

35 years in Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine



Workshop focus

Our aim for the workshop is to prompt, share and capture your stories of life and work as Chinese Medicine practitioners. What is it like for you being a CM practitioner in the UK today, and how has this developed/changed over the years since you set up in practice?

Programme

9.00 - 10.15	Registration and catching up - <i>tea, coffee, croissants</i>
10.15 - 10.30	Welcome
10.30 - 12.15	Round table discussion - your practice
12.15 - 1.45	Buffet lunch in the cafeteria (<i>vouchers provided</i>)
1.45 - 3.15	Round table discussion - the course
3.15 - 4.00	Break - <i>tea / coffee</i>
4.00 - 5.00	Round table discussion - the profession
5.00 - 5.30	Closing plenary
5.30 - 7.00	Drinks reception - <i>drinks & light refreshment</i>

Participants will be allocated to different tables for the discussion sessions. Each table will have paper and pens etc. to make summary notes and for individuals to record stories and comments. The event will also be filmed.

Facilitators: Felicity Moir, Sibyl Coldham and Arnold Desser

Discussions around practice

- What happened - what have been key moments and events?
- What do you think is unique to CM? What has it enabled you to do?
- What keeps you doing it? What are you passionate about?
- What are your frustrations?
- Who are your patients - and how has this changed (or not) over the years?
- How do you talk CM with patients? what do you explain and how/why?
- How has your understanding of CM changed - what were the triggers?
- Who are your community - how do you talk about CM with them?
- How do you relate to graduates from other colleges and/or therapies?

Discussion around the course

- How did the teaching and learning match the demands of practice?
- What have you carried forward - and what have you abandoned?
- What was missing - what have you had to learn for yourself?
- What did you do next that brought you success?
- To what extent have you kept in touch with your cohort - how and why?

Discussion around the profession

- What do you see as the issues facing the profession? How has this changed over the years?
- How do you see it in 20 yrs? Where should it be?
- Where/how do you see yourself in relation to the profession and professional structures?
- Why do you think people leave?

Additional information

The TCM Development Trust was set up by the Directors of the London School of Acupuncture and TCM. It is structured as a not-for-profit company. The current directors are Sibyl Coldham, Cheryll Davies and Arnold Desser.

The purpose of the trust is to support education and research in Chinese Medicine, and in the past it has funded a number of small scale research projects, and travel bursaries.

As you may know, several universities are now closing their acupuncture courses, including the University of Westminster, and so we feel it is timely to explore the impact the course has had in relation to the aims of its founders. The founders of the LSATCM, Felicity Moir, Geoff Wadlow and Tony Brewer had a particular mission to develop a course that was practice-based and practice-orientated. Initially, they had all trained in the UK, but on courses where clinical training was mostly through observation. As students they rarely treated patients themselves. They also had little practice of techniques and no focus on the therapeutic relationship, and so they were very underprepared when it came to diagnosing and treating, and building their own practices. However, at the time they graduated China had begun to offer intensive clinical courses where participants worked in public hospitals under the supervision of TCM doctors. It was this experience that gave them the inspiration to think about how a course could/should be run.

The LSATCM was the first acupuncture school in the UK to establish a TCM curriculum around clinical practice and with an in-house clinic that recruited patients for the students. This enabled them to complete a substantial number of hours of supervised clinical practice in their final year, and clinical observation in their first and second years. This was revolutionary at the time, and was the pivotal point around which teaching methods evolved.

We see this event, in part, as a celebration of the course and its graduates; in part as the first stage of capturing the story of the impact that you and it has had on Chinese Medicine in the UK today; and to begin to explore broader questions facing the profession.