



ACUPUNCTURE ASSOCIATION
of COLORADO

**Day at the Capitol is coming up soon!
Wednesday, March 11, 2020**



Our first Day at the Capitol was a great success last year. We made a positive impression on both legislators and their aides and discovered the Colorado Legislature has a number of acupuncture fans. It is important that we continue to take advantage of these opportunities to put a positive face to our profession especially as we are specifically named in a number of the bills that came out of the Opioid and Other Addictive Substances Interim Committee. This is not a lobbying event but rather a networking and educating opportunity. There will be coffee, tea, juice, fruit, gluten free and gluten heavy breakfast treats!

REGISTER HERE



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TWO SPEAKERS THIS YEAR!

Katherine Taromina, LAc

Saturday afternoon and all day Sunday

Katherine will be sharing best practices and treatment strategies for the most common side effects of cancer treatment and for health promotion and management of long-term effects for patients past clinical therapy.

Michael Taromina, Esq

Saturday morning

Michael, an expert attorney with decades of experience in the field of AOM will share common ethical, safety and legal pitfalls from real cases throughout the country and effective risk management, safety and problem prevention strategies.

14 NCCAOM AND CA CEU'S PENDING

Credit Detail:

AOM - 10 hours
Safety- 2 hours
Ethics- 2 hours

The silent auction has some amazing things to bid on!
We hope to see you there.

Discounted room rate at \$129/night. Please make your reservation before Monday, April 6th to guarantee this room rate at Marriott .

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Medicare

Medicare is covering now covering acupuncture in specific instances. The following is from the American Acupuncture Council and does a thorough job of answering the FAQs:

There is no direct payment to an LAc at this time and Medicare will not register any LAc to the Medicare program. However, this unprecedented ruling does now include acupuncture under Medicare. But with the following protocols:

1. The LAc would have to be employed and work incident to an MD, PA or NP.
2. There is no direct payment to the LAc or Medicare registration but paid to the medical provider and the acupuncturist must be an employee.
3. It is limited to chronic lower back pain for 12 weeks or greater and up to 20 visits in a year (12 visits within 90 days and if it is effective up to an additional 8).

For the purpose of this decision, chronic low back pain (cLBP) is defined as:

- Lasting 12 weeks or longer;
 - nonspecific, in that, it has no identifiable systemic cause (i.e., not associated with metastatic, inflammatory, infectious, etc. disease);
 - not associated with surgery; and
 - not associated with pregnancy.
1. The AAC Insurance Information Network interprets this as a start and a study to determine the effectiveness of acupuncture and should lead to a positive outcome. This should lead to Medicare allowing full membership and direct claims from LAc providers just as the VA has done.
 2. This level of coverage was not expected as it was announced that there would be a “study” only so certainly the fast track bodes well for the future of acupuncture in the Medicare program.
 3. Acupuncture will be reimbursed in the range of \$40-50 per set depending on your region.

Legislative Update

Healthcare is of primary concern for the Polis Administration and the Opioid Crisis is a critical issue in that arena. We are closely following all healthcare related legislation and are directly involved in legislation that has come out of the Opioid and Other Addictive Substances Interim Committee.

On Tuesday, January 28th, 2020, Mark Van Otterloo represented the acupuncture profession and testified regarding the rulemaking process by DORA from HB 19-1174 regarding balance billing. He was joined by the associations current lobbyist Lara Lee Hullinghorst and CSTM student Maddie Bergner. The focus of HB 19-1174 was to reduce surprise billing when a patient is receiving care at an in-network facility with an out-of-network provider. The rulemaking process will still allow patients to be balance billed (at this point) so long as the patient is aware that the provider they are seeing is out-of-network. In either event, this is largely a rule that will effect hospital based practices more than private practice, though all acupuncturists will have a waiver outlined in the rule that

than private practice, though all acupuncturists will have a waiver outlined in the rule that patients will need to sign informing them of their rights. These waivers will be universal amongst healthcare providers which will create a Colorado standard for balance billing. The rulemaking will have its final hearing on February 21st, 2020. Your board, under the advisement of our lawyer Stuart Wilcox, has identified two areas where confusion may arise regarding the proposed rules. We submitted our comments both in writing and in person. We have attached our written comments for anyone interested in the specific response.

Conference Silent Auction Donations Needed!

The AAC Annual Conference is coming up April 18 & 19th and will have another amazing selection of silent auction items. We welcome donations to add to our offerings. If you have an appropriate donation or would like to help secure donations, please contact our Conference Chair, Fung Fung Lim. She can be reached at fungfung@limacupuncture.com or 720-515-9282.

AAC Board Meetings Are Open to the Public

All meetings are posted on the website.

The next meeting will be held at Southwest Acupuncture College, Sunday, February 23, 10am-12pm.

Thank you to Stephanie Trzaska, LAc. for stepping in to fill a recent AAC board vacancy.

We are looking to fill several board member vacancies this annual meeting. If you are interested in positively influencing your profession by becoming an active, voting member of the AAC board, please send an email or letter of interest to Timoni Slusher.

You must be a member of the AAC to be qualified for the position.

Please include any past board experience you may have, why you are interested in becoming a board member, and skills that you believe will benefit the board. Board members are voted in by the membership at our annual meeting held this spring at the annual conference on [April 18, 2020](#).

email: acutim8@gmail.com

Mail: 112 W Spencer Ave, Suite A, Gunnison, CO 81230

Lunar New Year Celebration Success!

Thank you everyone that made it out to the Lunar New Year mixer at Local 46! Honora Wolfe gave us wonderful insight to this Year of the Metal Rat and Cup-a-Joe <http://www.cup-a-jo-band.com/> kept the party going.

The AAC would like to have more of these social mixers. If you have ideas of locations or entertainment, let us know and we can help make the event happen.

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