 2011 – AOM Day Film Festival – “Forks over Knives”, August 28, 2011 – Short Sprint to Health and Safety, July 16, 2011 – OAAOM Open Forum & BBQ, January 16, 2011 – 9000 Needles Documentary Showing, January 10, 2011 – Informational Forum – Dry Needling and Scope of Practice

## 2012

- Board Members: President – Laura Ocker, Vice President – Beth Howlett, Secretary – Wendy Childs, Treasurer – Bijana Devo Kadakia, Legislative Chair – Alfred Thieme, Board Members at Large – Brian Baker, Tooba Durani, Joanna Flores, Sariantra Kali, Becca Seitz, OCOM Student Representative – Sarah Hammer, NCNM Student Representative – Karmen Scott
- Summer 2012 – Laura Ocker & Stephen Kafoury successfully worked with member Kimberly Dornan and the Portland Water Bureau to remove the requirement for acupuncture clinics to install backflow devices in sinks in Portland (school clinics must still have them).
- Stephen Kafoury, Laura Ocker, & Al Thieme met with Dr. Bruce Goldberg, Director of the Oregon Health Authority and two health-care policy advisors to Governor Kitzhaber to discuss greater inclusion of acupuncture under Oregon's health care delivery systems. Dr. Goldberg expressed intent to adopt Al Thieme's idea of a CAM Advisory Panel to the Oregon Health Authority.
- OAAOM created Organizational Membership Plan.
- Events : January 27, 2012 – Legislative Update Event and Mixer, Spring Conference, October 24, 2012 - AOM Day Film Festival

## 2013

- Board Members: Laura Ocker, Beth Howlett, Brian Baker, Tooba Durani, Joanna Flores, Wendy Childs, Becca Seitz, Eric Buckley, Alternates – Sariantra Kali and Regina Dehen, OCOM Student Representative : Sarah Hammer, NCNM Student Representative – Karmen Scott
- HB 2996 - OAAOM introduced legislation to clarify our scope of practice so that other healthcare professionals who wished to practice acupuncture (under the name "dry needling") would be required to be thoroughly trained, licensed, and credentialed in acupuncture. This bill died in the House Health Committee. Al Thieme was Legislative Chair. Stuart Greenleaf, Laura Ocker & Christo Gorawski active on committee
- Events : February 9, 2013 – Threshold: Black Water Snake Auction, April 14, 2013 - OAAOM Spring Conference
- History Task Force formed in March for the purposes of informing the upcoming Strategic Planning Initiative. Will be ongoing to create thorough oral history of the associations.
- April 27-28, 2013 - OAAOM 2 day Strategic Planning Event with facilitator Shelley Stump, aim is to form a 6 year Strategic Plan.