



Newsletter of ASA India



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Acupuncture Science Association (ASA)

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Special Inaugural Issue

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Editorial

Man is a Microcosmic imagery of the Macrocosm – immutably bound to the incessant Tidal rhythms of “**Becoming**” and “**Becoming not**”. More mystical have been the morbid factors disturbing his normal life cycle putting him to lack of ease – “disease”/ life style diseases. Many therapies have been discovered in the course of time and they have undergone Evolutional developments with the growth of Science and Civilization. One such Oriental system of healing discovered more than four thousand years ago was '**Zhen Jiu**' (Pricking & Warming), which got translated commonly as **Acupuncture**. A heating cigar called Moxa cigar was used to warm the points at certain parts in the body, besides thin, hair-like needles. The whole system gained the name of '**Acu-Moxi**' therapy by a few later translators who did enough justice to all the associated Traditional Wisdom and values laid down by the Chinese scripts.

Acu-points in the body are very low resistant loci interconnected to form channels directed to the specific visceral organs in the body. These small spots, or dermal conductors, when touched, pressed, pricked or warmed up; send stimulations to the Neuro-Humoral Axis, to establish Homeostasis within the Body, Mind & Spirit.

The Oriental philosophical concept of the Five Physical elements of “Fire”, “Earth”, “Air”, “Water” and “Wood” – their relationships to each other and to man are taken as a basis for the diagnosis and therapy, and the rhythmic flow of bodily energies to the vital organs forms the basis of “Qi” and “Pulse” in human body.

Continuous circulation and distribution of Qi, Harmony between Polarities (Yin and Yang) and a balance of emotions, reflects Health, while Illness is the result of derangement of these 'Abstract' - yet 'Vital' principles.

Acupuncture redirects and normalizes the flow along the meridians. With approximately one thousand points in the body, the numerical combination is so great that each patient is ill in his own way and every physician heals in his own way.

Every observable, palpable symptom has its own psychological counterpart, and Pulse and Tongue Diagnosis of Acupuncture, which needs expertise in art, identifies the master link among the chain of symptoms.

Pain and Pleasure are to the Soul and not to the body; hence Acu-therapy follows holistic principles and treats the disease as the suffering of the soul within the body and not the body itself, which is only a bundle of tissues.

More than pathways of Qi, meridians are said to be roadmaps leading us to our destiny. There are the 8 Extra Meridians (Qi Jing Ba Mai) that are considered 'the scars' or 'lines of separation of the first cell divisions' during embryonic development. These are our original blueprint formed in-utero. These vessels circulate essence / Jing, our potential. This essence includes not only our genetic make-up, but also the possibilities in our lives on a metaphysical level - namely, what we can be.

Therefore, Acupuncture is not all about treatment of disease alone, but a system that changes Pain into Purposeful Life Journey. Though the meridians are named after certain organs in the body, they have a broader perspective to Life, Health and Behaviour. Many Scientists, Environmentalists, Engineers and Western Medical Doctors have learnt this System and have tried to interpret the process of Healing through Acupuncture uniquely.

Acupuncture being a **system of Drugless Treatment, is the legacy of all Human beings** that should be properly understood, thoroughly learnt and appropriately applied to develop Life Quality, Humanity and Peace.

The major focus of **ASA** rests on these noble principles and we humbly request all the colleagues who have been chosen for this arena of healing, to be integrated on this sharing platform to develop Humanity. **The concept of ASA is not only Acupuncture Science, but the formation of a National United Platform of all Acupuncturists and allied Traditional Practitioners with Drugless approach.** In a vast country like India with a rich heritage of Traditional wisdom and a mixed type of Manpower, ASA intends to play a vital role, to promote the Society.

Quoting Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, **“The mind should be fearless, the head should be held high and knowledge should be liberally available in a world that shouldn't be broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls”**. In a large nation that had fought for its freedom from such restraints less than a century back, people suffering from sickness, un-employment and poverty are in dire need of **cost-effective and drugless systems of treatment**, not only for the recovery of Health, but for their **Life Quality elevation** too - and one such Holistic system of treatment is Acupuncture.

The aspirations of Patriots like Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Saheede Azam Baghat Singh were not **just to run away from the harsh reality to establish an imaginary heaven, but to explore the possibility to create such an ideal society. Our ASA too has similar aspirations to follow footsteps of our pioneers and Vedic science.**

The objective of **ASA** is **to unite** all Acupuncturists and Associations **under one umbrella, to educate** them thoroughly **to raise the standards** of the treatment and **to protect their healing interests**, to allow the needy to have freedom to choose their treatments and **to persistently request for the recognition** of Acupuncture as an independent system of treatment in India.

ASA is a workforce towards Integration and opposed to values like “Discrimination, Monopoly and Untouchability”. The broader scope of this alliance can awaken society towards sound health and better quality of life as Acupuncture treatment has a simple, economical, dynamic and holistic approach to all aspects of health without any side effects.

Acupuncture fulfills all essential criteria (as per the ICMR guidelines) as one of the independent systems of medicine in India and awaits recognition of the Union Government. This therapy is a mind-body medicine that works on psycho-neuro-immuno- endocrinological basis of disease and helps a person to awaken into a purposeful Life Journey - as experienced through several treatments in different parts of the world and mass following in India too.

ASA with its untiring efforts to form a National United Platform has almost succeeded to unite several State Associations and with still more work to perform, the cooperation of all the colleagues with a non-bias approach is requested.

Jai Hind!

–Dr. C. K. Raju (Editor In-charge)

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Role of ASA in Meeting National Health Objective and WHO Decade Target

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Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General WHO has introduced in 2013, *WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy Decade (2014-2023)* as a valuable tool for governments, system planners and health practitioners to benefit individuals seeking the right care, from the right practitioner, at the right time. The document sets out the course for **TM** and **CM (T&CM)** in the next decade for health care services to access **T&CM** in a safe, respectful, cost-efficient and effective manner.

India has a universal health care system run by the constituent states and territories of India. The Constitution charges every state with "raising the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties". The **National Health Policy** was endorsed by the Parliament of India in 1983 and updated in 2002. Parallel to the public health sector, and indeed more popular than it, is the private medical sector in India. Both urban and rural Indian households tend to use the private medical sector more frequently than the public sector, as reflected in surveys. The role of ASA is to take up this challenge. India has a life expectancy of 64/67 years (m/f), and an infant mortality rate of 46 per 1000 live births.

Under prevention and control of major diseases we will include - major communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS, TB, Hepatitis B, schistosomiasis etc.), expand national immunization programs, and prevent and control zoonosis and priority endemic diseases, major NCDs and mental disorders; ensure the health of the priority population: maternal and infant safety (subsidizing hospital delivery for rural women, reducing MMR and eliminating newborn tetanus, comprehensively preventing and controlling birth defects); screening of cervical and breast cancer for rural women; improving health of rural children; health and care for migrant workers; occupational health; surgery for cataract sufferers; healthy schools;

Control of risk factors of health: health response to emergencies; drinking-water safety and environmental health (sanitation latrine project in rural areas and drinking water monitoring); medical care quality and safety; food safety (standard formulation and follow-up evaluation; capacity building for risk monitoring and evaluation, accident investigation and response); healthy lifestyle and health literacy promotion; blood supply and safety.

To meet above national health target we need to actively develop traditional **ISM** model similar to Chinese medicine (**TCM**) model as proclaimed by **WHO (T&CM)**.

Govt. of India on National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy-2002 stated that India possesses unmatched heritage represented by its ancient systems of medicine which are a treasure house of knowledge for both preventive and curative healthcare.

The positive features of the **Indian Systems of Medicine**, namely, their diversity and flexibility; accessibility; affordability; a broad acceptance by a section of the general public ; comparatively low cost; a low level of technological input and growing economic value have great potential to make them providers of health care that the larger sections of our people need. In Feb. 2013 the GOI, in collaboration with the **WHO South East Asia Region Office (SEARO)** organized an international conference on traditional medicine in New Delhi at which participating countries agreed to cooperate, collaborate and mutually support each other by adopting the **Delhi Declaration on Traditional & Complementary Medicine (T&CM)**.

Government of India through **AAYUSH (2014)** has also spelled out to promote and propagate **T&CM** as signatory member state of **WHO** decade programme. Further after 4 years of our continuous interaction with **ICMR** it is understood that **ICMR** favorably recommended the recognition of new system of medicine (including Acupuncture) to the Union Health Ministry.

Consequently as per PRS Parliament Diary: Winter Session- Day 2: Nov 25th 2014- Bill on the Recognition of New Systems of Medicine has been listed for introduction. Now we collectively need to pray and put all the resources and efforts for favorable decision on this bill.

WHO T&CM Definitions

Traditional Medicine (TM): Traditional medicine has a long history. It is the sum total of the knowledge, skill and practices based on the theories, beliefs and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness.

(<http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/traditional/definitions/en/>).

Complementary Medicine (CM): The terms “complimentary medicine” or “alternative medicine” refer to a broad set of health care practices that are not part of the country's own tradition or conventional medicine and are not fully integrated into the dominant health care system. They are used interchangeably with traditional medicine in some countries.

(<http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/traditional/definitions/en/>).

Traditional and Complimentary Medicine (T&CM): T&CM merges the terms TM and CM, encompassing products, practices and practitioners.

Policy and Regulations :T&CM practices vary widely from country to country with certain practices (sometimes called modalities) regarded differently depending on the culture, understanding and accessibility of conventional medicine. A practice where significant progress has been made is acupuncture. Although acupuncture was originally a feature of traditional Chinese medicine, it is now used worldwide. According to reports supplied by **129 countries, 80% of them now recognize the use of acupuncture.**

In order to improve the safe and qualified practice of T&CM, Member States have developed regulations on the quality, quantity, accreditation and education structures for T&CM practitioners, including practitioners of conventional medicine who use T&CM.

Significant progress has been made in many. For example, the number of Member States providing high-level T&CM education programmes including Bachelor, Master and Doctoral degrees at university level has increased from only a few to 39, representing 30% of the surveyed countries.

Holistic Personality and ISM

Human personality consists of five sheaths (*Koshas*) enclosing the inner most self or soul. Early Indian doctors for management of holistic health and stress free state conceived holistic medicine on the basis of these five inter-related Vedantic sheaths - physical body, vital movement, mental thoughts, intellectual convictions and emotional feelings, which cover each individual soul. Each layer according to quantum questions corresponds to one of our branch of modern science. The noble truth is that the stress is generated with the conflict between our desires and facts of life. No living being is free from it. We accumulate and distribute it to others and defile the environment.

The defilement enters the mind through emotions and governs productivity and products. Some degree of positive stress is essential and desirable for developing skills and optimal performance. By management of life style stress by practicing alternative and traditional system of medicine (**ATSM**) techniques and learning art of living, taught in many management schools and integrated medicine centers one can attain holistic personality and achieve peaceful and harmonious life. In my opinion this should be broad goal of 'Team **ASA**' to meet national and WHO decade targets. **Such a balanced member of our association is bound to be imaginative, productive and a very valuable asset to society/ any organization.**

Genuine health is the perfect functioning of the tripod of Body, Mind & Soul. Holistic healthcare recognizes the effect of sociological, psychological, economical, ecological and even political influences on health. Depending on the state of physical stress and type of ailments, the particular mode(s) of applying therapy has to be chosen. In case of chronic ailments pro-nature therapies require a well planned treatment design.

Generally following steps are recommended:

- ★ Step 1: detoxify body organ function through lymphatic and excretory systems.
- ★ Step 2: release stress through adrenal glands and solar plexus.
- ★ Step 3: balance energy flow throughout the body by proper stimulation plan.
- ★ Step 4: re-establish the normal functional status of the organ(s), gland(s), and nerve(s) related to the ailment.

Before 1960, only allopathic medicine was considered 'scientific' and other indigenous systems, though based on empirical knowledge, were labeled as 'quackery'. Due to scramble for 'appropriate technologies', ideas have changed. Interest in Alternative Medicine is on the rise all over the world including America and other Western countries.

There are more than 180 systems of Alternative Medicine. **Ayurveda** is being studied deeply. **Homeopathy** is already being practiced even by Allopathic doctors. Psychotherapy, hypnotism, **Yoga Therapy**, Yogic Pranayama, Zero Therapy and Nutrition (Organic Food) are vying for their own place. Everything seems to be tending towards Holistic medicine (**T&CM**) in accordance with the concept of **holistic health**. Physical, mental, vital, intellectual and spiritual - these are the **Five Levels of Being**.

For medicine to be holistic, it should be universally applicable, cover all aspects of health, on all the five levels. Early Indian doctors conceived of Holistic medicine on the basis of the Vedantic Five Sheaths - physical body, vital movements, mental thoughts, intellectual convictions and emotional feelings, which cover, as it were, each individual soul.

Holistic Personality and Medicine

The highest and the ultimate goal of all research and development activities is to attain perfection. Traditionally people of our country are religious and their ultimate goal or *Purushartha* is *Mukti* or *Moksha*. Personality development constitutes purification of body, mind and soul.

The Vedas are the heart of the wisdom of ancient India. The Upanishads carried the same consciousness to deeper depths. Vedas, Upanishads, Puranas, Gita, Ramayan and many other religious texts written in Sanskrit language need thorough study and understanding by us to innovate and undertake research programmes. Ayurveda, 5th Veda/ Upaveda and other texts written by *Rishis* like *Patanjali*, *Charak*, and *Shushrut* narrate above concept of attaining holistic personality by purification leading to perfection.

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** reports 65 to 80% of the world population depend on alternative medicines, which are basically non-allopathic and traditional systems of medicine including 180 systems of therapies or techniques. Alternative Medicine (AM) or Traditional Medicine (TM) is becoming increasingly popular all over the world as complementary, alternative and unconventional medicine (**CAM**) attracting researchers engaged in modern medicine and Vedic studies. Government of India under **AAYUSH** (AM, Ayurveda, Yoga-naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) has recognized Indian System of Medicine and Government of West Bengal has recognized 'Acupuncture'.

Challenges in health scenario are multidimensional. Holistic health in Indian System of Medicine as propounded in Vedic texts deals with well-being of body, mind, intellect and soul. **Ayurveda** describes holistic health as balance of **Dhatus, Doshas, Agnis** and Nature Calls and happiness and health of **Atma, Indriyas and Manah**. **WHO** also in agreement with Ayurveda defines human health, as “**Health is a state of complete Physical, Mental, Spiritual and Social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity**”.

Let us look at our rapid decline. Pharmaceutical drugs are prescribed to mask our symptoms in the hope that with time our immune systems will do the actual healing. But our immune systems are being compromised by inadequate nutrition, over use of antibiotics and the chemical toxins our bodies absorb and store. We pass this immune system – weakening traits on to our offspring while they are still in womb. While we pretend that everything is normal, our toxic chemical legacy is producing ever – greater numbers of genetic defects in our species and in the animal life that surround us. **ASA** with defined objectives aims to control and prevent above through their awareness and health camps, treatment protocols and other schedules.

Modern medicine divides man into mind and body and body into multiple organs. Each specialist cares each organ through appropriate investigations and procedures. Each system has functional significance for the entire human being (body) and not just for the malfunctioning of a part. Malfunctioning or diseased part affects whole body like fever affects all parts, organs, tissues and cells.

The cause lies from centre to circumference. Hence treatment focused on circumscribed problems or organs is totally inadequate. It is a false impression that allopathy is a panacea for all maladies that affect human health. Further in the present scenario, an average man is confused. The experts in each system fight each other and there is no coordination and cooperation.

No single system of medicine can solve the health needs of our people. **Complementary, alternative and unconventional medicine (CAM) is becoming increasingly popular all over the world. T&CM therapies will take care of all above myths and bottlenecks.**

Global Review and T&CM

The global review highlights the ongoing demand for T&CM products, practice and practitioners, describes patterns of use, identifies the need for regulation to protect consumers, describes the importance of integrating T&CM into universal health coverage and identifies some of the difficulties and challenges of integrating T&CM into health systems.

Such practices on **T&CM** have been started by many integrated medicine centers in India employing Acupuncture, Moxibustion, Herbs, Ashtang Yoga, Naturopathy, Homeopathy, Organic diet etc. with commendable success.

The proposed **New Systems of Medicine Bill** will strengthen these ATSM therapies to develop and integrate **T&CM** into health systems thereby advancing towards achieving national and **WHO** goals. **Acupuncture Science Association** with dedicated members and its branches spread in length and breadth of our country and abroad is committed to meet goals projected by WHO in the decade document.

*As Chief Advisor, ASA I appeal to all members and well wishers to contribute to all activities of this association and engage in the noble work of improving holistic personality of suffering humanity. I wish grand success to **ASA NEWS LETTER** publications started with this inaugural issue.*



All India Co-Ordination Committee for
ALTERNATIVE & TRADITIONAL SYSTEMS OF MEDICINE
(AICCATSM) Estd.2004

Chronological Development of AICC ATSM regarding
Govt. of India order dtd.25.11.03. On Alternative Medicine

1. What the Govt. of India order says:

The order No. R14015/25/96- U&H (R) (Pt.) dated 25.11.2003" on 'Grant of Recognition to the various streams of Alternative Medicine' by Govt. of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Research Desk), clearly denotes the following:

- A. The Order has not allowed any sort of alternative medicine other than Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homeopathy, Yoga & Naturopathy to be practiced in India as either system of medicine or mode of therapy.
- B. All the teaching institutions are to be closed down.
- C. Nobody could write 'Dr.' before his or her name i.e. nobody is allowed to practice as Doctor.
- D. Govt. of India (GOI) allowed only Acupuncture and Hypnotherapy to be practiced as an additional mode of therapy (not system of medicine).
- E. But that will only be done by any registered & qualified medical practitioner of the existing seven (7) recognized systems like Modern Medicine, Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Homeopathy, Yoga & Naturopathy.
- F. Only Certificate course on Acupuncture and Hypnotherapy can be conducted to those Doctors of seven already recognized systems. Institutions giving full time Bachelor and Master Degree course will not be allowed.
- G. All the State/UT Govt. bodies are instructed to take administrative action/notification etc.

2. Repercussions and National Scenario :

We are really shocked after the sudden decision of Govt. of India, Ministry of Health regarding the unfortunate notification of virtually banning the ASM. Subsequently, different State Governments have taken administrative action against the ASM practitioners (who had been practicing for more than 30years). Some are already put behind bars. Many ASM Institutions are ordered to close down. As a consequence of the abovementioned Government order many state Governments have initiated administrative action resulting into filing of court cases.

In this perspective a **general body meeting of All India Co-Ordination Committee for Alternative & Traditional Systems of Medicine (AICC ATSM) was held at AIIMS, New Delhi on 30th May 2004** under the Chairmanship of Dr Ram Gopal UGC Visiting Professor of JNV University, Jodhpur, Former Director of Defense Laboratory Jodhpur, Former Director of Materials, DRDO, Ministry of Defense, New Delhi. The meeting was attended by senior faculty members of AIIMS, New Delhi and veteran practitioners, researchers and teachers in Yoga-Naturopathy, Acupuncture, Acupressure, Reflexology, Magneto-therapy and other branches of Alternative Systems of Medicines (ASM) & Holistic Medicine from different states of India.

3. What was the outcome of 30th.May'04 meeting?

The following decisions were taken unanimously in 30th. May'04 meeting:

- A. This order is not only totally unjustified and improper but very much contrary to the worldwide developing trend of research & growth in health & medicine as well as people's interest. It demands immediate withdrawal of such type of one-sided, anti-people order, which will affect lakhs of practitioners and beneficiaries particularly in suburban & rural areas.
- B. Govt. of India has issued the order on the ground that ASM were not found to fulfill the 'Essential' and 'Desirable' criteria developed by the committee for recognition of a system of medicine. The order of the Delhi High Court issued dated 18.11.98 on this subject appears to have not been considered. We think that GoI not only deviates from its earlier standpoint but also tries to obstruct the emergence of any new mode of research/therapy/system of medicine, which is an essential part of the development of civilization in general and specially in traditional Indian context focusing on holistic development of health care delivery systems. Health safety is part of India's vision 2020 document aimed to transform developing India to developed India.
- C. The Government order undermines Acupuncture & Hypnotherapy Science, discriminates the therapists and contradicts World Health Organization (WHO) standpoint.
- D. Memorandum will be submitted to the hon'ble Union Health Minister to WITHHOLD / AMEND THE ABOVE ORDER immediately enabling all concern to practice or to run institutions as before 25.10.03 till new decision is taken up, the old decision is kept in away and the State Govts may be informed accordingly so that the practitioners of different states may not be harassed on account of GO.
- E. It is also suggested that an Expert Committee should be constituted under the Chairmanship of Secy. / Addl. Secy. / Jt. Secy. of AYUSH under Ministry of H & FW having senior ASM practitioners from AICCATSM and teachers and researchers along with some experts in other existing recognized systems of therapy as members. This committee would be responsible for identification, screening, evaluating the different ASM practices in India and recommendation for inclusion of those modes that qualifies either as system of medicine/ mode of treatment as per terms of reference to be laid down by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under proposed Central Council for Research in ATSM (CCRATSM).
- F. All India Co-ordination Committee (AICCATSM) has been formed:

Chairman cum Advisor:	★ Prof. Dr. RamGopal (Jodhpur)
Chief Co-Ordinator:	★ Dr. D. Bakshi, West Bengal
Co-Ordinator (HQ):	★ Dr. K. Dalal, AIIMS, N. Delhi
National Co-ordinators:	★ Dr. T. S. Jayalaxmi, AIIMS, N. Delhi
	★ Dr. S. K. Gupta, Mumbai
	★ Dr. J.C. Johar, Delhi
	★ Dr. M.I. Haque, Bihar
	★ Dr. Inderjit Singh, Punjab

4. What is the follow-up of the meeting?

Based on the unanimous decision of the meeting, we have **submitted** the enclosed **memorandum on June 16, 2004** to the Hon'ble Union Health Minister praying therein to withdraw / keep in abeyance the above mentioned impugned order issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Research Desk) and reexamine the subject matter in the large interest of various therapies, practices and systems of treatment which have been in existence in this country under various names as TSM, ASM etc. A **reminder** of the earlier prayer was also **submitted on 06.10.04**.

5. What is our viewpoint?

We may like to submit that:

- A. We do not in any way advocate, promote or protect "QUACKERY". The memorandum referred above may not be viewed from that angle. We are against all sorts of Quackery.
- B. We are not in any way against recognition of 6 systems of medicine mentioned in above referred impugned order dated 25.11.2003.
- C. We are for protecting the systems, which stand banned without proper examination.
- D. We are not for banning any innovative ideas, inventions & new thoughts in this country, which stood banned through the above stated order.

6. What we exactly want at present?

- A. To withdraw / keep in abeyance the above mentioned impugned order issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (Research Desk) and reexamine the subject matter in the large interest of various therapies, practices and systems of treatment which have been in existence in this country under various names as TSM, ASM etc.
- B. An Expert Committee should be constituted under the Chairmanship of Secy. / Addl. Secy. / Jt. Secy. of AYUSH under Ministry of H & FW having senior ASM practitioners from AICCATSM and teachers and researchers along with some experts in other existing recognized systems of therapy as members. This committee would be responsible for identification, screening, evaluating the different ASM practices in India and recommendation for inclusion of those modes that qualifies either as system of medicine/ mode of treatment as per terms of reference to be laid down by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under proposed Central Council for Research in ATSM (CCRATSM).

October30, 2004

Chief Coordinator, AICC ATSM

SHORT SYNOPSIS ON ASA FORMATION

1st. October 2013: First Appeal was sent all over India for participation in the National Meet on Acupuncture, Ludhiana, December 8 & 9, 2013. Joint National Conveners: Dr. Inderjit Singh and Dr. Debasis Bakshi. This was an initiative of All India Coordination Committee for Alternative and Traditional Systems of Medicine (AICC ATSM),

8-9th. December 2013: A 2 days National Meet on Acupuncture organized jointly by *Ludhiana Acupuncture Medical College & Dr. Kotnis Hospital, Ludhiana* and *Indian Research Institute for Integrated Medicine (IRIIM) Howrah*.

Prof. (Dr.) S. N. Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Technological and Medical Sciences University, Arunachal Pradesh; Guests of Honour **Dr. Anish Gupta**, Member, National Coordination Committee on Acupuncture (NCC Acu) and noted Acupuncture & Ayurvedic Physician of Kota Rajasthan; **Dr. R.F. Beramji**, Acupuncture Specialist of Mumbai and **Dr. Ravinder Kochhar**, Principal, Lord Mahavir Homeopathic Collage, Ludhiana were also present. Noted Defence Scientist, Chairman AICC ATSM (All India Coordination Committee for Alternative and Traditional Systems of Medicine) **Prof. Dr. Ram Gopal** presided over the inaugural programme and steered the technical sessions of the whole meet.

It was unanimously resolved that although there are several associations and platforms functional at different levels in India, but urgent need today is to unite all these units and all categories of General Acupuncturists under one umbrella. Accordingly a new All India Organization (*NAA, later on ASA*) was established.

On the final day, the house unanimously finalized the draft matter for consideration of Union Govt. to propose bill for the recognition of acupuncture as an independent system of medicine to be placed before the Union Govt.

A memorandum on behalf of the new organization will also be handed over to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare very soon. Extensive survey to update list of all the acupuncturists in India will also be undertaken state wise

24th. Dec. 2013: Final report of the Ludhiana National Acupuncture Meet was published (see Enclosure).

31st Jan 2014: Memorandum submitted for Recognition of Acupuncture to Union State Health Minister by ASA Jt. National Convener Dr. Inderjeet Singh. Regarding Recognition of Acupuncture As An Independent System Of Medicine And Inclusion In Health Care Delivery System In India.

31st Mar 2014: First DRAFT of Memorandum of Association (MOA) of National Acupuncture Association (NAA) [later on name of the Association changed to Acupuncture Science Association (ASA)] was circulated for members' opinion.

24th April 2014: First proposal for Founder Members of New Association to organize a 2/3 days 1st. National Conference of Acupuncture with 1st. General Body Meet either in Nov.'14 or Feb.'15.

27th May 2014: In Maharashtra, encouraging development of Recognition Process of Acupuncture as a System of Medicine after a meeting with Health Secy. Medical Education of Maharashtra. This is a collective effort of NAA team work.

11th June 2014: Posted following opinion in the Hon'ble Prime Minister MODI jee's Website <http://pmindia.gov.in/en/interact-with-honble-pm/>: "Request for Recognition of Acupuncture as an Independent System of Medicine - Globally, Acupuncture is second most popularly practiced system of medicine after western medicine. History narrates it was practiced in ancient India, later popularized by China. In 1959 Acupuncture was reintroduced in India by Dr. B.K. Basu.

Acupuncture is recognized in West Bengal since 1996 and Govt. of India promoting it through sponsored research projects by S&T depts. It is understood ICMR favorably recommended recognition of *New System of Medicine including Acupuncture* to Union Health Ministry.

In light of the above and fact that indigenous Acupuncture fulfills the criteria *as asked by ICMR for Recognition as an Independent System of Medicine* and has the potential to appreciably lower the cost of mass health care & related budget and achieve self-sufficiency in national health care, it is requested that *Acupuncture be Recognised & included in Health Care Delivery System as Independent System of Medicine*".

Reply received from PM's office vide PMO ID No. 11/3/2014- PMP2/53436/dated 10.7.2014 which stated our application has been forwarded for action appropriate to Secretary, D/O AYUSH, M/O Health & Family Welfare.

21-23rd. June 2014: Visit by noted Defense Scientist Prof. Dr. RamGopal and ASA Gen. Secy. Dr. Debasis Baksh to South India and meeting with NAA South India members. All the participants and leading members in both the meetings held at Bangalore and Trichy, unanimously supported the move of NAA/AIAA and promised all sorts of help and cooperation including membership of NAA/AIAA after the registration part is over.

A Power point Presentation by Dr. Debasis Bakshi and Dr. U Srikumar, Member All India Governing Body of ASA on "*Necessity of our National Meet at Ludhiana Formation of NAA and Role of young Acupuncturists/ Therapists in Health Care Delivery based on TCM/ISM*" was done both in English and Tamil languages at Trichy.

16th July 2014: New name of our association finalized after searching thoroughly the availability and govt. regulation followed by repeated discussion amongst the founder members: **Acupuncture Science Association (ASA)**. Final Memorandum of Association (MOA) needed for registration of ASA finalized.

22nd. July 2014: ASA Group first public profile on Face book Formed with more than 500 active members at present.

23rd. Aug. 2014: *POSTED again in PM's Website the following: "RECOGNITION of ACUPUNCTURE as an Independent System of Medicine- Globally, Acupuncture is second most popular system of medicine. History narrates it originated from India, later spread all over the world. It is recognized in W.B. in 1996, GOI sponsors its research. ICMR recommend Recognition of *New System of Medicine Bill*. Acupuncture fulfills criteria as asked by ICMR for Recognition & it has potential to reduce cost of health care & budget and achieve self-sufficiency in national health care"*

29th Aug 2014: "**Acupuncture Science Association (ASA)" was Registered as a Society.**

30th. Aug 2014: Final LOGO of ASA India Submitted for LOGO registration.

15 th. Sept. & 21st. Dec. 2014: 2 innovative CME cum Workshops on *The Better Role of Holistic Drugless Therapies (Acupuncture, Yoga, Naturopathy, Organic Diet & Physiotherapy) in Arthritis* was organized by jointly by NAAAS, IRIIM, Howrah and ASA India on, held at IRIIM Bhawan, Howrah.

11th Oct 2014: First Final Circular Containing Details of Membership Form.

In continuation of the resolution of Ludhiana National Meet Dec.8 & 9, 2013 and our 1st. National Founder Governing Body Resolution dated 31.8.14, noted **Defense Scientist Prof. Dr. Ram Gopal has kindly given his consent to become the Chief Advisor of ASA India.**

13th Oct 2014: **Bank Account of ASA Started Functioning; Membership Drive Commenced.**

1st Sept 2014: ASA New email address: asa.india13@gmail.com

16 th. Sept 2014: **Memorandum sent by post to Mr. Narendra Modi, Honorable Prime Minister of India regarding "Recognition of Acupuncture as an Independent System of Medicine and Inclusion in "New Systems of Medicine Bill" as Recommended by ICMR".**

18th Sept 2014: In the Press Release from ASA India on *"Acupuncture – An Historic Bondage Between India And China"* it was stated -: "We sincerely hope Govt. of India and other state Govt. will come forward to recognize Acupuncture as a system of therapy as early as possible for the betterment of Indian Health Care Delivery. It will definitely reduce the huge expenses with the help of this drugless therapy. This will also remind us the great spirit of historic Indian Medical Mission to China."

"We are hopeful for the present visit of Hon'ble Chinese President in India, which will definitely strengthen the age old friendship to a higher level. Development of India-China relationship in recent years elaborated on the rapid bilateral economic cooperation and dynamic people-to-people exchanges, where Acupuncture can play an additional important role in continuation of the historic Medical Mission."

16th Oct 2014: Final draft for seeking appointment to meet Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan Ji, submitted by Dr. Rajkumar, All India Governing Body Member of ASA.

12th Nov 2014: A Six Member All India Delegation of Acupuncture Science Association (ASA) met Union Minister of AAYUSH Shripad Naik in Delhi on November 12, 2014 for Promotion & Recognition of Acupuncture & submitted a Memorandum. Honorable Minister listened patiently & assured for favorable consideration for inclusion of Acupuncture System of Medicine (World second largest used therapy) in the proposed 'The Recognition of New Systems of Medicine Bill 2014'. News Published in at least 8 National Newspapers and PTI also covered the story.

12th. Nov 2014: Acupuncture Science Association (ASA) Delhi Branch Formation Meeting. ASA India President Dr. Anish Gupta; Gen. Secy. Dr. Debasis Bakshi, Jt. Secy. Dr. Inderjeet Singh and Jt. Secy. Dr. Yogesh Kodkani and other dignitaries were present.

22nd Nov 2014: ASA got PAN Card.

28th Nov 2014: Final Circular on ASA Membership Guideline issued.

30th Nov 2014: ASA India 2nd. National Meet and Conf. Delhi 2015 - 1st. Announcement

12-14 Dec. 2014: 'ASA' Maharashtra successfully organized a scientific conference-AAICON 2014.

27th Dec 2014: ASA Membership crossed 1st. 100 from all over India. Simplified 1 Page ASA Membership For Associate Membership Introduced.

<p>प्रभात खबर \ विविध मुजफ्फरपुर, बुधवार, 14 नवंबर, 2014 www.prabhatkhabar.com</p> <p>10</p> <p>एक्यूपंक्चर भी हो नये विधेयक में शामिल</p> <p>नयी दिल्ली. एक्यूपंक्चर साइंस एसोसिएशन ने एक्यूपंक्चर चिकित्सा पद्धति को प्रस्तावित नये चिकित्सा प्रणाली विधेयक में शामिल करने की मांग पर आयुष मंत्री ने अनुकूल विचार करने का आश्वासन दिया है.</p>	<p>श्रीपद नाइक को दिया मेमोरेण्डम</p> <p>लुधियाना। आल इंडिया डेलीगेशन ऑफ एक्यूपंक्चर साइंस एसोसिएशन के 6 मंबर यूनिशन मिनिस्टर ऑफ आयुष श्रीपद नाइक से मिले। इसमें मुंबई से डॉ. योगेश कोडकानी, वेस्ट बंगाल से डॉ. देबसिस बखशी, राजस्थान से डॉ. अनिश गुप्ता, लुधियाना से डॉ. इंद्रजीत सिंह और दिल्ली से डॉ. आबिद खान शामिल हुए। ये सभी श्रीपद नाइक से दिल्ली मिलने गए और यहां इन्होंने न्यू सिस्टम्स ऑफ मेडिसिन बिल में एक्यूपंक्चर सिस्टम ऑफ मेडिसिन को समाहित करने के लिए मेमोरेण्डम दिया।</p> <p>Dainik Bhaskar, Ludhiana, 14.11.14</p>
<p>68 देशों में एक्यूपंक्चर को मान्यता : डा. अनुराग</p> <p>लखनऊ (एसएनबी)। भारत में इलाज के लिए एक्यूपंक्चर पद्धति को मान्यता देने की मांग को लेकर एक्यूपंक्चर साइंस एसोसिएशन (एसएएस) के पदाधिकारियों ने केंद्रीय आयुष मंत्री श्रीपद नाइक से मुलाकात कर मांग पत्र सौंपा है। डॉक्टरों के प्रतिनिधि मंडल में लगभग आधा दर्जन राज्यों के प्रतिनिधि शामिल थे। इनमें डा. कोडननी मुंबई, डा. देबशी बखशी बंगाल से, डा. अनिश गुप्ता राजस्थान से, डा. इंद्रजीत सिंह पंजाब से, डा. राजकुमार दिल्ली से आदि शामिल हैं।</p> <p>एसएएस के उतर प्रदेश सदस्य और सहारा हॉस्पिटल के आयुर्वेदचार्ज डा. अनुराग दीक्षित ने बताया कि एसोसिएशन के पदाधिकारियों ने बताया कि मंत्री आयुष ने एक्यूपंक्चर पद्धति को देश में मान्यता दिलाने का आश्वासन दिया है। डा. दीक्षित ने बताया कि एक्यूपंक्चर पद्धति को मान्यता विश्व के 68 देशों में है। अपने देश में भी इस पद्धति से लोगों का खूब इलाज हो रहा है, लेकिन इनके डॉक्टरों को मान्यता नहीं है।</p> <p>उन्होंने बताया कि विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (डब्ल्यूएचओ) की ट्रेडिशनल मेडिसिन स्ट्रेटजी की हालिया रिपोर्ट में इस पद्धति से इलाज का किंक 129 देशों में किया गया। जिसमें कहा गया है कि 80 प्रतिशत से अधिक देशों में इसको मान्यता मिल चुकी है। उन्होंने कहा कि अपने देश के डॉक्टर भी इसका आर्हता रखते हैं। ऐसे में केंद्र सरकार को मान्यता दे देनी चाहिए।</p> <p>Rastriya Sahara, Lucknow 15.11.14</p>	<p>प्रस्तावित बिल में शामिल हो एक्यूपंक्चर पद्धति</p>  <p>लुधियाना (विपन जंड) : एक्यूपंक्चर साइंस एसोसिएशन (ए.एस.ए.) ने एक्यूपंक्चर इलाज पद्धति को प्रस्तावित न्यू सिस्टम ऑफ मेडीसिन बिल में शामिल करने की मांग की है। इस संबंध में ए.एस.ए. के एक शिफ्टमंडल ने दिल्ली में केंद्रीय आयुष मंत्री श्रीपद नाइक से मिलकर उन्हें ज्ञापन भी सौंपा। शिफ्टमंडल में मुंबई से डा. योगेश कोडकानी, वेस्ट बंगाल से डा. देबशी बखशी, राजस्थान से डा. अनिश गुप्ता, लुधियाना से डा. इंद्रजीत सिंह दीगरा, दिल्ली से डा. राजकुमार व डा. आबिद खान शामिल थे। शिफ्टमंडल में शामिल डॉक्टरों ने मंत्री को बताया कि ट्रेडिशनल मेडीसिन स्ट्रेटजी 2014-2023 पर विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन की रिपोर्ट में 129 देशों में से यू.एस., यू.के., आस्ट्रेलिया, जापान व कनाडा समेत 80 फीसदी देशों ने एक्यूपंक्चर के इस्तेमाल को मान्यता दी है। उन्होंने कहा कि इंडिपेंडेंट सिस्टम ऑफ थेरेपी के तौर पर मान्यता के लिए एक्यूपंक्चर सारे पैमानों पर पूरा उतरता है। यह पद्धति इलाज के खर्च को घटाने में भी सार्थक होगी।</p> <p>Dainik SABERA, Ludhiana, 14.11.14</p>

National Meet on Acupuncture, Ludhiana

December 8 & 9, 2013

(An initiative of All India Coordination Committee for Alternative and Traditional Systems of Medicine –AICC ATSM)

Joint National Conveners: Dr. Inderjit Singh and Dr. Debasis Bakshi

Brief Chronological Report

Dec. 7 (Sat)

Arrival of Delegates in the evening

10.00 pm – Introductory discussion and guideline regarding general purpose of the meet, importance, maintaining time schedule as informed earlier, sharing responsibilities and other related self-disciplinary measures till the end of the meet.

Dec. 8 (Sun)

6.00 am - 7.30 am: Distribution of lemon honey drink followed by Yoga Shivar for all participants conducted by *Prof. Dr. Ram Gopal*, followed by indigenous Natural Health Drink, prepared from organic cereals, pulses and jaggery.

9.00 am: Registration of Delegates

10.00 am: Ludhiana Acupuncture Medical College & Dr. Kotnis Hospital visit by Delegates and Guests.

11.30 am – 1.30 pm: **Inauguration and press meet: -**

2 days National Meet on Acupuncture organized by *Ludhiana Acupuncture Medical College & Dr. Kotnis Hospital, Ludhiana* and *Indian Research Institute for Integrated Medicine (IRIIM) Howrah* was inaugurated by **Shri Rakesh Pandey**, MLA Ludhiana North Assembly Constituency for Punjab Assembly. **Mr. S. Iqbal Singh**, IPS, AIG, Punjab Police, Chandigarh graced the session as Chief Guest of the Inaugural Function.

Both the speakers highlighted the services of these two oldest torch bearer institutions, where over 10 lacs people including Mr. Atal Bihari Bajpai, Former Prime Minister, Chief Minister of States and several other important persons have been treated.

Mr. Gyan Singh Dhingra, our beloved freedom fighter and Dr. Bejoy Kumar Basu, a member of the Historic Indian Medical Mission to China (1938-1942) are behind the foundation of these institutions to pioneer this effective, cheap, eco-friendly, sustainable and safe science of acupuncture in India. Some 60 leading acupuncture doctors, practitioners and scientists from different part of country deliberated for recognition of “Acupuncture System of Medicine” in our country.

Dr Ram Gopal while briefing stated that Govt. of India's Administrative Order issued by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Research Desk) dated 25th Nov 2003 on 'Grant of recognition of various streams of Alternative Medicine' has only recommended Acupuncture and Hypnotherapy to be practiced by qualified physicians as a mode of therapy and only certificate course to be conducted excluding degree or diploma courses. This order has deprived around a lac of acupuncture practitioners spread length and breadth of India covering millions of people suffering from many diseases curable by this great therapy and now popularly practiced all over the world.

To amend the impugned order and bring above ground truth to re-examine the subject matter in the large interest 1st General Body Meeting of AICC ATSM was held at AIIMS, New Delhi on 30th May 2004 followed by several meetings in different parts of country. Consequently a memorandum to the Union Health Minister was submitted in 2004.

Based on success and need of ATSM / CAM all over the world and constant pressure of several organizations, associations and institutions, Union Govt. started reviewing the scope of Govt. Order. ICMR the expert body took note of R&D work and successful case study presented during International / National conferences, workshops and courses organized on acupuncture and other related therapies. Experts/ specialists from ICMR, AIIMS and other leading medical centers clearly opined urgent need for recognition of acupuncture therapy by Govt. of India.

Accordingly National Coordination Committee on Acupuncture (NCC Acu) was formed. NCC Acu submitted a memorandum to the Union Health Minister on Dec 20, 2009 demanding recognition of acupuncture as an independent system of medicine.

After 4 years of continuous interaction with Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), *NCC Acu* under the Chairmanship of leading acupuncturist of Delhi **Dr. Raman Kapur** (*Padmashree awardee*), was able to pursue ICMR to examine and offer their comments. It is understood that ICMR has favorably recommended the recognition of New System of Medicine (including Acupuncture) to the Union Govt.

Mumbai based Dr. Beramji told that he has converted his practice as full time Acupuncturist from Allopathy 20 years back and now he has already treated thousands of patients including many VIPs only with Acupuncture. He further told that now Govt. of Maharashtra after several meetings and critical examination has agreed to recognize acupuncture as an independent therapy in the state. Chief Guest of the Meet, Delhi based Prof. Dr. S.N. Pandey also echoing similar decision stated that his University will also be starting acupuncture study courses very soon as it is the need of the hour.

Joint Conveners of the Meet **Dr. Inderjit Singh**, Principal & Medical Superintendent of Ludhiana Acupuncture Medical College & Dr. Kotnis Hospital and **Dr. Debasis Bakshi**, Director, Indian Research Institute of Integrated Medicine, Howrah (both members of Core Committee of NCC Acu) said that apart from getting the recognition from Central Government, they will also approach all the other State Governments for Recognition, Standardization and Development of this system.

3–9 pm: Delegate Session I & II:

Dr. Inderjeet Singh and Dr. Debasis Bakshi welcomed the participants and briefed the proceedings to be conducted. They also informed due to sudden illness and other last minute personal problems, Dr. Raman Kapur (Delhi), Dr. M.S. Balaji (Tirupati), SriKumar Poddar (Mumbai), Dr. Subrata Kr. Pal(Howrah), Dr. Rajesh Bhayana (Delhi) and Dr. Arun Nakana (Hyderabad) respectively had to cancel their visit to Ludhiana, but they all actively participated through tele-link/ video conferencing and supported our Meet.

(a) Introductory Presentation:

“Historic Ludhiana Acupuncture Meet & its Importance”–

By Prof. Dr. Ram Gopal

Dr. Ram Gopal while explaining the necessity of this meet stated the present status and gave suggestions for future course of action to be undertaken jointly for the growth of Acupuncture science and strategy to approach central and State Governments for recognition of Acupuncture as system of medicine in your respective areas.

Before starting the main proceedings, all the participants introduced themselves mentioning their basic background, duration and content of training, nature of training, experience in treatment and research, awareness generation activity and present attachment etc.

It was then resolved that following persons will take care of the two days delegate sessions:

- i. Dr. Ram Gopal will preside over the whole meet.
- ii. Steering Committee will comprise of four members :-
Dr. Debasis Bakshi, Dr. Inderjeet Singh, Dr. Berhamji & Dr. Srikumar
- iii. A team of Dr. Sujata Pal & Dr. Tapan Bid will record the proceedings.

The entire deliberations were focused on the agenda consisting 18 pages brief note with additional remarks circulated earlier to the participants. As a guideline for conducting each session it was resolved that speaker will first present as per given agenda followed by convener's note on interaction done so far. Later on the matter will be open for discussion and finally resolution will be taken as per majority opinion of the house.

(b) Presentation on ***“Present workforce and institutions engaged in Acupuncture”***

- By Dr. U. Sri Kumar & Dr. Pradeep Antony

Participants noticed that some institutions are practicing other therapies in the name of Acupuncture e.g. Touch Therapy. It was resolved that we should prepare two lists of acupuncture practitioners and organizations in India:-

- i. Listing all the people and the organizations working in the name of acupuncture,
- ii. Listing the genuine one following basically the WHO guideline on acupuncture.

The delegates unanimously agreed not to promote fake acupuncture practice.

This point was unanimously accepted with above mentioned amendment.

(c) Presentation on “**Review status of the historical development of Acupuncture in India**”

- By Dr. Debasis Bakshi

All the participants agreed on the presentation given as per the note circulated.

This point was unanimously accepted.

(d) Presentation on “**Outline of future development with special emphasis on workforce and Institutional development as per national, regional and local need**”

- By Dr. Sujata Pal & Dr. Tapan Bid

All the participants agreed on the presentation given as per the note circulated.

This point was unanimously accepted.

(e) Presentation on “**Legal aspect of the Proposed Acu. Bill (Part-1) i) Definition**”

- By Dr. Raju Krishna

Participants agreed on the main points but raised observations regarding inclusion of catgut embedding -whether it should be a part of acupuncture or not. It was resolved that as this point is already included in West Bengal State Act, 1996, so we have no other option than to accept it. But the other state govt. may amend this point as needed. The proposal to include drug injection in acupuncture point was discarded unanimously by the house.

This point was unanimously accepted.

Dec. 9 (Mon)

6.00 am - 7.30 am: Distribution of lemon honey drink followed by Yoga Shivar for all participants conducted by Prof. Dr. Ram Gopal, followed by indigenous Natural Health Drink, as previous day.

9.30 - 10.30 am: Paying respect to Late Dr. Dwarkanath Santaram Kotnis on 71st Death Anniversary. All the participants kept silence for two minutes in memory of Dr. Kotnis. Dr. Debasis Bakshi, Jt. Convener of the meet, read out the brief life history of Dr. Kotnis. He explained the importance of observing the day and interrelation between Indian Medical Mission to China and introduction of Acupuncture in India through Dr. B.K. Basu, the youngest member of five members Medical Mission to China. All the participants were shown the glimpse of the historic film “*Dr. Kotnis Ki Amar Kahani*” to understand the unique role played by the medical mission members specially Dr. Basu and Dr. Kotnis.

Jt. Convener Dr. Inderjeet Singh narrated the background story of establishing this hospital in memory of late Dr. Kotnis by noted freedom fighter Late Gyan Singh Dhingra in late 1970's.

10.30 a.m.-2.00 pm : **Delegate Session III**

(a) **Review of the Discussion of 1st day** – All the participants expressed a deep sense of gratitude and heartfelt feelings after the visit to the Ludhiana Acupuncture Hospital.

The participants after inaugural meeting and delegate session I & II expressed great satisfaction for such a unique effort. In general delegates got good exposure about the agenda discussed and importance of the meet.

(b) Presentation on ***“Legal aspect of the Proposed Acu. Bill (Part-1) Eligibility for Registration”***

- By Dr. Inderjeet Singh & Dr. Debasis Bakshi

The main presentation and the concerned note were basically accepted with one amendment in Part B registration point no.2 (“Or, in exceptional cases ...”).

After several rounds of discussion it was resolved that the candidates mentioned in this category will have to ***undergo CME session*** in addition to the criteria mentioned. It is also resolved that the word “Acupuncture movement” will be replaced by “Acupuncture activity” in all the Legal Matter.

The new suggestion of inclusion of Grand Fathering Law was already included in the criteria of registration. The proposal for provisional registration is not accepted as this point was never mentioned in any act of any stream.

[Note : The question raised regarding the future of B.Ac. or M.Ac. run by different universities, the following reply was sent earlier by Jt. Convener Dr. Debasis Bakshi :

“While preparing the draft total note (vide 3rd circular dated 30.10.13 and additions / alterations dated 25.11.13 based on the opinion received so far), **we consulted 3 major following documents:-**

- i. Acts of different Medical systems (Central Allopathy, Homoeopathy, Ayurveda Act and West Bengal Acupuncture & Yoga-Naturopathy Act)
- ii. WHO guideline on Acupuncture Training
- iii. Documentation regarding National level recognition Move (vide NCC-Acu Resolution dated 16.02.12)

WHO guideline is mainly for proper orientation of Standard Acupuncture Teachings throughout the world. From this guideline, we got the basic demarcation of full time and part time Acupuncture Practitioner and the course, also separate necessity of Acupuncture health worker. At present in India we are conducting only part time training. But for the future development of Acupuncture in India, we have to put stress on full time Acupuncture Doctor in 4½ yrs.

Degree course like (MBBS, BHMS, BNYS, BAMS, BUMS). And to develop supporting paramedical forces, Acupuncture nurse / technician (*details mentioned in under the heading - C. Outline of future development with special on work force and institutional development as per national, regional and local need, iv. Teachings point no. c*”).

Before reaching this goal, all the present courses are to be regarded as Adhoc (**Except the Dip. in Acu. Therapy DAT course under Govt. of West Bengal**).

While studying the eligibility for registration, we have mainly followed the existing Central Acts of different systems including West Bengal Act of Acupuncture & Yoga-Naturopathy. There is very little to add or alter **in Part A** registration excepting in some extraordinary cases.

In Part B, for the sake of continuous availability of properly trained Acupuncturist, we have tried to increase the period of Registration of existing non doctor Acupuncturist for some more periods (minimum 15 years) till fresh Acupuncture Medical Graduates are sufficiently available or developed."

We have to remember the reality of all the medical systems in India, at under graduates level full-fledged Acupuncture Doctor will be the only work force (of course along with Acupuncture para medicals and health workers). But till the Act is implemented fully in State and Central level, several varieties of courses may continue.



Another important thing we have to remember, in all the existing recognized system in medicine, there is no ACADEMIC COURSES like B.A., B.Sc. or M.A., M.Sc. course. After basic medical graduation in any stream, PROFESSIONAL COURSES like (MBBS, BHMS, BNYS, BAMS, BUMS), people can undergo for any specialized PG course of his choice. So the future of the students of those academic courses will be decided as per the criteria of registration as mentioned earlier.

But it is very clear that all genuine practitioners must be accommodated as one time measure / certain period for specially the whole Part B registration and some criteria of Part A registration. **For kind information, on 26.02.12, NCC Acu has already taken a resolution on this basis.**

Regarding the course syllabus of Acupuncture training, we sincerely request the organizers of all teaching institutions should follow WHO guidelines on Acupuncture Training strictly. Otherwise students from these institutions may face difficulty during the process of registration."

This point was unanimously accepted with above mentioned amendment.

(c) Presentation on **“Legal aspect of the Proposed Acu. Bill (Part-2)- Formation of Central Council, Powers of the Central Council & Second & Third schedule of the proposed bill”**

- By Dr. Debabrata Bag & Dr. Smarajit Basu

All the participants agreed on the presentation given as per the note circulated.

This point was unanimously accepted.

(d) Presentation on **“Formation of National United Platform and Adhoc Committee”**

- By Dr. Inderjeet Singh & Dr. Debasis Bakshi

It is unanimously resolved that although there are several associations and platforms functioning at different levels in India, but urgent need today is to unite all these units and all categories of General Acupuncturists under one umbrella.

Accordingly new All India Organization has emerged named:-

National Acupuncture Association (NAA)

Later on changed to Acupuncture Science Association (ASA)

Chief Advisor : Prof. Dr. RamGopal
Joint National Conveners : Dr. Debasis Bakshi & Dr. Inderjeet Singh
Regional Conveners : Dr. R. F. Beramji (West);
Dr. Tapan Bid (East);
Dr. U Srikumar & Dr. Pradeep Antony (South); &
Dr. Anurag Dikshit (North)
Organ of NAA : Dr. C. K. Raju (In charge), Dr. Sujata Pal, Dr. Anurag Dikshit,
Dr. Sahajad Beramji and Dr. Ajay Nanchahal

3.30–4.30 pm Delegate Session IV and Concluding Session

(e) Presentation on **“Future programme of National United Platform”**

- By Dr. Sathyamoorthy & Dr. Abdul Gafoor

Prof. Dr. Ram Gopal suggested some structure / guidelines for future activities.

After incorporating all the ideas and suggestions following programme are proposed to grow and popularize Acupuncture for the treatment of various diseases and healthy life management:-

1. Recognition Move

Now we collectively need to put all the sources and efforts through our associations, platforms, academic, social and political channels for attaining favorable decision to recognize Acupuncture system which is globally accepted by many countries. We are fully confident that the financial burden of Health budget can be reduced substantially which has been proved in many instances throughout the world.

This system has attracted many patients because it gives long lasting and permanent relief from the illness without any medicine and inspires them to lead natural life management. **Memorandum will be submitted to the Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare very soon.** Both the Joint National Conveners will be responsible for National Move and Regional Conveners for State move.

2. Media Coverage

The Press release on National Meet to be translated in regional languages along with English version should be propagated by all the founder members of the Meet.

(Example: Ludhiana Paper Clippings). Immediately after submission of Memorandum to the Ministry (Centre/ State), fresh publicity should be undertaken. This regular interaction should be done at local, regional or national levels.

3. Proposed Acu. Bill in Centre and States

The National Meet house unanimously finalized the draft matter for consideration of Union Govt. to propose bill for the recognition of acupuncture as an independent system of medicine to be placed before the Union/ State Govt.

4. NAA own organization set up with Finance

- a. Registration of NAA as per Law
- b. Short term and Long term Plan
- c. Budget, Membership, Office work, Bank Account etc.

5. Renewed National Survey work

Extensive survey to update list of all the acupuncturists in India will be undertaken state wise regarding:

- a. Numbers of qualified medico-acupuncturists, other practicing acupuncturists including acupuncture-health workers in their districts or states;
- b. Numbers of skilled / trained acupuncturists in their districts or states;
- c. Duration and course curriculum they availed;
- d. Numbers of trainers/faculty and their qualifications in acupuncture in their districts/or states;
- e. Numbers of acupuncture schools, colleges and research institutes in their districts or states;
- f. Names and addresses of scientists working in the field of growing acupuncture science in their districts or states.
- g. Informing each other calendar of events at different places.

All the Participants of the National Meet will take the responsibility after guideline of Survey is prepared.

6. Education and R& D work

- a. R&D projects / Joint Collaboration with UN bodies / WHO / Central & State Govt. Institute or Research Inst./ NGOs : Funds, Exhibitions, Health Camps, Health dramas / shows etc.
- b. Celebration of Acupuncture Day (March 1); WHO day (April 7), Anti Drug, Anti- Tobacco, World Environment, Breast Feeding Days etc.
- c. Visiting Faculty to University, Institutes, Fairs
- d. Training – Regular, CME & others (as per WHO guideline) at established Institutions
- e. Organizing Conf. / Workshops / Symposium / CME / National or Regional Meet

7. Publication

- a. Annual / Quarterly News Letter
- b. Publications, Writing Books, Articles, Literature Survey, NewsCutting Sharing
- c. Magazines – to write Monographs and regular articles in National, Regional, Local Media like *Nisargopachar, Niramay Jeevan, Kendra Bharati* & other magazines.
- d. Regular writing of popular articles in local all sorts of media is most welcome. If published, please send copy to Conveners, most needed for Recognition move.
- e. Publication Team will prepare detailed note.

8. Interaction with others - like minded work & organisations

- a. Liaison with NGOs / Social Bodies / Rotary Club / Lions
- b. To integrate with the ideas of Indian Medical Mission, Nai Azadi Abhiyan, Organic Diet, Indian Traditional Systems of Medicine and Science etc.

All the participants agreed on the presentation, the concerned note and additions. This point was unanimously accepted.

The 2 day meet was ended with Vote of Thanks to the Chair and the Host Organization.

Dec. 10 (Tues):

A team of the Delegates with the help of local organizer visited Amritsar City - Golden Temple, Jalianwala Bagh and Wagha Border to have better understanding about the great history, tradition and culture of Punjab, host state of our meet.

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION

1. Name of the Society shall be:

ACUPUNCTURE SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (ASA)

2. Office of the Society shall be:

Registered Office: Ludhiana Acupuncture Medical College & Dr. Kotnis Hospital, Salem Tabri, Ludhiana 141 008, Punjab, India

Head Office: IRIIM Bhawan, Mourigram Stationpara, Po. Unsani, Howrah-711 302, WB, India

3. Area of operation: ALL OVER INDIA

4. Aims & Objects:

- i. To protect the interest of Acupuncture Science and Acupuncture Practitioners.
- ii. To work for the continuous development and advancement of Acupuncture in India.
- iii. To encourage the interaction & integration of Acupuncture with the Allied sciences.
- iv. To bring all the Acupuncture Practitioners & Acupuncture Health workers and Scientists under one roof for the betterment of suffering people.
- v. To encourage and arrange regular & special training programme with the help of other academic and Research Organizations and/or Institutions.
- vi. To arrange necessary programmes like medical camp, cultural programmes etc. to gain faith and support of the people.
- vii. To undertake and organize awareness activities for health & hygiene in the light of traditional and modern aspect of Acupuncture and other therapies.
- viii. To conduct conferences, seminars, symposia, workshop, demonstrations and exhibitions related to Acupuncture.
- ix. To extend supports to the training, research and awareness programmes in the field of Acupuncture, in the form of awards, fellowship etc.

ACUPUNCTURE SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (ASA) - ALL INDIA GOVERNING BODY

SR. NO	NAME	STATE	DESIGNATION
1.	Dr. Anish Gupta	RAJASTHAN	President
2.	Dr. R.F. Beramji	MAHARASTRA	Vice-President
3.	Dr. Debasis Bakshi	WEST BENGAL	General Secretary
4.	Dr. Inderjit Singh	PUNJAB	Joint Secretary
5.	Dr. Yogesh Kodkani	MAHARASTRA	Joint Secretary
6.	Dr. Tapan Bid	W. BENGAL	Treasurer
7.	Dr. Anurag Dixit	UTTAR PRADESH	Member
8.	Dr. U. Srikumar	TAMILNADU	Member
9.	Dr. Rajkumar	DELHI	Member
10.	Dr. Pradeep Antony	KERALA	Member

ASA-Maharashtra hosted AAICON 2014 Conference

The AAICON 2014 conference was successfully hosted by **ASA - Maharashtra**, at S.P Jain Auditorium, Mumbai Hospital on **13th & 14th December, 2014**. The organizing team was led by Dr Rumi Beramji, while Dr Mayank Shah was the Chief Coordinator. Dr Yogesh Kodkani, Dr Hemant Thakkar, Dr Shahzad Beramji formed the Scientific Committee and Dr Nilima Thakkar, Dr Yasmin Beramji & Dr Manish completed the team.

The theme of the conference was '**Evolution**' of acupuncture. To impart a better learning experience and an interactive platform for the delegates, ASA-Maharashtra organized Pre-conference workshops on December 12th 2014.

The first workshop titled '**Minimum Needles, Maximum Results**' - conducted by **Dr Mayank Shah**, shed light on the use of Command Points and Tung's Orthodox acupuncture points for effecting maximum results with minimum needling. Interesting breathing techniques were also taught.

The second Workshop titled '**Motor Point acupuncture**' was conducted by **Dr. Shahzad Beramji**, covering up structural integration of the pelvis and low back and how one could correct musculo-skeletal disorders using motor points. Both the workshops had a turnout of more than 40 participants.

The main conference event was on 13 - 14th December, 2014. **Dr. Shingare, director of medical education, Maharashtra** was the chief guest. He delivered a positive note on the future of acupuncture in Maharashtra. Senior acupuncturists Dr. Bhattacharya, Dr. Raman Kapur, Dr. Debasis Bakshi, Dr. Gantait, Dr. Kothari, Dr. Nilesh Patel and more were present.

Talented acupuncturists delivered papers based on Research and Scientific categories as well as Free Papers. The topics ranged from 'Concept-based' to actual treatment protocols and gave different perspectives on how acupuncture is being used by acupuncturists across the country. The 'Best Research Paper Award' was presented to Dr. Sunita Kapur for her work on infertility, the 'Best Scientific Paper Award' was presented to Dr. Nilesh Patel for his work on obesity and the 'Best Free Paper Award' was presented to Dr. Rajesh Verma for his work on Thrombocytopenia. The latter had received an award for the same paper from AAI Karnataka branch represented by Dr. Vinay Varma.

The Conference was made lively by Quiz competitions, Breathing exercise demonstrations, and cultural program. The winners of the quiz competition were Dr. Raman and Dr. Sunita Kapur; The second prize was won by Dr. Sahoo and Dr. Rama and The third prize went to Dr. Nilesh Patel.

The conference concluded on 14th Evening with an optimistic note.



Estd. 2014

Email: asa.india13@gmail.com

Acupuncture Science Association (ASA)

Registered under Punjab Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860) No. 239 of 2014-15

Regd. Off: Ludhiana Acupuncture Medical College & Dr. Kotnis Hospital, Salem Tabri, Ludhiana - 141 008, Punjab, India. Mob. +91 98887-02426, +91 98140-87723

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Trivandrum, Kerala

Press Release from ASA India

Nov. 13, 2014

ACUPUNCTURE-A NEW SYSTEM OF MEDICINE

A Six Member All India Delegation of *Acupuncture Science Association (ASA)* (named President Dr. Anish Gupta from Rajasthan, General Secretary Dr. Debasis Bakshi from West Bengal, Joint Secretaries Dr. Inderjeet Singh from Punjab & Dr. Yogesh Kodkani from Mumbai and Dr. Raj Kumar & Dr. Abid Khan from Delhi) met Union Minister of *AAYUSH SHRIPAD NAIK* in Delhi on November 12, 2014 for Promotion & Recognition of Acupuncture & submitted a Memorandum. According to *WHO* Report released in 2013 on '*Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014- 2023*' supplied by 129 countries, 80% of them recognise the use of Acupuncture, including developed countries like U.S., U.K., Australia, Japan, Korea, Canada, etc.

Honourable Minister listened patiently & assured for favourable consideration for inclusion of Acupuncture System of Medicine (World second largest used therapy) in the proposed 'New Systems of Medicine Bill'.

It was also stressed that Acupuncture being a Traditional Indian System of Medicine fulfills all the criteria for Recognition as an Independent System of Therapy in our country. This simple & easily adoptable therapy has a great potential to appreciably lower the cost of mass health care & achieve self sufficiency.

Dr. Debasis Bakshi,
Gen. Secretary.

Dr. Inderjit Singh
Jt. Secretary



Announcement : 2nd National Meet of (ASA) and Scientific Conference on Integrated Acupuncture

The 2nd National Meet of Acupuncture Science Association (ASA) and Scientific Conference on Integrated Acupuncture will be held on 14 -15 February, 2015 in Delhi, organized by ASA Delhi Branch at Auditorium Kalgidhar National Public School, Inderpuri, New Delhi - 110002.

Noted Defense Scientist & Chairman RAB IRIIM Prof. Dr. Ram Gopal will preside over the Meet & Conference.

14.2.15: Scientific Presentation by ASA Founder Members from different states

2.00 p.m. – 4.30p.m.: National Scenario of Acupuncture in India – Session I

- A. Recognition of Acupuncture in Different States and Centre
- B. Statewide Survey & Enrollment of Members

5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.: National Scenario of Acupuncture in India – Session II

- C. Standardization and Upliftment of present workforce of Acupuncture
- D. Research and Development including Documentation & Data Base Generation
- E. ASA Newsletter and other publications
- F. Awareness generation and Resource building

15.2.15: Scientific Session

Dr. Michael O. Smith, Chairperson NADA International;

Dr. S.F. Elahee of Bangladesh Acu Therapy Foundation

FREE PAPER SESSION

The Acupuncture Treatment of Hearing Loss

Dr. Anish Gupta, MD

All Cure Clinic and Research Centre

Jhalawar Road, Chawani Choraha Oppo. SBI

Kota, Rajasthan 324007 India. 9414231166 / 91-744-2364737

dranish@doctor.com

<http://www.acu-puncture.com>

Case Study:

Chief Complaint: Loss of hearing

Western Diagnosis: Deafness

Medical History: 7 yrs. old child came to me with a history of suffering with coryza and fever for 7 days and sudden onset of deafness in both ears since 2 yrs. Audiometry was done which shows moderate to severe deafness in both ears. No relief with allopathic medicines and child was advised hearing aid

Questioning exam: Child was very irritable and was not responding to oral commands (may be due to deafness).

Pulse exam: normal

Tongue exam: pinkish tongue; no other signs were present

OM Diagnosis: according to me deafness was due to local infection so only local points were used.

Treatment Principle: all acupuncture points treat diseases of the local and adjacent areas.

Point Prescription: SJ 17, SJ 21, SI 19 and GB 2. These local points only were used and were stimulated with He-Ne laser, since I felt deafness was due to local infection

Lifestyle Prescription: No other treatment was advised.

Results: Patient was able to hear within 3 days; Audiometry was done after 9 days which revealed that hearing was within normal limits.

Synopsis: We shouldn't depend only on books, but should tap our healing intuition, while accepting each and every new case as a challenge.

Footprints on the Sands of Time



Dr. Dwarkanath Shantaram Kotnis

(10 October 1910 – 9 December 1942), was born at Sholapur of Maharashtra. He graduated as a doctor from Grant Medical College of Mumbai. He associated himself with anti-British movement of Indian people. He was one of five Indian physicians dispatched to China to provide medical assistance during the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1938. Besides being known for his dedication and perseverance, he has also been regarded as an

example for **Sino-Indian friendship** and collaboration.

In 1937, the Commander of eighth route army of China **Zhu De**, appealed to Indian National Congress to send a fully equipped medical team to help the distressed Chinese fighting against Japanese imperialism. Consequent to the initiative of Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Chandra Bose, a medical team of five doctors along with medicines and ambulance was sent to China from Mumbai port on 1 September, 1938. The **Aid China Medical Mission** was composed of volunteer doctors **Dr. Madanmohanlal Atal** (leader), **Dr. M.R. Cholkar**, **Dr. Dwarkanath Shantaram Kotnis**, **Dr. Debesh Mukherjee** and **Dr. Bejoy Kumar Basu**.

The key aspect of this mission was that it was a helping hand from a nation itself struggling for freedom, to another nation also struggling for its freedom.

The team arrived at China and the doctors served Chinese people and soldiers at various fields. Three of them returned to India within one year, while Dr. Kotnis and Dr. Basu continued their service at war fields and base areas. The 28-year-old Dr. Kotnis stayed in China for almost 5 years working in mobile clinics to treat wounded soldiers. In 1939, he joined the Eighth Route Army (led by **Mao Zedong**) at the Jin-Cha-Ji border near the Wutai Mountain Area, after his efforts all across the northern China region.

Dr. Kotnis used to perform surgical operations in patients near war field for up to 72 hours, without a wink. He wrote books in Chinese to teach medicine to Chinese field workers. He treated more than 800 wounded soldiers during the battle. He was eventually appointed as the Director of the Dr. Bethune International Peace Hospital named after the famous Canadian surgeon Norman Bethune. Dr. Basu used to see patients of eye, nose, throat etc.



Dr. Kotnis married his colleague nurse Guo Qinglan (she later became doctor). She gave birth to a son whose was named 'Yin-Hua' meaning India-China. Due to hard work Dr. Kotnis's illness aggravated. He died at Gegong village of Hebei province of China on December 9, 1942 at the tender age of 32. Dr. Kotnis wanted to return India to participate in Indian peoples' freedom movement, but his wish could not get fulfilled. Dr. Basu returned at last in July, 1943.

Dr. Kotnis was buried in the Heroes Courtyard in Nanquan Village. At that time, Mao Zedong mourned his death by observing that "The army has lost a helping hand, the nation has lost a friend. Let us always bear in mind his internationalist spirit."

Madame Sun Yat-sen said, concerning his role in the revolution, that "His memory belongs not only to your people and ours, but to the noble roll-call of fighters for the freedom and progress of all mankind. The future will honor him even more than the present, because it was for the future that he struggled."



"We are here on earth to fulfill a specific purpose. May we fulfill our highest calling and potential."

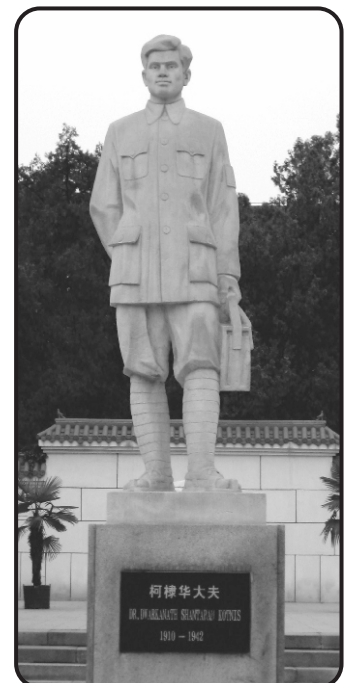
"Our legacy is not found in all the 'stuff' we've accumulated on our life's journey. It's written in the memories of those whose lives we've touched along the way."

The Martyr's Memorial park in Shijiazhuang city of the Northern Chinese province of Hebei is a famous attraction point. The south side of the park is dedicated to Dr Kotnis. There is a great statue in his honour. Kotnis memorial tomb and statue have been erected where China's school children visit to learn how a foreign friend sacrificed his life for the liberation of Chinese people. Postal stamps to commemorate Kotnis have been published in China in 1982.

In India, Dr. Kotnis Memorial Committee was formed in 1945 to commemorate activities of Kotnis. A film 'Dr. Kotnis ki amar kahani' was prepared by V. Shantaram in 1946. A road in kolkata at New Alipore has been named after Kotnis in 1982. Postal stamp on Kotnis has been published in 1993. At Sholapur, home town of Kotnis, Kotnis memorial exhibition

will be set up at Kotnis's paternal house this year. One hospital at Sholapur has been named after Kotnis.

Dr. Kotnis was one of the members of the Indian Medical Mission to China (1938-1943), in which Dr. Bejoy Kumar Basu was the youngest member. Dr. Basu has become a Historic Person for re-introducing Acupuncture in 1959 after learning from China. **December 9 is the 72nd Death Anniversary of Dr Kotnis. Let all of us remember this Historic event.**



Read more newsfeeds about Selfless Service of Dr. Kotnis on:

- <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/xi-jinping-keeps-tradition-alive-meets-family-of-dr-dwarkanath-kotnis/#sthash.MGhhva BX.dpuf>
- <http://www.ibtimes.com/dr-kotnis-indian-physician-who-gave-his-life-china-remains-icon-chinese-1274631>
- <http://www.china.org.cn/english/culture/141496.htm>
- <http://www.iloveindia.com/indian-heroes/dwarkanath-kotnis.html>



Dr. Bejoy Kumar Basu

JASAI - Editorial Team requests all members to contribute relevant information, news, articles and case studies for the upcoming issues. Advertisements are also sought to provide funds for publications.

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