

## DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

*Seattle, Washington/April 5, 1997*

We believe that Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine best serves society when practiced with the following principles:

1. Respect the broad diversity of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine;
2. Encourage collaboration between Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine and other individuals and groups within and outside of organized health care systems;
3. Honor the legacy of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, its masters, artisans, and others who created and nurtured that legacy, and contemporary colleagues, collaborators and peers who carry on the legacy;
4. Recognize the energetic basis and respect the dynamic, evolving nature of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine;
5. Place the healing relationship and the well-being of the individual consumer at the center of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine practice;
6. Recognize that the social, cultural, and physical environment, including race, gender, age, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation, affect the health and healing of the individual;
7. Provide tools and guidance for individuals to reach their own capacity for informed choice, self healing and living fully, in the presence of health, illness or in the process of dying;
8. Maintain independence of practice based on appropriate standards of education, certification and care;
9. Recognize that maximum accessibility to health care is essential to individual and social well being;
10. Promote public awareness of the facets and traditions of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine and their integration into personal, social and cultural life;
11. Recognize the need for continual expansion of human understanding through research, analysis and practical experience focused on the interactions among body, mind, spirit, emotions and faith of the individual, society and nature as a whole.

We embrace these principles as fundamental to Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine as a healing art.

Endorsed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature)  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please include degrees)

Institutional affiliation (for identification only): \_\_\_\_\_

To Register Your Endorsement, please mail the original to: NAOMA, 14637 Starr Road, S.E., Olalla, WA 98359, which is maintaining a registry of endorsers.



This **Declaration of Principles** was developed by the following individuals, who met together in Seattle, Washington on April 4-6, 1997 with invited guests to discuss strategies for the future of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

This **Declaration of Principles** is proposed as a working draft, to promote discussion and thoughtful consideration of fundamental assumptions. It articulates a set of principles that the drafters, in their capacities as individuals involved in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, believe are powerful and important, to use as a basis for their own decision making and to present to the broader community. The drafters believe that a shared view of fundamental principles will help to advance the interests of consumers, practitioners and others in the field of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine and the general health of society.

#### **DRAFTERS\*:**

Gary Arsham, M.D., PhD. - Chair, National Accreditation Commission for Schools and Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NACSCAOM)  
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Linda S. Leef, L.Ac. - Vice President, NAOMA  
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Barbara B. Mitchell, J.D., L.Ac. - Co-chair, NAFTA Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Commission; Secretary, National Acupuncture Foundation (NAF)  
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Penelope Ward - Director of Professional Services, NACSCAOM  
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#### **INVITED GUESTS\*:**

Christine Adams, M.D. - Medallia Health Care  
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\*Institutional affiliations are shown for identification only.