

ICMART

International Council of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques



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International Council of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques

In order to support international cooperation in Medical Acupuncture, ICMART was founded in Vienna, Austria, in 1983. It was registered in Brussels as a non-profit umbrella organisation comprising medical acupuncture societies world wide, and today ICMART represents the only truly international medical acupuncture organisation.

The main objectives of ICMART are to develop and standardise acupuncture practiced by medical doctors and to integrate it into modern medicine and modern healthcare. ICMART embraces the two main approaches in acupuncture: The scientific (Western) approach through evidence-based medicine - and the traditional (Eastern) approach, both with respect to efficacy, safety and cost effectiveness. (See Acupuncture Charter Berlin 2001).

Membership is open only to medical associations of acupuncture and related techniques. At present, ICMART has 88 medical acupuncture societies worldwide as members. These members represent 45 countries and about 35,000 medical doctors. Many researchers from different ICMART member societies have been involved in important acupuncture research programs over the last two decades. They have presented their results at the annual ICMART congresses.

Since 1983, annual world congresses and/or international symposia have been sponsored under the aegis of ICMART. These featured lectures, poster presentations, workshops, and social activities. Dynamic teamwork among the host association and active members of the ICMART Board resulted in the following successful congresses and symposia:

83 Vienna, 86 London, 88 Prague, 89 Vienna, 90 Rome, 91 Munich,
92 Budapest, 93 Bath, 94 Istanbul, 95 Sofia, 96 Copenhagen, 97 Cyprus,
98 Miyazaki, 99 Jurmala, 00 Vienna, 01 Berlin, 02 Edinburgh,
03 Sao Paulo, 04 Sydney, 05 Prague, 06 Washington DC,
07 Barcelona, 08 Budapest, 09 Thessaloniki,
10 Riga, 11 The Hague, 12 Athens

At these meetings, ICMART prizes are given as well as other prizes and awards for the best lectures and poster presentations.

ICMART's Education Chapter is working on e.g. Western anatomy, physiology and neuroscience relevant to Medical Acupuncture, various methods of point selection, training requirements, testing and evaluation. The compilation of the the ICMART Lexicon of Medical Acupuncture is currently in progress.

The European Chapter is working towards the official recognition of acupuncture as a part of CAM (Complementary and Alternative Medicine) in European Health Policy. Since 2006, ICMART has been part of the CAMDOC Alliance www.camdoc.eu, whose mission is "to develop and facilitate the integration of the well established and respectable CAM methods into European Health Policies - with the aim to provide the European citizens with the added value to medicine that CAM can provide".

ICMART has participated in various, diverse activities of the CAMDOC Alliance, some of them in cooperation with other CAM stakeholders. ICMART is member of EPHA, The European Public Health Alliance, representing over 100 non-governmental and other not-for-profit organisations working in support of health care in Europe.

Also, ICMART has established a global network of Medical Acupuncture, and ICMART is the contact address for Medical Acupuncture world wide.



ICMART Diploma

Is given in recognition of special active acupuncture achievement. This acknowledges a high level of education, training, practice, and status in the field of national / international Medical Acupuncture / related techniques.

ICMART Board

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ICMART Chapters

Education Chapter	Marshall Sager (<i>USA</i>)
European Chapter	Walburg Marić-Oehler (<i>Germany</i>)

For further information

The ICMART website contains information on the member associations and links to their websites, plus further congress information and abstracts.

www.icmart.org

International Research and Information Networks

CAMbrella

A research program of the 7th EU Frame Work Research Program to work out an overview of the current situation of CAM, inclusive of acupuncture, in the different EU countries.

The goal is to use this information as a basis for further CAM research projects in the future.

ICMART is member of the CAMbrella Advisory Board.

www.cambrella.eu

EICCAM – European Information Center for CAM

Preparing the results of clinical CAM studies, inclusive of acupuncture, in an understandable way for the use by politicians, decision makers, media, general public, medical doctors and other therapists.

www.eiccam.eu

EURICAM European Research Initiative on CAM

www.euricam.net



Acupuncture Charter Berlin

Acupuncture has been practiced in China for over 2000 years, resulting in a wealth of empirical experience. Interest in the technique grew tremendously in the West over the latter half of the 20th Century, and to an even greater degree in the last 10 years.

The growth in medical acupuncture took place as a result of its perceived efficacy in acute and chronic pain, as well as in functional and reversible organic disorders, and addiction and as a result of considerable recent research.

Much high quality evidence now exists to support its clinical use for a wide range of problems based on randomised controlled trials and systematic reviews. Basic scientific research has determined many of the neurophysiological and neuropharmacological mechanisms by which acupuncture works.

Medical acupuncturists make an orthodox diagnosis prior to treatment and only use acupuncture when indicated. Patient safety is of paramount importance.

The full integration and regulation of medical acupuncture has not followed as rapidly as has the growth in public interest and pragmatic use of the technique. Acupuncture education and research has, for the most part, taken place outside the orthodox medical teaching centres, and thus it has often been ignored, or encountered strong resistance.

The development of medical acupuncture has not progressed at the same rate in all countries. The degrees of integration of acupuncture, medical and traditional, within national healthcare provision have differed widely.

The participants of this ICMART symposium and DÄGfA / DGfAN jubilee congress in Berlin, 14-17 Jun 2001, strongly commit themselves to the following:

1. Setting up unified international western quality standards of medical acupuncture in education, practice and research according to the principles of orthodox western medicine:
 - To optimise the effects of acupuncture and the safety for patients
 - Following evidence based medicine (EBM)
 - To critically appraise TCM theory as applied to acupuncture
 - For application in all appropriate medical specialties
 - To integrate acupuncture into modern medicine and health care
 - To synthesize two complementary visions of Man
2. Strengthening relationships between national medical acupuncture societies in Europe and throughout the rest of the world
3. Further collaboration with the World Health Organisation
4. Extending national co-operation with:
 - Universities
 - Medical institutions
 - Institutions of healthcare
 - Health funding organisations
 - Other medical organisations of acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine
 - Patient organisations

Berlin, 17th of June 2001

Acupuncture has the potential to be an integrating factor to build the Integrative medicine of the future.



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