



## 2016 End of Year Report

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and Supporters:

The American Society of Acupuncturists had an amazing year of growth in 2016. Formally founded as a 501(c)6 not-for-profit in mid-2015, the ASA hit the ground running, coordinating and evolving the work that our state associations had been doing together for many years prior as the Council of State Associations. This report gives you an overview of the breadth and depth of our efforts as a collective entity. Medicine is largely governed at the state level, so the existence of a robust state association is foundational to the success of any profession in each state. However, there are commonalities of issues that state associations face, and some aspects of medical practice are governed at the national level, so a strong national voice and a national forum for knowledge sharing is also key to complete representation. In addition, there is a vibrant, international acupuncture community, and American practitioners need a platform for participation there as well.

We thank each and every practitioner who saw the importance of state association membership. Your commitment and vision forms the basis of our growing grassroots network. You are the practitioners that help to give the whole profession "Kidney Qi" - the core energy that gives us life and force for acupuncture and East Asian medicine as a profession and professional licensure group. Your membership allows us to create, advance, and defend practice acts, advocate for high quality of practice, educate the public about the benefits of seeking a truly qualified practitioner, and share in lifelong learning in this rich field. If you have not yet joined or renewed your state association membership, please become part of this growing and maturing community in 2017! We need you! As a state association member, you automatically become a member of ASA, so long as your state is an organizational member. If your state is not yet an organizational member, please join and help it grow to become one!

We look forward to continued progress in 2017 and beyond, and especially working together with professionalism, collegiality, transparency, and community. Please become a part of the progress of the profession!

Sincerely,

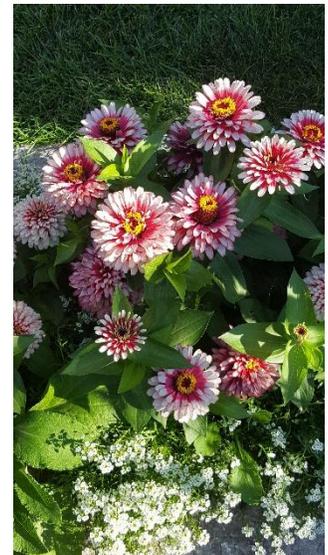
David W. Miller, MD, LAc  
Chair, American Society of Acupuncturists



## Purpose

The ASA is a collaborative coalition of independent, state-based acupuncture associations in the United States who share as their mission the desire to support public health through the promotion of acupuncture and Oriental/East Asian Medicine. It is a maturation of the organization formerly known as the Council of State Associations (CSA). The CSA now exists as a continued collaboration within ASA, and the decision-making power of the ASA resides with its Council. The Council is comprised of the paid organizational members of the ASA. The ASA became an official, incorporated entity within the District of Columbia in July of 2015, and as of summer 2016 is a recognized 501(c)6 entity with the IRS. The current voting membership of the ASA includes 24 state associations including:

- California State Oriental Medical Association
- Acupuncture Association of Colorado
- Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Acupuncture Society of DC
- Florida State Oriental Medical Association
- Florida Acupuncture Association
- Illinois Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Indiana Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Society of Massachusetts
- Maryland Acupuncture Society
- Maine Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Michigan Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Minnesota Acupuncture Association
- North Carolina Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- New Hampshire Acupuncture and Asian Medicine Association
- New Jersey Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- New Mexico Society for Acupuncture and Asian Medicine
- Acupuncture Society of New York
- Oregon Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Pennsylvania Association for Professional Acupuncture
- Vermont Acupuncture Association
- Acupuncture Society of Virginia
- Washington East Asian Medicine Association
- Wisconsin Society of Certified Acupuncturists



Current Board of the American Society of Acupuncturists:

- David W Miller, MD, LAc, Chair, Illinois
- Eric R Buckley, DOM, LAc, Vice Chair, Oregon/New Mexico
- LiMing Tseng, LAc, Secretary, Vermont
- Candace Sarges, LAc, Immediate Past Chair/Acting Treasurer, New Jersey
- Amy Mager, LAc, Member-at-Large, Massachusetts
- Zeyiad Elias, LAc, Member-at-Large, Michigan

## March 2016 Annual Meeting



The March annual meeting is a gathering of delegates from each participating state association, as well as representatives from ACAOM, CCAOM, and NCCAOM. We invite leaders of other key national and international groups to address the assembly as well, and seek to promote a shared vision for progress for the organization. This meeting is critical to relationship building, leadership development, and the integrity of our organizational infrastructure.

**For full meeting coverage, please see:** [March Meeting Full Summary](#)

Our next leadership meeting will be held in Philadelphia, PA March 16-19, 2017.

## September Council Meeting

The ASA Council met by teleconference in September to discuss three by laws amendments and to approve the ASA Dry Needling statement. Amy Mager was also officially voted onto the Board of Directors by the Council. Other announcements were also made. The meeting was attended by 23 of 24 council member organizations, as well as representatives from CCAOM (Valerie Hobbs) and NCCAOM (Kory Ward-Cook).

Official minutes of that meeting can be found here: [September Council Meeting Minutes](#)

## Website Development

The ASA website went through extensive creative work and revisions with feedback from the ASA Council. It can now be seen at [www.asacu.com](http://www.asacu.com). The represents the culmination of more than a year's efforts, and will be an on-going source of information, community connection, and marketing revenue. If you have resources to contribute, please let us know!



## Materials Creation: Fighting Opioid Addiction and Successful Lobbying

Spearheaded by ASA's Lindy Camardella and in cooperation with NCCAOM and the Acupuncture Now Foundation (ANF), informational videos were created on choosing acupuncture as a first-line treatment for pain and for reduction of opioid use, and an introduction to legislative action was created as a webinar. The ASA public education committee also created a graphic handout called, "Acupuncture Before Opioids". All of these are available on the ASA website.

Also created was an educational video that gives some core points for successful meetings with legislators, as well as a legislative lobbying packet. The video can be found on the ASA website, but also at our You Tube page: [Speaking with Legislators](#)



Lindy, as an Illinois constituent and ASA representative, personally had meetings with staff from US Senator, Dick Durbin's office in Washington, D.C. She brought attention to the opioid issue and highlighted how acupuncture can help with addiction and pain reduction.

The Public Education committee is also compiling resources for different states wanting to work on the opioid issue and working to educate legislators on how acupuncture should be covered by insurance for acute and chronic pain as well as addiction. Success has been seen on this front especially in Vermont. See [VTAA Legislation](#) and the [Integrative Practitioner](#).

Kudos to all who made that project advance!

The ASA's work has also been recognized by John Weeks and the [Integrator Blog](#).

## AOM Day

This year again ASA collaborated with NCCAOM and Acupuncture Media Works to create an AOM Day resource site. Participation was solicited nationwide. The materials and news surrounding that effort can be found here: [AOM Day](#)

## Pacific College Symposium

The full ASA board attended and held a booth at the Pacific College Symposium where outreach efforts were conducted. At the symposium, ASA also attended an international meeting coordinated by John Scott of Golden Flower Herbs, as well as the meeting of the American Herbal Products Association. This meeting was extremely valuable, allowing our board to connect with key leaders within the broader profession, meet with vendors to discuss support and potential member benefits, and hear the concerns of numerous acupuncturists from around the country. We thank Jack Miller and Stacy Gomes of Pacific College for their generous support and advocacy for ASA! Minutes from our international collaborative meeting can be found here: [EU/US/Ca Meeting](#)



## Support for Acupuncturists in the Military

ASA leadership was in contact with key members of the Army and Representative Judy Chu's office to investigate and seek remedy to the downgrading of acupuncturists from a GS 12 pay/status level to GS 8. This is a difficult issue, and may need congressional action to correct. On-going work on this issue continues. Many thanks to the brave Licensed Acupuncturists within the Army now and formerly who are helping on this front.

## Delphi Survey Participation

ASA distributed and collected responses to ACAOM's request for feedback on its Delphi Survey. We provided one of the avenues for the collection of opinions on degree titles for the profession.

## Solicitation to the FDA for Expanded Time to Evaluate Supplement Regulation Changes, and Commentary on Proposed Changes:

The ASA collaborated with John Weeks and other members of industry to seek extra time to evaluate proposed regulation changes. ASA has established an herbal medicine committee to continue advocacy in this domain.



Letters submitted to the FDA can be found here: [Additional Time Request](#) and [Concern for Chinese Herbal Medical Practice](#)

## ISO: The International Organization for Standardization

Eric Buckley participated in activities in Rome, Italy. ASA and NCCAOM co-funded this venture. Please find Eric's meeting report here: [Rome Report](#).

Representatives from other countries are widely sponsored by either the national governments or industry, but the U.S. remains under-represented in this domain. We are fortunate though to have a strong team in development, led by the brilliant and dedicated Eric Brand, LAc., chair of the U.S. delegation. Eric was recognized at the 2016 Plenary in Rome, Italy for his work co-authoring the standard titled "Determination of heavy metals in herbal medicines used in Traditional Chinese Medicine."



If you think you may be interested in work with ISO, please contact us!

Eric is involved with the following task forces:

- ISO TC249 WG1 - Quality and safety of raw materials and traditional processing - raw herbs
- ISO TC249 WG2 - Quality and safety of manufactured TCM products - products produced from raw herbs
- ISO TC249 WG5 - Terminology and Informatics

Some of the current issues include:

FDIS 18668-4 Coding system for Chinese medicines -- Part 4: Codes for granule forms of individual medicinals for prescriptions

FDIS 18668-3 Coding system for Chinese medicines -- Part 3: Codes for Chinese Materia Medica

FDIS 18668-2 Coding system for Chinese medicines -- Part 2: Codes for decoction pieces

FDIS 19610 General requirements for industrial manufacturing process of red ginseng (Panax ginseng C.A. Meyer)

FDIS 19824 Schisandra Chinensis (Turcz.) Baill seeds and seedlings

CD 19617 manufacturing process of natural products

NP Determination of Aflatoxins in Herbal Medicines Used in Traditional Chinese Medicine - Method by LC-FLD (Liquid Chromatography with Postcolumn Fluorescence Derivatization)

Eric will also be on the editing committee for WG1. This committee is responsible for making sure the grammar and spelling of all proposals from WG1 is correct.

The most recent edition of the ISO TC249 newsletter can be found here

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4CFzCUChmtcazLuc3A5Slp0a2s/view?usp=sharing>

### **Rapid Response Network**

Recently developed and chaired by the astute and tireless Mel Hopper – Koppelman of the Acupuncture Now Foundation, this international group is working to create templates and resources for responding to problematic research and biased reporting. Fantastic responses to the poorly considered new British NICE guidelines were created, including this [brilliant video](#).



We look forward to the development of this critical component of the profession's Wei Qi.

### **Inter-organizational collaboration**

The ASA has continued to develop its relationship with the **Acupuncture Now Foundation**, the **European TCM Association**, and other groups. ASA has memoranda of understanding with ETCMA, and will look to develop these with ANF and also the Society for Acupuncture Research.

**Meridians: The Journal of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine** continues to be our officially recognized journal. NCCAOM has also recognized Meridians as its official journal. Through multi-organizational support, all hope to see Meridians continue growth and recognition. <http://www.meridiansjaom.com/>

ASA and ANF shared space together at the Pacific College Symposium.

In June of 2016 Emily Sablosky, LAc of member organization CSOMA attended the **AAAOM** symposium dinner on behalf of the ASA.



## Dry Needling



This continues to be an issue of national significance, fought on a state by state basis. ASA released its Dry Needling Position Paper after significant work by an extensive committee including Chair: Tracy Soltesz (MD), Co-Chair: Melea Britt Alexander (IN), Rebecca Berkson (VA), Kimberley Benjamin (CO), Hongjian He (FL), Kelly Hora (WI), Jason Sargis (NJ), Zev Myerowitz (ME), Mona Lee-Yuan (NY), William Terrell (IA), Valerie Hobbs (guest), Amy Mager (Board Rep), and Eric Raymond Buckley (Board Rep). It was put through legal review by Brent Foster, JD, and subsequently reviewed and approved by the ASA Board and Chair Tracy Soltesz.

That can be found at [ASA Dry Needling Position](#).

While not everyone will agree with all points of this statement, it none-the-less represents the greatest collaborative, consensus effort on this topic to date. As with all position statements, it will be continually reviewed and revised as times advance and perspectives shift.

## November 2016: Establishment of Herbal Medicine Committee

First Co-Chairs: Eric Buckley (NM), Gonzo Flores (OR)

Initial Committee Members: Eric Buckley (ASA Vice Chair), Amy Mager (ASA Member at Large), Isabel Demers (ME), David Bock (WI), Linda Robinson Hidas (MA), Gonzo Flores (OR)

Initial Tasks:

- Address Docket Number FDA-2011-D-0376: "Dietary Supplements: New Dietary Ingredient Notifications (Done - see previous above)
- Create interface mechanism for informational interchange with herbal vendor community
- Recognize and follow activities of NCCAOM Chinese Herbal Dispensing & Compounding Safety (CHDCS) Taskforce
- Develop herbal component of ASA Website
- Aid in the development of rapid response mechanisms for bad media coverage of good herbal products



## Facebook Development

ASA continues to develop our Facebook outreach, posting relevant information of interest to our community. Please visit us and please LIKE our page!

<https://www.facebook.com/AmericanSocietyofAcupuncturists/>



Thanks as well to Amy Mager, LAc for her tireless efforts to represent ASA on Facebook!

## You Tube Development

ASA is working to create a video resource base for the community. If you know of valuable video resources, please let us know! [ASA YouTube](#)



## Additional 2016 Letters of Support

[CPT Committee: Support letter to NCCAOM for Acupuncture representation](#)

[Massachusetts Board of Allied Health](#)

[Georgia State Board of Physical Therapy](#)

[Washington State Department of Public Health](#)

[Massachusetts H 2006, an Act Relative to the Safe Treatment of Pain and S1231](#)

[Montana Board of Physical Therapy](#)

[Video greeting for Association for Professional Acupuncture in Pennsylvania](#)



**Congratulations to the Kansas Association of Oriental Medicine for achieving licensure in 2016!!!** [Kansas Win!](#)

## Fundraising: Please help support our work!

We hope you're impressed with the efforts of the organization in 2016!

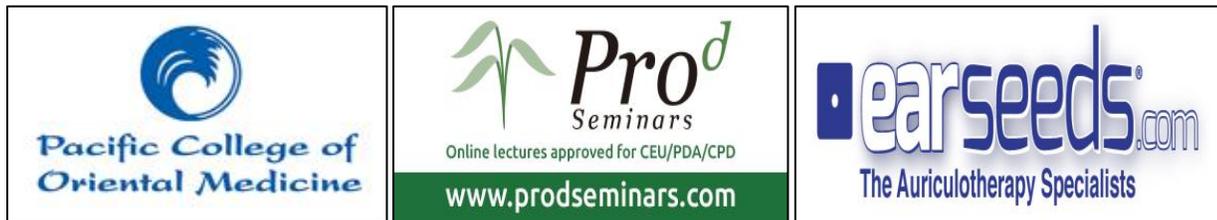
ASA is actively soliciting for sponsors and much needed donations. With your support, we can raise funds to support the employment of an Executive Director, outreach efforts at national and international conferences, state support for state based projects, public education, acupuncture advocacy, and more! Please consider a donation of any size today!

**Donate**

**Thanks to our 2016 meeting sponsors as well!** [Golden Flower Chinese Herbs](#), [American Acupuncture Council](#), [Biotics Research Corporation](#), [Crane Herbs](#), [Lhasa OMS](#), [Evergreen Herbs/Lotus Institute](#), and [AcuClaims!](#)

## Affiliate Support

Thanks to the generous support of Pro-D Seminars, Pacific College of Oriental Medicine, and Earseeds.com, when you make your purchases through the ASA links, the organization automatically gets a donation! Please take the time to click through on our site, and let them know ASA sent you! If you are considering the transitional doctorate through PCOM, the College will donate your application fee fully to ASA! Pro-D and Earseeds.com will give a generous percentage back to ASA with each purchase!



**ASA** is a resource to national AOM/AEAM stakeholders in efforts to get information out to the general practitioner base. ASA maintains as open and transparent a process as possible, and seeks to keep state associations informed on all relevant efforts occurring that affect the field, and keep all stakeholders informed of state activities that also affect the practice of AOM in the U.S. Please feel free to contact us at any time to reach a wide base of state leaders, or to make connections with particular states. We value collaboration, and look forward to sharing in the continued development of the field.

The ASA leadership is committed to fostering positive relationships for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Respectfully Submitted your [ASA Board](#) (left to right): David W Miller, MD, LAc (Chair), Eric Buckley (Vice-Chair), Candace Sarges (Immediate Past-Chair), LiMing Tseng (Secretary), Amy Mager (Member-at-Large), Zeyiad Elias (Member-at-Large)

