

**Letterhead of HONG KONG CHIROPRACTORS' ASSOCIATION**

Paper No. CB(2)1308/99-00(06)

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1999

The Hon. Michael M.K. Ho,  
Chairman,  
Panel on Health Services,  
Legislative Council,  
8 Jackson Road Central,  
Hong Kong.

Dear Hon. Mr. Ho,

Re: The use of Acupuncture and Herbal Supplements by Chiropractors

The Chinese Medicine Ordinance which was enacted on 14 July, 1999 includes a provision that allows registered Medical Practitioners, Dentists and Physiotherapists to practice acupuncture. Chiropractors have been excluded from this exemption.

It is unfortunate that the Hong Kong Chiropractors' Association (H.K.C.A.) was not given a chance to make a presentation to the Chinese Herbal Medicine Bills Committee before the Ordinance was passed. The Chiropractic Profession in Hong Kong strongly feels that the use of Acupuncture and Herbal Supplements in the management of patients should be allowed since such practice is based on

theories of diagnostics and treatment that are different and distinct from the Yin-Yang and Meridian Principles practiced in Traditional Chinese Medicine. The practice of Acupuncture and the use of Herbal Supplements have always been a part of the non-adjustive techniques and modalities which are included in the training and the Scope of Practice of Chiropractors that is internationally accepted.

The H.K.C.A. contends that in allowing the various healthcare providers to practice what they are qualified and trained to do, the general public would be guaranteed of a choice in the multi-disciplinary healthcare delivery system that would truly be of international standards.

Enclosed is a submission on the background of the utilization of Acupuncture and Herbal Supplements by the Chiropractic profession for your reference.

The H.K.C.A. is ready to meet with you and your panel any time at your convenience for further discussion on the captioned matter.

Yours truly,

Edward T.T. Lee, M.D., D.C.  
President

In terms of education, Western Acupuncture Principle is very much a part of the general Chiropractic curriculum in Chiropractic colleges. Post-graduate training is also available in many Chiropractic colleges leading to certificate, diploma or Masters degree status. (11, 13, 4[i])

Doctors of Chiropractic are, in fact, the second largest users of Acupuncture in the United States, only second to the Medical Doctors. (12)

#### HERBAL SUPPLEMENTS (HERBS AND PHYTONUTRIENTS)

The Biochemical and Physiological basis of herbal supplements is the principle on which Chiropractors base their usage of herbal supplements as an adjunct in their clinical practice.

Chiropractors' professional knowledge in the use of herbal supplements is very much a part of their Nutrition curriculum (7, 15) (includes vitamins, minerals to phyto-nutrients and herbs), with postgraduate training available in Chiropractic colleges leading to Fellowship, Masters degree, Diploma or Certificate status. (3, 4[ii])

The following examples clearly illustrate the difference, in approach and principles, between the Chiropractors and that of the Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners.

##### 1. HORSETAIL (*Equisetum hiemale*)木賊

Used by Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners as a diuretic and in the treatment of eye ailments caused by wind-heat, hemorrhoids, liver congestion and rheumatism.

The same herb is used by Chiropractors as a natural source of silica and calcium in the management of various musculoskeletal disorders such as osteoporosis, musculoskeletal pain and fractures. It is also used in fortifying and repairing damaged collagenous tissues, particularly ligaments and tendons in the treatment of sports injuries.

2. GINGER (dried) (*Rhizoma zingiberis officianalis*) 干姜

Used by Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners to dispel cold from the spleen and stomach, to facilitate recovery from collapse, and to eliminate damp and phlegm.

Chiropractors use ginger in the treatment of arthritis and other inflammatory joint conditions. The well-studied action of ginger is its effect on the production and deployment of eicosanoids.

The common usage of herbal supplements by Chiropractors is further demonstrated by the fact that these supplements are readily available in most Chiropractic college supply shops and health food shops for order by the field practitioners and their patients (16).

## REFERENCES:

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2. Supra (1.) ..page 10
3. WESTERN STATE CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, COLARADO, U.S.A.: CONTINUING EDUCATION - COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: BOTANICAL MEDICINE ([www.wschiro.edu](http://www.wschiro.edu)) Pages 1 and 4.
- 4[i] NATIONAL COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.: Postgraduate Education, Course Catalogue: Differential Diagnosis, Page 3.
- 4[ii] NATIONAL COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTIC, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, U.S.A.: Postgraduate Education: Clinical Nutritional Diplomate - Course Catalogue, page 1.
5. HONG KONG CHIROPRACTORS' ASSOCIATION : CODE OF PRACTICE - 3. SCOPE OF CHIROPRACTIC. Page 3
6. CANADIAN MEMORIAL CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE, TORONTO, CANADA (CMCC): GRADUATE PROGRAMMES - CLINICAL ACUPUNCTURE ([www.cmcc.ca](http://www.cmcc.ca)) page 5
7. CMCC: UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES CURRICULUM + COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - NUTRITION AND CLINICAL NUTRITION. Page 10.

8. ROYAL MELBOURNE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA. (RMIT): MASTER DEGREE BY COURSEWORK - ACUPUNCTURE ([www.bh.rmit.edu.au](http://www.bh.rmit.edu.au)) page 1
9. RMIT: MASTER OF APPLIED SCIENCE (ACUPUNCTURE) Correspondence from Dr. MARK BARTOLO - ASSISTANT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES MANAGER (Fax: 61-3-9467-2794) page 2.
10. supra (9) ... page 4.
11. supra (9) ... page 14
12. LEAKE R, BRODERICK JE: CURRENT LICENSURE FOR ACUPUNCTURE IN THE UNITED STATES, ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES, JULY 1999, Vol. 5, No. 4, page 95.
13. Supra (12)...page 96.
14. WORLD FEDERATION OF CHIROPRACTIC. DEFINITION OF CHIROPRACTIC. (November 1998)
15. RMIT: UNDERGRADUATE CHIROPRACTIC SUBJECT GUIDES. Correspondence from Dr. MARK BARTOLO - ASSISTANT INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES MANAGER (Fax: 61-3-9467-2794), pages 8 & 15.
16. THE CANADIAN MEMORIAL CHIROPRACTIC COLLEGE SUPPLY CENTRE & BOOKSTORE - CATALOGUE - Volume 1, page 41 (<http://the.store.cmcc.ca>)