What happened in these last months? And what comes next?

Dear Colleagues and Friends,
Please let me express my gratitude for your confidence to elect me the new ICMART President.

I feel very honored to be able to work together with so many dedicated board members from all over the world. A special welcome to our new board members from Austria, Mexico, Italy, USA and Brazil. Welcome also to our new member societies. It is a pleasure to see ICMART still growing.

The big event in the second half of the year was ICMART-iSAMS 2018, our annual world congress with more than 500 participants from 38 countries. It was the first joint congress between ICMART and iSAMS (International Scientific Acupuncture and Meridian Symposium) from Korea, which brought together scientists of the highest reputation. We hope to continue this fruitful cooperation in the future. We also had the special chance to welcome speakers from WHO and EU to support our aim to make acupuncture available and affordable for all patients within an integrated medicine. The next scientific highlight was the 2nd International Symposium on research in Acupuncture under the patronage of ICMART, which was hosted by AMAB and SAR in Bologna. At the same time we intensified our exchange with South Korea in Seoul.

In October we participated as co-organiser at the "World Acupuncture Day", a global event of the whole acupuncture world, hosted by UNESCO in Paris. Several board members stayed at the 3rd UAE International Conference of Acupuncture. In the United Arab Emirates acupuncture is just starting to spread.

But we also have to face throwbacks. In Spain, ICMART is supporting the Medical Acupuncture associations in their struggle for recognition, being endangered by a law against so-called pseudo-therapies, even after a long history of successful application, also at university level. We are continuing our pathway to have acupuncture recognized officially as an additional medical qualification, which already is accomplished in several countries. And we go on with our engagement as the representative of Medical Acupuncture at the WHO. The next ICMART board meeting will be in Geneva where the WHO headquarters are located, and it is timed to coincide with our meeting at the WHO.

My personal wish for the future is to still intensify our personal contacts and exchanges with all our member societies to remain a really living association. Please forward to us also your society news to have them published and disseminated on the ICMART website.

I hope to meet many of you during our next ICMART World Congress 2019 in Australia.

Good luck and peace for 2019

Hedi Luxenburger
PRESIDENT OF ICMART
ICMART HAS A NEW BOARD!!

What has changed?

More countries represented in the Board, with Dr. Francisco Lozano from México, Dr. Paola Poli from Italy and Dr. Marcia Yamamura from Brazil.

New Members from already present countries: Dr. Karin Stockert from Austria and Dr. Thomas Burgoon from USA.

We thank our leaving Board Members for their work and contribution: Dr. Marshall Sager from USA, Dr. Michaela Bijak from Austria and Dr. Francesc Minguell from Spain.

And we will miss our recently deceased Board Member and friend, our dear Sutisno Sukarto.

MESSAGE FROM OUR IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

I was honoured to be elected as ICMART President in 2014 and 2016. A lot of work has been done the last 4 years from the board. Among the achievements we can highlight the following:

- For the first time we establish relation with the WHO, meetings at the headquarters in Geneva
- We signed two Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, with the Taipei Chinese Medical Association, and the Society of Korean Medicine, SKOM
- We organised the first ICMART-FILASMA Congress in Mexico-city and we agreed to run a common congress every 4 years. New members joined ICMART as a result: Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay.
- We supported the organization of the World Acupuncture Day, WAD-O in UNESCO, Paris and president of ICMART and FILASMA represented Medical Acupuncture in 1,500 participants and many political representatives
- We have accredited the first 3 schools of acupuncture and medical acupuncture congresses
- For the first time we have scheduled the upcoming congresses for the next 4 years.

From now on, we have a new President, and work doesn’t stop, so I will continue committed with my efforts, for Medical Acupuncture worldwide.

Dr. Konstantina Theodoratou.
Great Success in the 2018 Munich ICMART-iSAMS Medical Acupuncture Congress

Over 500 active participants on site for joining this extraordinary event which was a big step forward in promoting acupuncture and related techniques worldwide, scientifically, practically as well as politically.

12 associated partners supported the event, namely DGfAN, SMS, DAA, DAG, EUROCAM, ESIM, IFMANT, Med. Ges. Für Oigong Yangsheng, ISJKM, NADA, FILASMA and CAMDOC Alliance.

Plenary lectures, Workshops, Pre-congress courses, ICMART Science Award, several Young Scientist Awards, Honorary Membership was awarded to Dr Jochen Gleditsch. And, of course lots of fun, music, dance and more.
ICMART participated during the World Acupuncture Day in Paris

ICMART and FILASMA Board members participated in the scientific program and also in the political meetings held during the World Acupuncture Day celebration, in Paris, November 15th at UNESCO head offices (the “Maison de l’UNESCO”).

The event clearly demonstrated the extensive use of acupuncture throughout the world. The World Acupuncture Day Organization (WADO) is a French non-profit organization under the law of 1901, founded on 12 March 2017 by various members of national, European or international federations and associations of practitioners and teachers of, and researchers in acupuncture.

It was a day not only for the profession but also one for the general public, including future patients.

1,500 participated in the event. ICMART supported the event as a sponsor and with one lecture. Past President of ICMART Konstantina Theodoratou gave a lecture: “The spread of acupuncture in medicine worldwide and the scientific progress on it.” Hedi Luxenburger, President and Patrick Sautreuil, Vice-President had several meetings to extend future cooperations.

FILASMA was also present and President Francisco Lozano spoke about “Acupuncture in Latin America”.

Dr. med JOCHEN GLEDITSCH
DISTINGUISHED ICMART’S HONORARY MEMBER
The 3rd International Acupuncture Congress was held in Abu Dhabi under the auspice of the local Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The Congress was organized by the Lotus Holistic Institute-Abu Dhabi and the Korean Health Industry Development Institute.

ICMART and FILASMA Board members participated in the scientific program and also at the political meetings.

Memorandum of Understanding

The MOU between the International Council of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques (ICMART) and the Society of Korean Medicine (SKOM) was signed on the 7th of September 2018 in Munich.

Both parties agreed to collaborate on education as well as the exchange of health, political, medical system and scholarly information in the field of Medical Acupuncture for the promotion and development of Medical Acupuncture as a mainstream field of medicine of the world by working and communicating with each other and therefore to invite representatives from each association at their own expense to important symposiums and conferences/congresses of each other.
The 2019 World Congress on Medical Acupuncture, held on the beautiful Gold Coast, will be an outstanding event.

Bringing together world-class health professionals, educators, researchers and students as well as stakeholders and international clinical providers of Acupuncture, and related medical techniques.

Our panel of leading expert keynote lectures, interactive learning sessions including scientific symposia and video demonstrations, workshops and panel discussions will ensure your clinical and scientific learning and research reaches the highest level.

This congress aims to bring together and extend the scientific rationale and the medical and public mindset necessary to achieve our goal of helping acupuncture become widely practised, taught and accepted as a leading medicinal practice all over the world.

We invite you to be part of the 2019 World Congress of Medical Acupuncture and to help integrate and implement the use of Acupuncture and TCM in the medical society.
In Spain our colleagues are facing a serious problem concerning acupuncture. The Health Ministry is working on a “Plan to protect health against Pseudo-Therapies”, and they are including acupuncture as a “non-scientific” therapy and plan to forbid its use. Of course we all are aware that meanwhile there is a lot of evidence for the effects of acupuncture treatments and in many countries this fact is also accepted by the health authorities.

We are afraid that the actual situation in Spain is a result of poor information of the responsible people. As ICMART we try to support our Spanish member societies in their fight for acupuncture.

We have sent an open letter concerning Medical Acupuncture to the Health Ministry in Spain and other responsible.

Our Scientific Chapter is participating in a scientific Panel in Madrid to inform people about the actual state of science. Let’s hope the best for our Spanish friends.

The 2nd International Symposium on Research in Acupuncture, with the presence of our ICMART President Hedi Luxenburger, organized by A.M.A.B. (Bologna Medical Acupuncturist Association - Italo Chinese School of Acupuncture) and the prestigious SAR (The Society for Acupuncture Research) took place in Bologna. This 2nd Symposium, which brought together the leading world researchers in the field of acupuncture, had the final objective of providing concrete and authoritative answers regarding the most controversial aspects and the main problems related to the methodology of research in acupuncture and its integration within of the health systems.

The Program was designed to offer plenary sessions and discussion / debate between the public and experts, with focus on Acupuncture mechanisms of action and current trends in research in acupuncture, Integration of acupuncture in health systems, and Research Methodology and EBM in Acupuncture and the Problem of Placebo and Topic From Research in Acupuncture to Clinical Practice

https://www.acupunctureresearch.eu/program-calendar-symposium-acupuncture-bologna

This was a great symposium where highest research level and warm Italian hospitality met during two intensive days; Qi was flowing freely with everybody dancing with south-Italian music in a wonderful evening; a lot of new friendships will remain.
Milan Sep. 2018
The annual congress of ALMA-AGOM has been held in Milan this September, celebrating the 40th anniversary of ALMA association. During the congress, Dr. Carlo Moiraghi, the President of ALMA has been awarded for his great work for all those years. Dr. Paola Poli, ICMART Board member and AGOM President and Dr. Konstantina Theodoratou Past President of ICMART were also present at the congress.

Sao Paulo, Brazil, October 2018
Last October, the XXIII Brazilian Congress of Acupuncture of CMBA and V International Congress of the Medical College of San Pablo (CMAeSP) took place in the city of Sao Paulo. ICMART Vice President Dr. Tomas Dawid as well as Directors at Large Dr. Marcia Yamamura from Brazil and Dr. Francisco Lozano from México attended this event, and gave their respective lectures.
With around 800 attendees, these congresses are among the most important in Latin America, with speakers from all over the world.

Share it with us!!
Be part of our team, and send us your News about the activity in your Association: scientific events, board elections, institutional or political news concerning Acupuncture in your country!!!
We can include it in the next Newsletter, publish it under News in our website, and share it in ICMART’s social media!!
Keep us posted and send us your news to info@icmart.org
The International Conference on Traditional and Integrative Medicine named “Health, Wellbeing and People-centered health care” has been organised by the Pusan National University PNU and the Korean Institute of Oriental Medicine in Daejeon on the 21st of October 2018. Speakers from different countries has presented topics related with acupuncture but also with Korean medicine modalities. There were also organised meetings between the representatives of various association from different countries. Past President of ICMART Dr. Konstantina Theodoartou was invited to present the work of our association.

ICMART – ACCREDITATION SYSTEM OF CONGRESSES
ICMART MEDICAL TRAINING ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

Dear ICMART Member:

Do you want to have your training program accredited?
Do you want to have your Congress accredited?

Visit our webpage to get informed about the conditions and procedures, and contact us: accreditation@icmart.org

Did you know?

From our By-laws:

Article II: Object §1 The objects of this Association are to:

(a) Group together Medical Associations of Acupuncture and/or Related Techniques which, in each country, admit to membership practitioners coming from a recognized institution at university level, medical, dental or veterinary, and are legally authorized to practice the whole range of medical, dental or veterinary techniques in their respective countries. Only the physician component (MD, DDS, DVM or equivalents) of the respective societies shall be included as ICMART members.

(b) To strengthen the links between these Associations by contacts or exchanges of information, persons or ideas.