



MICROSYSTEMS SPECIAL EDITION

# The Acupuncture Society

February 2011

## Voluntary Self Regulation of Microsystems Auricular Acupuncture CNHC Register opens March 2011

This special issue of the Acupuncture Society's Newsletter is dedicated to the regulation of the acupuncture profession and specifically the opening of the Microsystems of acupuncture register by the CNHC. This is especially relevant to the many Auricular acupuncture detox practitioners who have trained with the College of Chinese Medicine (CCM) over the past 10 years. As the Vice-Principle of CCM and the Auricular Acupuncture Detox course leader I am glad to inform you that the course taught at the College complies with the educational requirements set by the Microsystems Acupuncture Regulatory Working Group (MAcRWG), which offers all successful graduates of our

course an automatic eligibility for joining the soon to open (March 2011) CNHC register. All successful graduates of the CCM course (provided they are practicing members of the Acupuncture Society or another recognised professional body) can join the CNHC register under a 2-year grandparenting arrangement.

Up to this moment The Acupuncture Society did not require annual validation as a condition for membership renewal, hence CCM did not offer validation courses. As the agreed standards for CNHC registration specifically stipulated that practicing members require annual validation, The Acupuncture Society, who are one of the stakeholders of the

MAcRWG, has modified its Auricular membership renewal requirements to include annual validation. For this purpose CCM is starting to run short half day validation courses twice per year – one in May and one in November. The next validation course will be on 22 May 2011 and will run the whole day, allowing past students to catch up with all the changes in the Auricular profession regulation and registration, polish points location and needling technique, as well as share professional experiences.

All previous students are warmly welcome on the 22 May. The validation course details will be shortly updated on the CCM's website. There will be a limited places available, so book early to avoid any disappointment.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the 22 May.



Dragomir Lubomirov MSc, FAcS, MPCHM  
Vice-Principle CCM London

### Regulation Update

By Amanda Shayle MAcS MPCHM, Vice Chairman

**Facts you need to know as we move towards the final process of voluntary self regulation of Microsystems acupuncture under the Complementary & Natural Healthcare Council (CNHC).**

See page 2 and 3 for more background and the latest news.

#### Introduction

Over the past few years there has been dialogue regarding possible options for the regulation of acupuncture in the UK involving The Acupuncture Society, The British Acupuncture Council (BAcC) and other professional acupuncture bodies. Different regulation routes were explored but there was no resolution until more recently when

discussions formalised and began to evolve into a framework and structured plan, preparing the profession for statutory regulation.

#### Some Background

All categories of acupuncture practitioner professional associations were invited to attend one or more of three Stakeholder Groups as part of preparations for statutory regulation in the UK. This process was instigated by the Department of Health some 3 years ago with the late Mike Pittilo of St Andrews University as the hub, supported by a central Working Party of key members of each group. The groups were TCM, Herbal and Acupuncture. The regulator with

whom discussions and guidelines were being drawn up for was The Health Professions Council (HPC). This Council already regulates Physiotherapists and is currently heavily committed to adding a large number of Psychotherapists to its list. This has severely affected endeavours in progressing acupuncture statutory regulation.

At a political level there has been delay by the change of Government and the process apparently halted by opposition from the orthodox medicine profession who do not consider acupuncture to have achieved an evidence base of acceptable scientific quality for inclusion within the health service.

Continued on page 2

### Inside this issue:

ACUPUNCTURE REGULATION SOME BACKGROUND	2
FORMATION OF MACRW CNHC REGISTER OPENS FOR MICROSYSTEMS	3
PAUL ROBIN COMMENTS ON CURRENT REGULATION OF HERBAL MEDICINE AND TCM	4
HERBAL REGULATION DETAILS OF RESTRICTIONS FROM FEB 2011 IN EU	5/6
INFORMATION ON CNHC HOW TO REGISTER	7

## Acupuncture regulation:

The Acupuncture Society joined the Acupuncture Stakeholders Group in 2008. Paul Robin, Chairman and Amanda Shayle, Vice Chair attended the meetings in order to represent The Acupuncture Society membership. One significant area was the set of guidelines being drawn up in respect of grand parenting of practitioners; particularly those who did not have a academic degree in acupuncture but yet had 'degree level' together with established practitioner experience.

As a result of the projected academic requirements, The College of Chinese Medicine reviewed and upgraded their practitioner courses to comply with the projected criteria necessary. Continued Professional Development (CPD) courses were also provided to comply with the requirement for members to have an active, relevant and documented CPD portfolio.

The Acupuncture Stakeholder group had decided to continue meeting for various reasons, not least that it was

considered important for the profession to have a forum of open discussion and cooperation. More recently it has been agreed that there is value in having a vehicle for central communication to the press and other bodies as well as becoming a hub for research and other issues vital for the progression of the acupuncture profession. Currently there are important discussions about the educational profile for acupuncturists, including the clinical value of an academic degree versus the more traditional practitioner training to 'degree level' (such as offered by The College of Chinese Medicine). To demonstrate the importance of these discussions, a special workshop for the ASG was organised by Jasmin Uddin, BAAC, 'Mapping the Terrain of Acupuncture'. Key questions were addressed and comparisons were made against educational levels of other regulated professionals who practice acupuncture as a support therapy, physiotherapy, for example. Also discussed were the compari-

## Background continued

sons in requirements for teacher qualifications in these different professions.

Discussion groups were formed to assess the value of the draft map of different levels of education within the profession. The groups discussed whether these fitted together and whether a common approval/accreditation service with educational expertise was possible and how would it enhance respect of each other.

As regards the other two groups; the herbal group had fulfilled their role, particularly as there was an impact from the European regulatory process which will come into effect in 2011 and will initially affect patent herbal medicines. The TCM group experienced problems particularly in regard to issues about English language requirements and the Chinese associations' acceptance of these proposals. It is believed that most other (generic as well as specific) criteria was agreed in order for the regulatory process to proceed.

CCM UPGRADED PRACTITIONER TRAINING COURSES TO COMPLY WITH PROJECTED CRITERIA FOR STATUTORY REGULATION...

## CCM COURSES 2011

[Acupuncture & Herbs](#)  
[Spinal Acupuncture](#)  
[Needle Manipulation](#)  
[Orthopaedic Acupuncture](#)  
[Ear Acupuncture for Detox](#)  
[Ear Acupuncture for Pain](#)  
[Cosmetic Acupuncture](#)  
[Acupressure Massage](#)  
[Sports Injury Herbs](#)  
[Chinese Herbal Medicine](#)  
[Pulse, Face & Tongue](#)  
[Korean Hand Acupuncture](#)  
[Korean Hand Massage KHM](#)  
[Meridian Stretch Massage](#)  
[Cupping Therapy](#)  
[Anatomy and Physiology](#)  
[Tai Chi Chuan \(Taiji Quan\)](#)

An exciting selection of CPD courses is now available from the College of Chinese Medicine to enhance your career development and keep your skills up to the minute. Each is linked directly to our website. We look forward to seeing you on one of our courses soon.



# THE ACUPUNCTURE SOCIETY

## Educational Issues excluded Microsystems Practitioners.....

Early within the discussions at ASG Meetings, it became clear that the process of statutory regulation of acupuncture incorporated protection of the title 'acupuncturist'. In particular the educational requirement to be at degree level was seen to exclude the large number of microsystem practitioners.

The majority of this group were recognised as using auricular therapy within the drug and detox area. Although they fitted within the definition of acupuncture by needling patients, their training is perceived as 'O' level standard. The practitioner training for 'acupuncture' therapies

using Microsystems has limitations which failed to meet the minimum criteria set for statutory regulation. This issue led Paul Blacker, Ear Acupuncture Register, to consult with the Foundation for Integrated Health FIH, and begin a process of Voluntary Self Regulation for these therapists. With funding from FIH, A new working group was formed:

**The Microsystems Acupuncture Regulatory Working Group, MAcRWG** with The Acupuncture Society as founding members. Dragomir Luborimov, Vice Principle College of Chinese Medicine and

Amanda Shayle, The Acupuncture Society attended these meetings. The speed of progress of producing the necessary documentation has been impressive, assisted by kindly-given access to paperwork from the BAAC.

More information on MAcRWG can be obtained from their website: <http://www.macrwg.org/>.

Full information on the CNHC can be obtained from their website: <http://www.cnhc.org.uk>

Also full details about voluntary self regulation and how to register.



Amanda Shayle  
Senior Lecturer & Head of Research & Development,  
College of Chinese Medicine  
Vice Chairman The Acupuncture Society  
**Newsletter Editor:**  
[acuregen@googlemail.com](mailto:acuregen@googlemail.com)

## News Update – The 'Microsystems Acupuncture' Register is scheduled to open in March 2011

### Early-bird discount of £30 instead of £45 for two months

On 12 November 2010, MAcRWG entered into final discussions, having now completed all documentation in respect of education, codes of ethics and clinical practice. Educational standards, in line with required National Occupational Standards, NOS, though basic will be improved with training time in excess of 16 hours and the inclusion of anatomy and physiology to all courses. Also the important annual review of skills will now form an essential part of all microsystems practitioners' continued professional development, CPD, and will be logged as such. This will directly affect Acupuncture Society

auricular therapists who will be offered their first review day. On 22 May 2011.

It is already interesting to learn that GPs are being recommended to use complementary healthcare practitioners who are on the CNHC register. A final and important part of the voluntary self regulation process was the formation of a Profession Specific Board, PSB.

These boards are an important part of CNHC's structure and provide invaluable advice on issues such as development of policies as well as sitting on Conduct and Compe-

tence panels.

The Microsystems Acupuncture board was voted in on 12 November. Members who will stand for three years are:

Paul Blacker, Ear Acupuncture Register

Jonathan Tarr, British College of auricular acupuncture,

Amanda Shayle, The Acupuncture Society and

John Gavin, College of Naturopathic Medicine.

THIS REGISTER REPRESENTS A GROUND-BREAKING MOMENT FOR THE ACUPUNCTURE PROFESSION

AMANDA SHAYLE

Acupuncture Society auricular therapists who will be offered their first review day. On 22 May 2011

Contact Dragomir on 07976 253682 to confirm your place

## Comment by Paul Robin

## Current UK Position on Regulation in the EU and UK as of February 2011



Paul Robin FAcS TCM  
Chairman The Acupuncture Society  
Founder & Head of TCM  
College of Chinese Medicine

BE AWARE THAT  
MAINSTREAM  
ACUPUNCTURE  
PRACTICE WILL  
REMAIN OUTSIDE  
OF THE SCOPE  
OF PRACTICE  
COVERED BY THE  
NEW CNHC  
REGISTER.

This is rather an interesting time with Microsystems Acupuncture stealing the 'regulation' (voluntary regulation) first place position since the statutory regulation process was scuppered by the Orthodox medical profession early last year. Western-trained scientists and researchers could not wrap their heads around the alien TCM medical theories, even though they are often used foremost in medicine by millions of people within China, Japan, Taiwan Korea and all East Asia.

There has been resistance to the MAcRWG from some organisations, notably NADA and SMART to voluntary regulation, also the major acupuncture and Chinese herbal groups are not involved in the CNHC voluntary registration process and are still in shock over the lack of government interest in statutory regulation.

The Acupuncture Society has fully supported CNHC voluntary registration process for auricular detox therapists through our active involvement within the Microsystems Regulatory Working Group (MAcRWG). Membership of the CNHC voluntary registration is likely in the future to become a requirement for those microsystems practitioners wishing to offer detox services within the NHS environment.

As for regulation of acupuncture, this has not happened and any future regulation is likely to be voluntary and to allow for ap-

plied acupuncture and TCM skills. The Acupuncture Society currently accredits courses from The College of Chinese Medicine (CCM) and other Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) courses. In addition to involvement with MAcRWG, The Society is an active member of the Acupuncture Stakeholder Group (ASG).

MAcRWG has almost completed its initial role, with a voluntary self regulatory register scheduled to open in March under the governance of the CNHC. The Acupuncture Society has representation on the Profession Specific Board (PSB) of the CNHC in respect of Microsystems acupuncture.

Microsystems (Auricular Detox Acupuncturists) or Whole Body Acupuncture practitioners wishing to join CNHC register can be verified by The Acupuncture Society which will enable them to be 'grand parented in'.

Whole body acupuncturists who practice auricular detox acupuncture can have this aspect of their qualification verified by the society for inclusion in CNHC but must be aware that their main acupuncture practice will remain outside of the scope of practice covered by the register. )

They will retain their Acupuncture Society membership along side their CNHC registration. Practitioners wishing to be verified for access to the CNHC register should contact Dragomir at [dragomirl@btinternet.com](mailto:dragomirl@btinternet.com) directly for training or skills update/assessment verification certificate.

At the moment many of the universities have stopped their acupuncture and Chinese herbal courses and as many BAAB/BAC schools have gone to the wall due to the hard economic times that we face.

Consequently many surviving colleges are moving to Applied Practical Courses like those run at CCM and some other professional training schools around the UK in preference to university accredited degrees courses also the new proposed university fee structures are likely to exacerbate this situation

The Society is of the view that acupuncture and Chinese medicine and other TCM and oriental medicine techniques are best learned in the clinical environment but taught by experienced practitioners. Academic degree courses offered by UK universities appear to be lacking in the practical clinical skills area with over complication of acupuncture and TCM theory causing confusion amongst students.

The Society is promoting Applied Acupuncture Training as the best way to attain expert skills in these therapies in order to have the practical skills to practice acupuncture correctly and be able to treat patients with competence, practical skill confidence and safety.

The Society is promoting Applied Acupuncture Training as the best way to attain expert skills in these therapies in order to have the practical skills to practice acupuncture correctly and be able to treat patients with competence, practical skill confidence and safety.

The EU laws concerning Herbal medicine coming into force in April 2011 and contrary to popular belief only apply to patent medicines and preparations made up in factories for

third parties.

Raw herbs and single herb concentrates are not affected and there is no UK statutory regulation of Chinese herbal medicine.

All insured and verified members who prescribe their own raw herb and single concentrate formulas and modify them with regular assessments are not affected by this EU law, but should not use endangered species animal and mineral substances in their formulae nor use patient

medicines nor ask third parties to prepare them or their insurance may be void.



## EU LAWS

### CONCERNING HERBAL

MEDICINE .....

.....ONLY APPLY

TO PATENT

MEDICINES AND

PREPARATIONS

MADE UP IN

FACTORIES FOR

THIRD PARTIES.

## list of Banned Herbs and legal implications of new EU herbal regulation

### A: RESTRICTED UNDER THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES (CITES)

Herbs which are endangered in the wild are restricted but may be traded with the appropriate CITES certification. In the case of Appendix I this is

normally only permitted for scientific purposes if at all. Suppliers can trade in Appendix II herbs but only from authenticated cultivated supply. An

example of this is XI YANG SHEN which is available from farmed sources.

#### APPENDIX I

HU GU (*O.s tigris*)  
SHE XIANG (*Secreto Moschus*)  
XI JIAO (*Cornu Rhinoceri*)  
XIONG DAN (*Vesica Fellea Ursi*)  
BAO GU (*O.s Leopardis*)  
DAI MAO (*Carapax Ertmochelydis*)  
MU XIANG (*Saussurea lappa*) NOTE: *Vladimira* species are permitted as a substitute herb.

#### APPENDIX II

CHUAN SHAN JIA (*Squama Mantis Pentadactylae*)  
HOU ZAO (*Calculus Macacae*)  
LING YANG JIAO (*Cornu Antelopis*)  
GUI BAN (*Chinemys reevesii*)  
SHI HU (*Dendrobium species*)  
BAI JI (*Bletilla striata*)

TIAN MA (*Gastrodia elata*)  
GOU JI (*Cibotium barometz*)  
LU HUI (*Aloe ferox*)  
XIAO YE LIAN (*Podophyllum emodii*)  
ROU CONG RONG (*Cistanches deserticola*)  
XI YANG SHEN (*Panax quinquefolius*)  
NOTE: Only applies to the whole and sliced root.  
HU HUANG LIAN (*Picrorrhiza kurroa*)

### B: RESTRICTIONS UNDER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

SI 2130 1997  
These herbs were listed as an addition to the 1968 Medicines Act as being potent and hence in need of dosage regulation. In some cases they are

forbidden at any internal dosage.  
MD= Maximum single dose  
MDD=Maximum Daily Dose

FU ZI/CAO WU (*Aconitum species*)  
NOTE: Permitted to use externally at a dose of 1.3% or below. Internal use prohibited.  
SHI LIU PI (*Punica granitum*). Internal use prohibited.  
BING LANG (*Areca catechu*) Pharmacy use only.  
DA FU PI (*Areca catechu*) Pharmacy use only  
MA HUANG

(*Ephedra sinica*). MDD: 1800 mg. MD: 600 mg.  
YANG JIN HUA (*Datura stramonium*). MDD: 150 mg. MD: 50 mg.  
DIAN QIE CAO (*Atropa belladonna*). MDD: 150 mg. MD: 50 mg.  
TIAN XIAN ZI (*Hyocymus niger*). MDD: 300 mg. MD: 100 mg.

NOTE: SI 2130 also applies to other herbs not employed in Chinese medicine. SI 1841 2002

This ban relates to all *Aristolochia* species but also includes herbs which have been confused with *Aristolochic* species due to poor quality assurance.

The sale, supply and importation of the following is banned:

MU TONG (*Aristolochia manshuriensis*). NOTE: this ban also applies to *Akebia quinata*, *Akebia trifoliata*, *Clematis montana* and *Clematis armandii*.  
FANG JI (*Aristolochia fangji*). NOTE: this ban also applies to *Stephania tetrandra*, *Cocculus laurifolius*, *Cocculus orbiculatus* and *Cocculus trilobus*  
MA DOU LING (*Aristolochia contorta*, *Aristolochia debilis*)  
TIAN XIAN TENG (*Aristolochia contorta*, *Aristolochia debilis*)  
QING MU XIANG (*Aristolochia debilis*)

## list of Banned Herbs and legal implications of new EU herbal regulation continued

### SI 548 2008

All species of Senecio are prohibited for internal use due to the presence of toxic pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PA). This mainly applies to the use of Senecio

scandens QIAN LI GUANG

### C: VOLUNTARY RESTRICTION

Due the presence of Aristolochic Acid in Asarum species there is a voluntary ban on the use of:

XI XIN (Asarum species)

### D: RESTRICTIONS UNDER THE 1968 MEDICINES ACT

Under Section 12(1) of the 1968 Medicines Act, 'herbal remedies' which are administered after a one-to-one consultation with a practitioner do not

require a medicines licence (marketing authorisation). This legislation was enacted before traditional medicines from non-European cultures, which use

non-plant substances, had any significant presence in the UK. Since the term 'herbal remedies' refers to plant materials, the MHRA has stated in its guidance on medicines law that the use of mineral and animal

substances, which do not have a mar-

keting authorisation, is illegal.

Section 12(1) is currently under review and the RCHM is working to re-establish the use of animal and mineral products. It is also expected that this

redefinition of what constitutes a 'herb' will be clarified in European and UK legislation in the near future to include non-plant medicines.

In the meantime, members are warned that the use of these products may result in legal action by the MHRA and absence of insurance cover in the case

of a claim. Hence all animal and mineral products should not be used until otherwise informed.

Whatever the outcome of this process, the following must never be used in any form:

ZHU SHA (Mercuric sulphide) Cinnabar

QING FEN (Mercuric chloride) Calomel

HONG FEN (Mercuric oxide) Realgar

HEI XI Lead

### PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINES (POM)

It is strictly prohibited to include any drug which is made available only through prescription by a registered medical doctor.

This includes the following:

YING SU KE (Papaver somnifera)

MA QIAN ZI (Strychnos nux vomica)

STEROIDS Including external use in creams such as PI YAN PING or 999 SKIN CREAMS.

FU ZI Internal use

### E: PATENT FORMULAE

It should be noted that several patent formulae traditionally contain some of the above restricted herbs and toxic minerals, and recently some have been

found to contain drugs. These include the following, which may present a health risk if used as a patent:

NIU HUANG JIE DU PIAN (May contain arsenic)

TIAN WANG BU XIN DAN (May contain mercuric salts)

It is the responsibility of the practitioner to ensure that all patent formulae are obtained from 'bonafide' suppliers. In practice this means that all

ingredients are listed and none of the above are included in the formula.

There are many Acupuncture Society accredited CPD, Under graduate and Post graduate TCM Acupuncture, Herbal and Oriental Diagnosis courses being run at the College of Chinese Medicine London visit [www.ccmlondon.com](http://www.ccmlondon.com) for more info.

I wish you well in the continued wonderful healing work in which you are involved in

kindest regards to all

Paul Robin FAcS TCM  
Chairman of the Acupuncture Society



Complementary & Natural  
Healthcare Council

Why register with CNHC  
Some points from their leaflet

- **Confirmation of Quality**—CNHC seen as gold standard for complementary health-care practitioners
- **Referrals**
- **Visible standards** for the general public
- **Employment Advantage** An increasing range of bodies are working with the CNHC to use the quality mark as an independent validation of standards.
- **Wider influence** in policy arena

## More information on the Complimentary & Natural Healthcare Council

### **CNHC is the UK regulator for complementary healthcare practitioners**

Its key function is to enhance public protection by giving the general public and commissioners of services access to a list of practitioners that have been assessed as meeting national standards of competence and practice.

The Department of Health and CNHC recommend that referrals are made to CNHC-registered practitioners, where CNHC registers the professional discipline concerned.

Registration is currently voluntary and not all complementary health-care practitioners from the disciplines with a CNHC Register are yet registered. This does not necessarily mean that they are not qualified, but it does mean that the CNHC knows nothing about their qualifications, professional background, knowledge and / or experience.

Registered practitioners are able to use the CNHC quality mark (at top of page) on certificates and publicity materials. If in any doubt as to whether a practitioner

is registered, you can search CNHC's on-line register.

For convenience, CNHC information is posted on The Acupuncture Society website:

[www.ccmlondon.com](http://www.ccmlondon.com)

An introduction to CNHC

Why Register with CNHC  
(Differentiates CNHC with a professional Association PA)

Full information and how to register :

[www.cnhc.org.uk](http://www.cnhc.org.uk) or call 0203 178 2199

## HOW TO JOIN THE CNHC

1. A process of verification is necessary to confirm that practitioner training has met the National Occupational Standards NOS, and other criteria such as insurance and annual validation, set out as criteria to join the register.
2. The Acupuncture Society will be able to validate members and others who wish to join the register by a process of assessment and can also offer training via The College of Chinese Medicine. Please contact us via the link on the left.
3. Once validation is given, applicants need to complete a simple form supplied to them by The Society and, upon receipt, the CNHC will continue the registration process.

Full information can also be seen on the CNHC website: <http://www.cnhc.org.uk>

**The Acupuncture Society**  
**27 Cavendish Drive**  
**HA8 7NR**

Phone: 0773 4668 402

Email: [acusoc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:acusoc@yahoo.co.uk)

The College of Chinese  
Medicine

[www.ccmlondon.com](http://www.ccmlondon.com)

Newsletter Editor:

Amanda Shayle MAcS MPCHM Cert-Nat Sci(Open)

[acuregen@googlegmail.com](mailto:acuregen@googlegmail.com)

[www.acupuncturesociety.org.uk](http://www.acupuncturesociety.org.uk)