

Editor-in-Chief

Leadership in Medical Acupuncture

MEDICAL ACUPUNCTURE IS FACING new, demanding, and serious challenges in the 21st century. Changes in mainstream medicine are forcing us to rethink many paradigms: validation of our medical acupuncture profession, insurance reimbursements, a possible economical recession, wars, healthcare personnel shortages, serious environmental issues, and a multitude of other challenges. The world can be cruel, and it can beat you down to your knees. But, we can no longer blame others for our woes and do nothing. We are better than that. All of us have fantastic talents and strengths that we must exercise together to keep moving forward. If we believe that we generate an energy field that communicates with the conscious level of the universe, then we better start transmitting more *positive* vibrations or otherwise, we will be stuck in our collective quagmire.

Strategic vision, determination, and dedication to refocus our goals and priorities are a necessity and an obligation now. We need to be proud of our past, excited about our present, and determined to make our future a better one. How are we going to do this?

First, we need to believe in ourselves and in the sometimes-misunderstood “calling” we have accepted. Second, we need to support and embrace our leadership, especially when the going gets tough. Third, we must step forward, support initiatives, and serve where needed—even though our schedules are more than brimming—and through these steps, we will gain stability and further credibility. Fourth, we need to be more creative and practical, and understand that what worked in the past may very well not be enough in 2008 and beyond. The world changes and so must we.

Maybe you never considered *yourself* a leader? Most of us don’t go to “leadership school.” It is part of our so-

cialization. Don’t worry about whether you are a born leader or not. Just jump in and *use* your talents. You will be surprised that what you have deep inside you will surpass your own self-limitations. Then, the next thing you know is that you are at the top of the spear accomplishing important, useful things. As for myself, when I took over a failing journal, I was concerned that I would not be able to put it together and make it work. But, deep inside, there was a little voice that said “do it, do it, do it.” And I am proud to say that the journal is now a credible, world-reaching medical journal.

Dr Bill Craig enlightened me when I told him I was going to treat my first migraine headache patient. I must have had that no-confidence look because he interrupted me and said, “*Of course, you can!*” Now I treat migraine headaches successfully. I will never forget those words.

So, where are we now? Yes, I am sermonizing about leadership and medical acupuncture. Don’t sit on your time—it may become too late. Let’s get going now. Gather your spirit, gather your energy, gather your thoughts, and put your determination into collective action. This is not the time for complaints or blaming the past or other people for our adversities. We are warriors and leaders. Don’t settle for anything less in your life and profession. *Have pride in medical acupuncture because it is you!*

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