



SECOND INTERNATIONAL medical CONGRESS ON acupuncture

BARCELONA, 3-5 JUNE 2005

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acupuntura

medical RESEARCH AND PRACTICE



statement of the
II INTERNATIONAL medical
CONGRESS ON acupuncture
for the governments
of the EUROPEAN UNION

Organised by:

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SECCIÓ COL·LEGIAL DE METGES ACUPUNTORES
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With the collaboration:



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International Council of Medical
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statement of the II INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CONGRESS ON ACUPUNCTURE FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Acupuncture was, and is still being used as, a therapeutic tool of Chinese Medicine. Present-day biomedical knowledge, however, has founded new explanations for its mechanism of action, and new models by which to use it according to modern physiopathological theories.

Nowadays, health professionals all over the world achieve great success using acupuncture in coordination with conventional treatments for a great variety of diseases. Other International Medical Congresses have demonstrated that this is the case, and this II International Congress in Barcelona is no exception.

Due to the vastly increasing demand for Acupuncture in our countries' populations we consider that regulation is required in order to provide appropriate levels of health and safety, in accordance with the requirements of our respective communities.

AS MEDICAL EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD WE WISH TO SAY
PUBLICLY TO OUR GOVERNMENTS:

- Acupuncture is not an innocuous intervention. In the absence of good medical knowledge of anatomy, for example, problems can be caused by puncture of internal organs. More importantly, a delay in diagnosing a serious medical problem that perhaps should not be treated with Acupuncture may arise as a result of a lack of professional medical knowledge on the part of the practitioner. This is a risk when someone uses acupuncture based only Traditional Chinese Medicine diagnoses, which are no longer sufficiently comprehensive to cover the range of known diseases in human pathologies.

- In order to be safe and effective, Acupuncture needs to be prescribed and integrated in a treatment plan that uses current medical models.

- To perform acupuncture responsibly a proper clinical diagnosis is essential, including a prognosis a therapeutic indication and on-going follow-up based on conventional medicine. Conventional medical knowledge and training is therefore required.

AS A RESULT OF THE ISSUES HIGHLIGHTED ABOVE WE
RECOMMEND THAT:

- The Governments of the European Countries create specialties or accreditations in Acupuncture for health professionals, so that the population has access to professionals with appropriate knowledge and good practice in this area, and who work with safety and efficacy and in coordination with modern medical models.

- Acupuncture be done only by medical doctors and in those countries where it is established by nurses, midwives and physiotherapists. All of them must be specialised or accredited in Acupuncture and they have to use Acupuncture as a therapeutic tool within their professional competences. In the same way veterinaries can do acupuncture if they are accredited to use this tool in animals.

- The governments of the European Countries introduce acupuncture in their modern medical model in areas that have been scientifically recognized as valid for the treatment of certain diseases, in close co-ordination with conventional medicine.

statement