



Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, SD

**ANNUAL ALUMNI MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2004
SAN DIEGO, CA
5:30 – 6:30 PM**

(1) INTRODUCTIONS:

Stacy Gomes, Academic Dean, San Diego convened the meeting and attendees were welcomed.

(2) SD GRAND ROUNDS:

Laura Senecal reported on SD Alumni Grand Rounds, a guided peer-review forum conducted by Bob Damone and Z'ev Rosenberg at the Inner Path on a monthly basis at no cost. It is an opportunity for licensed acupuncturists to meet and review a variety of cases. This has been found to be especially helpful for new practitioners and for those cases that may require some extra insight. Various continuing education classes are also conducted such as Tai Chi and Chinese medicines at a minimal cost. Practitioners are encouraged to e-mail to lasen@msn.com. Inner Path is located at 4679 Vista Street, San Diego, CA 92116 (619) 255-6963.

The Inner Path is also working towards incorporating homebirth midwives into the practice, and acupuncture techniques into the child birthing process.

(3) NEW YORK BY-LAWS:

Gina Lepore, New York COO reported on the work being done towards establishing a national alumni organization as a not-for-profit organization. Benefits of the national organization may include scholarships, sponsoring CEU events, business networking events, negotiating malpractice rates and health insurance, political support, placement information for new graduates as well as employers, referral listings on a national website, research and studies.

(4) LIBRARY RESOURCES AND BORROWING PRIVILEGES:

Listed on the PCOM website are the various resources including books and journals available to students, faculty and alumni. It is being researched as to how best incorporate borrowing privileges for alumni.

(5) DOCTORAL PROGRAM PROGRESS:

Jack Miller, President, gave a brief report on the status of the doctoral program at PCOM. It is currently in the second semester, dividing full time and part time students. There are five tracks in the program: Integrative Medicine, Chinese Classics, Chinese Language, Research, and Clinical. The program requires approximately 15-20 hours per week. One of the research projects in progress includes a pilot study on diabetes.

(6) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

There are two websites available to check employment opportunities:

Employment@acupuncture.com

http://acupuncture.com/mailman/listinfo/employment_acupuncture.com

(7) ALUMNI PRESENTATION

Symposium participants were able to hear presentations of clinical research from four alumni; alumni Ruth McCarty, James Poepperling, Richard Blitstein, and Stephen Bonzak.

Ruth McCarty (SD '01) is a co-founder, with William Loudon, MD, PhD, of Orange County's only hospital-based and pediatric-focused complementary and alternative medicine program, practicing traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) along side conventional western physicians. She is currently on staff, with allied health in-patient care privileges at the Children's Hospital of Orange County in Orange and CHOC at Mission Regional Hospital in Mission Viejo, California. Ruth also has staff privileges at Health Bridge Pediatric Rehabilitation Hospital in Santa Ana, California. Ruth has an active outpatient private practice located at the CHOC Pediatric Specialty Clinic in Aliso Viejo and will be opening her second office in Orange in October, 2004. Ruth and Dr. Loudon have recently submitted an NIH grant proposal to fund a randomized, placebo controlled study addressing the efficacy of TCM to lower analgesic requirements for children recovering from surgery.

James (SD '01) is currently working on his Doctor of Physical Therapy at Neumann College. James presented his work of a colon cancer study testing the affects of acupuncture on cortisol in end of life study patients. His slides can be downloaded at:

<http://pacificcollege.edu/alumni/minutes/index.html>

Richard Blitstein, and Stephen Bonzak (CH' 03) are faculty at PCOM Chicago and shared their results of a pilot study on tongue diagnosis using inter-rater reliability. This research will provide a stepping stone to understanding what kinds of biases might confound attempts to use pattern differentiation in randomized controlled trials.