

The Colorado Acupuncturist - October 19 2018



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The mission of the AAC is to provide a unified voice to practitioners and students of AOM by involving and communicating with members, educating the public, and influencing legislation to promote and protect AOM in Colorado.

SAVE THE DATE!



**April 13-14th, 2019
featuring Lonny Jarrett**

Denver Marriott- Westminster
7000 Church Ranch Blvd
Westminster, CO 80021

The Spirit of the Points

- *What is an acupuncture point?
- *How are point like archetypes?
- *How do they work?

ACUPUNCTURE FUNDRAISING SOCIAL!

Open to Friends, Family, & Patients!

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 4 pm - 9 pm

CLICK HERE TO RSVP NOW!



Join us for our first-ever fundraising social at [Native Foods](#) restaurant in Glendale, Colorado, just outside of Denver! Join members of your AAC board, fellow acupuncturists, and friends on **Tuesday, November 13, 2018 from 4-9 pm!** Native Foods features healthy, vegetarian [cuisine](#) with gluten free options. Beer, wine, kombucha, and other beverages are available! 20% of all purchases sold during the event will be donated to the AAC -- but you **HAVE** to tell them that you're eating as part of the AAC fundraiser! Come raise money for our ongoing acupuncture efforts, and have a fun, delicious evening out with your fellow acupuncturists! It's gonna be awesome!

*What is the role of intention in activating point function?

*What is the relationship between a point's name and its function?

*What is the relationship between an acupuncture point and its meridian?

*How to design treatments that resonate with the patient's functional dynamics while considering, time, weather, season, signs, and symptoms.

AAC BOARD PRESIDENT UPDATE

Fall finally arrived with winter on its heels!

Similarly, after a long, hot, contentious period, the agenda of the AAC is changing up with a forward looking focus, all the while being aware that the heat will eventually return.

What does this mean? As was stated in a recent update, for the time being in Colorado, dry needling is not considered to be acupuncture. To change this situation will take the official reporting of the many dry needling injuries we know and hear about. As far as DORA is concerned, if it is not reported to their site, it didn't happen. Please encourage any injured patients to report to [DORA](#).

The final PT Board rulemaking hearing at DORA will be on November 2. We have had representation at the previous two stakeholder meetings and the AAC will be submitting final comments to the process on or before October 31. If you are interested in listening to those hearings, you may do so [here](#) and [here](#).

If you would like to comment, I recommend that you listen to the previous meetings and submit written comments to the [DORA Physical Therapy Board](#) by November 2. Please keep in mind expressing concern or outrage over the current situation (dry needling is not acupuncture) is not a useful topic. In legislative processes, more voices are better. This is not legislative. As previously mentioned, the AAC will be submitting a comprehensive statement to DORA in response to this rulemaking process.

Other fun stuff our lobbyist, Lara Lee Hullinghorst, has been monitoring on our behalf and what it means:

Title 12 Recodification (T12):

This is, primarily, a "Common Provisions" project, so no substantive changes to individual practices are expected in this process. The October 17th "Meeting to discuss proposals regarding acupuncturists, athletic trainers, ... chiropractors and massage therapists" was attended on the AAC's behalf by Lara Lee and Scott Richardson.

Takeaways from the meeting are as follows:

- It was confirmed that our Practice Act is not in any jeopardy from the adjustments into the Common Provisions.
- It was clarified with the committee that no profession will be able to use this process to make adjustments in their Practice Acts.
- Also made clear by this process: As we go into our Practice Act Sunset process, we will be asked to align our Practice Act to some of these newly minted "Common Provisions."

Opioid & Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee:

Do you Facebook? Instagram?



We'd LOVE your talents on the Public Relations Committee!!

As we embark upon a positive acupuncture campaign, we could really use help from one or two of our tech-savvy and social members!

If you like posting captivating images to Instagram, crafting memorable Twitter quotes, and broadcasting exciting Facebook updates, we'd love to have you be a part of our team!

Contact [Erika Marie](#), the PR Chair, to help out!



Acupuncture Insurance Codes



The American Society of Acupuncturists Leads the Effort

The American Society of Acupuncturists has been taking part in the American Medical Association CPT meetings for approximately 2 years. This committee of the AMA is where codes for procedural billing are developed, and hence is critical to the practice of medicine in the United States. This committee has very strict rules for confidentiality of content and process, with only the final results of efforts being made public. ASA involvement in this work must respect these confidentiality rules. For some time, however, there has been interest among multiple professional communities outside of the AMA in the creation of codes to describe myofascial needling techniques that are not time based. In the current public agenda of the AMA CPT meeting coming up in Boston this past month, you will find two applications for codes addressing this interest: Tab 44 was introduced by the physical therapy and chiropractic communities to advocate for "Dry Needling" codes. Tab 45 was introduced by the ASA to advocate for "Trigger Point Acupuncture" codes. The ASA will be present at the CPT meeting and will be in discussion with other professional communities about the creation of these

Our lobbyist has attended parts of these meetings and has been in contact with key committee members that are likely to continue to be on this committee after the upcoming elections. Please Vote. Our goals are to be included in insurance reimbursement recommendations and be involved in future testimony to this committee regarding how acupuncture assists in both pain relief (thus avoiding addictive medications) and recovery (from addictive medications). We will continue to work to find places in the process to include items advantageous to licensed acupuncturists. We are late to the process, and are likely to find our inclusion points in the amendment phase of the committee's bill release process.

Your all-volunteer AAC Board has been working hard for you and all acupuncturists in Colorado. We recently held our 2nd Annual Board Training and Retreat. Holed up in a cabin in the woods for about 48 hours, there were no "trust falls" or bungee jumping events. Nonetheless, we managed to bond and get a tremendous amount of serious work accomplished. Kimberley Benjamin provided excellent training on board structure and our board history while Mark VanOtterloo broke down the various organizations that make up and influence our profession. Our lobbyist gave a detailed update on legislative expectations and what to look for after the upcoming midterm elections. Please Vote. Most importantly, the various chairs on the board worked on goal setting for a number of projects, some more exciting than others, but all can use some help. Now is a great time to volunteer time for your professional organization!

I am excited to announce that the AAC is working on rebranding our organization! We'll be updating you soon on what that means and how you can get involved.

Lend a Hand!

We are currently in need of a couple of people to start "learning" how to be the secretary and the treasurer for the AAC. This would essentially mean attending the meetings with the folks that currently hold these positions and seeing what the job entails. This is a great opportunity to try out being on the board before committing to joining the board.

Vote.

Want to do something for the organization less formally? Contact your colleagues and make sure their [membership with the AAC is current](#). Confirm that anyone in a class you are taking or teaching is a member.

Vote.

We are an all volunteer board. However, we do require money if we are going to be able to track legislation that impacts our profession, and more importantly, move legislation on our own behalf. Memberships help fund our organization. Voting makes legislators pay attention to our input.

Why do we all need to work towards increased membership right now? While membership is always important, we are

codes. We will keep you updated as allowable by AMA confidentiality rules. No doubt, we anticipate there will be needed diplomatic discussions on this topic, as these code set proposals overlap significantly. It is possible that a hybrid code could emerge, that no code will be approved, that one of the two codes would be approved, or another unforeseen outcome. We will advocate for the best practices possible, with an eye towards the public benefit as the ultimate goal.

moving into the process of our Practice Act Sunset Review. This process affects EVERY ACUPUNCTURIST IN THE STATE. Doing this well will protect our scope of practice, "fix" some of the language in our current practice act that has not helped us present ourselves as integral members of a modern healthcare system as well as clean up some confusion around injection therapy. This process is time consuming and will involve additional time from our lobbyist and potentially other experts. The Practice Act will affect us for the next decade and possibly longer if not done well.

This Sunset Review is the heat that will come around again.

More, More, More!

Keep your eyes peeled for updates regarding a planned but date unconfirmed "Day at the Capitol." We want to provide an opportunity for all of us to meet and speak with our state legislators. We will announce a confirmed date before the end of November so you can mark your calendars. Keep in mind that your legislators may not know how you vote but they know if you vote. You have more weight in the conversation if they know they have skin in your game. Please vote.

ACT NOW TO JOIN US!

Have a great time at our social!

Click on the image below, **reserve** your spot, and **share** on social media!! **20% of all purchases** during the event will be donated to the AAC -- *if* you tell them that you're dining as part of our fundraiser! We can't wait to see you!

Last, but certainly not least, our next board meeting will be on Sunday, November 18th at Southwest Acupuncture College, 10am-12pm. We will be rolling out a new call in system in the great hope that many more of you will be able to participate remotely and get involved. Look for the proposed agenda and call in information on our website next month.

Thank you for reading to the end and caring about your profession.

**Tuesday, November 13, 2018
4 pm - 9 pm**

[One final reminder, please vote. It matters.](#)

**680 South Colorado Blvd,
Glendale, CO**

Liz Spetnagel, DAOM

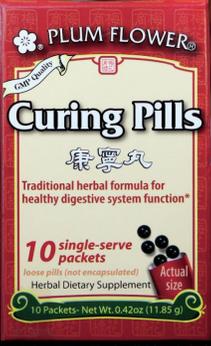
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Autumn is the season when the Lung and its associated orifice, the nose, are most susceptible to dryness and the variety of irritations that wind-born external pathogens can bring. Traditional Chinese Medicine provides some guidelines for the prevention and treatment of external wind conditions associated with the season. Here are just a few of our suggested formulas: Shen Mai Formula, Ling Zhi Lung Formula, Eight Immortals Formula, Jade Windscreen Formula, Xanthium Nasal Formula, and Children's Jade Defense Formula.



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