



Federation of Chinese Medicine &
Acupuncture Societies of Australia Ltd.
澳洲全國中醫藥針灸學會聯合會 (National Body)

FCMA

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Newsletter

September 2014

I. Messages from the president

The Third Board meeting of the eighth assembly of Federation of Chinese Medicine & Acupuncture Societies of Australia (FCMA) was successfully held in Brisbane, on the 31st of August, 2014.

On behalf of the FCMA Board, I presented the report of our performance for the last year. All FCMA branches have also reported their activities for the year 2013 to 2014. One of the key issues addressed during the meeting was the non-recognition from three private health insurance companies. I arranged a meeting with the member of the Federal Parliament House Mr. Frydenberg in person to request a review on this decision. He informed us, on the 25th of July, that he has referred this matter to the Minister for Health for further review.

Due to the urgency of this issue, the FCMA Board has decided to appoint a liaison officer for private health funds and to negotiate with the insurance companies with regards to our strategic and development plan. At the same time, I will continue the discussion with the federal government to request the amendment of the current rules. I have strongly urged for the action of the federal government to amend the rules by acknowledging all the AHPRA registered practitioners to receive the same amount of refund from the private insurance companies.

In addition, according to the Therapeutic Goods Administration Act 1989, scheduled herbal medicines including Aconitum, Monkshood, Ephedra, Aristolochia manshuriensis, Asarum, Hemp seed and other medicines, are prohibited from practitioners who are not endorsed. The law has been effective since 1991, which is before the implementation of the legislative regulation of Chinese medicine. Even though, Chinese medicine Practitioners are officially registered nationally, schedule medicines used by Chinese medicine practitioners would result in legal charges, as well as the cancellation of their registration, fines, and prosecution. Therefore, it is our responsibility to raise awareness of the importance of the Act. As the president of FCMA, I promise to devote myself in the career I am working in and will continue to achieve a greater result for all of us.

Best Regards

Professor Tzi Chiang Lin PhD
National President, FCMA

II: Organisation of FCMA Victorian branch 2014 annual general meeting and Second international Navel acupuncture conference

Society of Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture (Vic.) Inc. (FCMA-Vic) Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the 2nd Navel Acupuncture World Conference will be held on Sunday 16 November 2014 in Melbourne. The purpose of this AGM is to summarise the activities in the past year and discuss the

development planning of the association. The conference aims to, (but not limited), to exchange the clinical experience and operational techniques in navel acupuncture in order to improve clinical skills. The conference has invited the founder of navel acupuncture, Mr Qi Yong, to deliver a keynote speech. Mr Qi will also lead a group of his students to present in the conference. FCMA members who participate in the AGM and the conference can encounter eight hours of formal continuing professional development (CPD). Apart from the practitioners from Australia and China, delegates also come from other countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, United States, Canada, New Zealand, United Kingdom and Ireland, in total about 120-200 delegates will attend this international conference. An estimate of 120 to 200 people will participate in the meeting. Please contact Dr. Angela Yang, director of the Victorian branch of academic to express your interest. The contact detail is: angela.yang@fcma.org.au.

III: Aconite poisoning and acupuncture led pneumothorax

The recent incident of Aconite poisoning from Chinese herbal medicine has raised huge concerns and was widely reported in mainstream media of Melbourne. A female patient was poisoned by the herbal medicine prescribed by a Chinese medicine practitioner, and the medical report has shown the source of poison was from aconite component in the herbal medicine. We would like to stress the importance of the issue and remind all of our members to observe the commonwealth law, regarding to the prescription of the following herbs, which includes aconite, ephedra, Aristolochia manshuriensis, Asarum, Hemp seed and so on. Anyone who breaks the law will receive criminal charges against them, such as illegal storage, sales and usage of the scheduled herbs. FCMA has submitted a formal feedback to Chinese Medicine Board of Australia (CMBA) to endorse the usage of the schedules herbs, however, once again, we would like to kindly remind all the members to bear in mind the serious consequences of illegal usage of the scheduled herbs, you can find a more detailed list of the scheduled Chinese medicines in the following link:

<http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/documents/default.aspx?record=WD12%2F9551&dbid=AP&chksun=RtC0PMLAOIxNw6Bvh7ejnw%3D%3D>

According to the data provided by AHPRA, three separate incidences has raised concern regarding the malpractice of acupuncture resulted in pneumothorax, which involved two registered Chinese medicine practitioners. We would like to remind all our members to strictly follow the proper procedures, and pay attention on selection of needle, points, angle and depth of needling Patient's safety is paramount and we must be responsible in minimising any incidence of malpractice against us, prompt action must be dealt with accordingly.

IV: Professional indemnity insurance (PII) and other certified copy

Since the PII of most members will expire on September, October and November, we would like to kindly remind all members to submit their copy of PII. The following documents are required to be submitted to the FCMA Secretary:

1. Updated copy of PII.
2. 2014 continuous professional development (CPD) record card. Please provide the CPD card issued from FCMA, fill in your membership number, name and signature accordingly.
3. An updated of first aid certificate has to be submitted if the previous one has expired.
4. Please submit your educational qualification certificate if you completed an undergraduate degree or Australian postgraduate degree, including master and PhD programs, in the year of 2013 and 2014.
5. Members who obtained an educational qualification in China, a VETASSESS certified procedure is required and please provide us a copy of academic transcript with English translation.
6. Please provide a copy of remedial massage diploma HLT50307 if you have one.

The information above is what the insurance companies require. We hope everyone can provide these documents as soon as possible for your benefit. It can be sent by email to cjliu88@hotmail.com. Please use the PDF format for all scanned files.

Compiled by FCMA secretariat