

Medical Accupuncture For Physicians at Downstate

The Office of Continuing Medical Education at SUNY Downstate Medical Center is offering a 300 hour educational program which qualifies the participant for NYS Acupuncture Certification. The program is open only to licensed physicians, dentists, and residents-in-training.

The program is set up to accommodate the busy practitioner. Upon graduation, the physician will be competent to institute patient care and manage other acupuncture practitioners.

Although acupuncture had its origins in China hundreds of years ago, the course is grounded in contemporary western medicine and bioscience. At the same time the course will address and incorporate the full traditional foundations of acupuncture as derived from the classical Asian texts.

A variety of audiovisual aids will be used to reinforce the material, including: in person and videotaped lectures conducted by selected experts; clinical demonstrations; a computer software program that will assist the practitioner in developing and designing treatment plans; and clinical hands-on experience with patients held in established medical offices specializing in acupuncture care.

The 300 hours of didactic seminars and clinical workshops will concentrate on the following:

- fundamentals of acupuncture theory
- channel and point locations and functions
- concepts and approaches in Chinese diagnostics and therapy
- needling techniques
- patient management for the most prevalent conditions facing the practitioner

The formal instruction in practical acupuncture, is divided into two sections: Section 1, Basic Aspects of Acupuncture and Section 2, Specialty Curriculum and Clinical Demonstrations. The second section is designed to meet 100 hours of specific uses and techniques of acupuncture as well as 100 hours of supervised clinical activities. There are two options for physicians to finish this section of the course: the Primary Care Unit or the Pain Management Unit.

Tsai C. Chao, MD, the Course Director for the program, a board certified and diplomate physician in physical medicine and rehabilitation, is the Director of the Rehabilitation Medicine Residency Program in the Department of Orthopedic and Rehabilitation Medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. He is also a guest professor at the Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. He was trained in traditional Chinese acupuncture in China in 1970. Dr. Chao is a pioneer in the practice of acupuncture in the United States. In addition to his directorship at SUNY Downstate, Dr. Chao has an extensive private practice in both western and traditional Chinese medicine, in which patients are treated at three facilities in the New York City area.

All disciplines of acupuncture which have practical clinical value will be taught in the program, from pragmatic neuroanatomically based treatments for chronic pain management and treatment, to complex diagnosis and treatment plans for mixed functional and internal medicine problems.

Dr. Jo Ann Bradley, Director of the Office of Continuing Medical Education, whose vision made this course possible is excited about this program. She hopes that it will be of enormous benefit to our physicians and dentists in the community of Brooklyn.

