

Editor in Chief

Acupuncture and the Economic Crisis

THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT ALL of us have been caught up in today's economic doldrums. Our colleagues all over the world are experiencing the burdens of these difficult times. Our efforts are spent on just maintaining a private practice or other forms of employment rather than on creative thinking. Many of us are uncertain about our daily activities and future survival. Bills pile up and money is scarce. Our Qi is challenged and drained. What do we do?

Although I have no magical solutions to the economy and face similar challenges as our readership, it is important to remember that our profession has survived for thousands of years. It has brought comfort to the ailing; it has been a source of satisfaction to the clinician. We all know this as we make adjustments in our lives. We are part of a very large profession. Acupuncture is not only "Made in China," but it is "Made in the World." This is a time for us to come together and help each other. We are always very busy helping our patients, but sometimes forget our own. We tend to think of our colleagues as competitors and forget about our compassion. Even more so now, this is a time to open your spirit and believe in yourself—and be willing to realize that no matter how hard things are now, we will emerge stronger and better from this crisis.

We are like our own patients who come to us in hope of a cure to improve their lives. We hope now for the same. Keep

in mind that our profession and the people who are part of it have survived, overcome, and continued for many, many years. We will do the same. All of us will emerge perhaps a little different, wiser, and more humble about life. Possibly, this is a reminder that there are forces very powerful that control our lives. So powerful that we wonder how we can control or even harness this energy.

We have learned the wonderful balance of Yin and Yang with simple needles. Remember that there is even more force and power in the love that we can find for each other. I remember an expression that sticks in my mind: Love triumphs over all. All kinds of love: love for our families, love for that special one in our lives, love for our patients, our colleagues, our profession, our friends, love for our country and our fellow man . . .

So, once again, all of us are on that march to face a crisis—and with that inner "love" and determination, we will persevere. With firm resolve, we will be successful. We have weathered these kinds of challenges before and always come out on the other side.

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