

Editor-in-Chief

Editorial for My Colleagues in the Year 2108

I CAN ONLY WONDER WHAT marvelous times you live in. I pray that *Medical Acupuncture* is still alive and flourishing. I am sure by now that acupuncture is part of mainstream medicine. Many outstanding clinical trials must have demonstrated what we all hoped: that the technology from this ancient art is indeed valuable and pertinent to good health and prevention of diseases. I am sure that physicians no longer worry about insurance reimbursements. Perhaps the concept is now ancient. We could never get it right anyway; our billing was confusing and mixed up. We were even at odds with other acupuncturists who were not physicians. I would hope in your world that somewhere there was a handshake and all acupuncturists are licensed under a universal agreement. And I bet it is not restrictive to one country either. Do you have world licenses?

Again, I wonder what happened to our beloved journal *Medical Acupuncture*? And does the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture still exist? Are needles still used? It must have appeared very barbaric to have needles puncture the skin to reach acupuncture points. I bet you even figured out how to unblock the Qi using synchronized energy right into the Meridians. Most likely with the advancement of electronics and computers, acupoint stimulation is now achieved in a manner never even contemplated by us. Do you believe in Spirits or Healers? We thought that these concepts were very real, but many of us were not sure. Maybe these terms no longer exist in your medical vocabulary. I hope not because the world is more than physics and math, but a love for the dimension of life that we as humans can feel in an abstract way.

Your medical education is probably about teaching topics that we thought were science fiction: molecular treatment of infectious diseases and organ regeneration-replacement. Artificial body parts must be in abundance. I would hope that diseases in our time, such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, metabolic disease, multi-drug resistant

tuberculosis, flu epidemics, chronic heart failure, etc., are now curable. You must wonder how we managed and were able to help our patients with these dreaded diseases.

I can only assume that life expectancy for you is spectacular. We were happy just to reach 80. Perhaps now, patients do not even leave their homes for health care. They are examined, diagnosed, and even treated automatically at a distance from a hospital; health “drive-ins?” I can only imagine that you have achieved a quantum mechanics type of medicine and acupuncture plays a role on the cellular level. We attempted to understand mechanisms. You are probably even able to study biochemical mechanisms in real time and modify these factors and pathways to achieve the results for good health. We must have appeared like cave-men physicians to you.

Have you eliminated wars? We had our hands full, especially with Iraq and Afghanistan. It seemed that it would never end. We did not know what to do to stop it. Did you ever see the fruition of the Defense Advance Research Project Agency’s Trauma Pod? By now, you have probably achieved lasting world peace, ended world-wide famine, disease, and poverty. One can only wonder what your major international problems are now.

Are you using hydrogen as fuels to replace oil and gasoline? Does each home have an independent power source? Your transportation system may no longer depend on roads; you are probably completely airborne.

Have you discovered other life in the universe? You must have developed space travel and have colonies on planets by now. Do you have space elevators?

Your world would be unrecognizable to us. But with all the changes in societies and scientific discoveries, my hope is that human values have not deteriorated. I hope you still believe in moral character and the virtue of ethics and the respect of your fellow human beings. I hope your world has

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grown to even value the significance and gift of life. And that each human being is the most important entity of the universe. I truly hope with all of your technological advancement that respect, integrity, and love of the individual has not declined. Finally, I still hope that *you raise your hand and swear to the Hippocratic Oath.*

*Richard C. Niemtow, MD, PhD, MPH
9800 Cherry Hill Road
College Park, MD 20740*

*E-mail: n5ev@aol.com
www.n5ev.com*