

Introduction

The Harvard Medical School Department of Continuing Education and the Department of Medicine at the Brigham and Woman's Hospital is offering a highly regarded, comprehensive, nine-month course in acupuncture for physicians.

There is a growing interest among patients and physicians in acupuncture as a therapeutic modality. However physicians have little or no training in either the science or practice of this treatment approach. This unique course provides practical, hands-on training in acupuncture. The training program is designed to bring together Eastern and Western views of health and disease into a result-oriented acupuncture style. You will learn to evaluate and treat patients using modern Japanese acupuncture techniques that link classical Chinese theory to concrete, understandable diagnostic and treatment methods. Strong emphasis is also placed on developing your neuroanatomical understanding of pain modulation with acupuncture.

The didactic portion of the course will focus on bridging the gap between acupuncture practice and science. The scientific basis of acupuncture and the methodological problems with acupuncture research is presented as part of the discussion of specific clinical conditions throughout the course. Emphasis is placed on comparing and contrasting actual research protocols with clinical treatment methods. This ongoing scientific discussion will provide participants the tools to better lead future research and clinical endeavors in acupuncture.

To achieve the highest level of academic and clinical teaching excellence, we have brought together distinguished members of the faculty from Harvard Medical School, the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich in Germany and a leader in the field of Japanese acupuncture, Mr. David Euler, who is an internationally recognized Japanese acupuncture practitioner and an expert in translating the theoretical concepts discussed in classic Chinese acupuncture texts into a pragmatic treatment approach. Our faculty has taught acupuncture both in the United States and abroad for more than 15 years, combining their theoretical knowledge and vast clinical and teaching experience to provide our students with the highest quality instruction.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Integrate acupuncture techniques for managing pain and other medical conditions into clinical practice based on traditional Chinese theories as interpreted by modern Japanese and Western practitioners familiar with modern medical methods.
- Improve the quality of the practice of acupuncture with a detailed understanding of the scientific basis of acupuncture analgesia and the current status of the clinical research in the field
- Demonstrate knowledge of the methodological problems with acupuncture clinical research with a focus on developing the critical tools to formulate research protocols that avoid these pitfalls.