



International Council of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques

Greeting Address

5th Bulgarian Acupuncture Congress – 50 Years of Acupuncture in Bulgaria

26 – 28th October 2012
Sofia, Bulgaria

Dr.med.Walburg Marić-Oehler, MD, General Secretary of ICMART International Council of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques (founded 1983), Honorary President of DAEGfA German Medical Acupuncture Association (founded 1951)

On behalf of the ICMART Board, I congratulate you to the 50 year anniversary of acupuncture in Bulgaria and to your anniversary congress.

Looking back over five decades of acupuncture in general as well as in your country, the development of Medical Acupuncture, the changes of perception, education and practice, the increasing acceptance and recognition are tremendous. The development in each country and especially in European countries is included in the very specific development of acupuncture in the west as a whole with unique variations in each country. These variations are characterized by their specific conditions.

Over 50 years, Medical Acupuncture has grown up from a matter of pioneers outside of conventional medicine to become more and more part of conventional medicine, in prevention, complimentary in acute and chronic diseases, in functional and mental disturbances as well as in rehabilitation. This process has been supported by an increased research activity, which has been impressively expanded over the last years.

Acupuncture has played an outstanding role in the development of CAM Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Europe. It is widely used by patients and physicians in many European countries, included in university education programmes and it is partially recognized by official authorities. Acupuncture can be an important factor in building up the integrative medicine of the future - CIM Complementary and Integrative Medicine. Over the last years, ICMART has been very active and successful in Brussels to promote the distribution of CAM/CIM to European public health together with the other main CAM systems – the CAMDOC Alliance.

ICMART as the only umbrella organization of Medical Acupuncture associations worldwide is working very hard to promote medical acupuncture to improve its role as a global player and to establish itself as first contact of Medical Acupuncture. ICMART can only further develop when all its 90 member associations give their input, their information and enthusiasm. The new ICMART website will be the platform for Medical Acupuncture.

I wish you an interesting and successful conference, a lot of professional exchange, interesting meetings and an enjoyable stay in Sofia and its surroundings.

Society Headquarter

Louisenstrasse 15-17 / Loewengasse 1, 61348 Bad Homburg / Germany

Contact

Walburg Marić-Oehler MD / ICMART General Secretary
tel +49 6172 21038 / fax +49 6172 599800
maric-oehler.icmart@t-online.de

www.icmart.org