

## PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, October 24<sup>th</sup> is proclaimed Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Awareness Day

WHEREAS, the practice of Asian medicine at the exacting standards we now enjoy would be difficult without the didactic and clinical training earned by Maryland acupuncturists; and

WHEREAS, acupuncturists provide a holistic approach to caring for the twelve (12) body systems; and

WHEREAS, these multi-skilled professionals help create a professional, comforting and safe atmosphere for patients by promoting the natural, self-healing process; and

WHEREAS, many Marylanders choose to include the care provided by the educated minds and trained hands of acupuncturists and traditional Asian medicine practitioners in managing their health; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Acupuncture Society continues to make a vital contribution to the high quality of continued education and representation of acupuncturists; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Acupuncture Society continues to promote awareness and educate the public regarding the innumerable benefits of acupuncture.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Martin O'Malley, Governor of the State of Maryland, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2014 as Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Awareness Day and do commend this observance to all citizens.

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Governor Martin O'Malley



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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The Maryland  
Acupuncture  
Society

## Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine Awareness

OCTOBER 24, 2014, Takoma Park, Maryland – The Maryland Acupuncture Society (MAS) joins other acupuncture and Oriental medicine organizations throughout the United States in observing October 24<sup>th</sup> as Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Awareness Day. MAS and the acupuncture community honor the vital role and the professional excellence that acupuncturists and traditional Asian medicine practitioners provide in the delivery of health care to patients.

“Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Awareness Day was created to raise awareness of the benefits of acupuncture and Oriental medicine — an effective form of medicine with a 3,000 year history.” This national day of observance has been recognized by the thousands of licensed acupuncturists since 2002.

A recent study conducted by the National Health Interview Survey revealed that more than 14 million Americans have tried acupuncture therapy. Acupuncture has become an integral component of mainstream healthcare. As such, it is one of the few complementary or alternative medicine approaches covered by health insurance plans. Yet, misconceptions about this respected form of medicine still exist, and our priority is to educate the public to take the mystery and apprehension out of making the decision to seek acupuncture and Oriental medicine therapies.

Research consistently shows that acupuncture is effective for pain management, at times finding it more effective than pain medicine or surgery. The National Institutes of Health approves acupuncture for the following conditions: pain management, dental pain, headache, menstrual cramps, fibromyalgia, myofascial pain, osteoarthritis, postoperative or chemotherapy related nausea and vomiting, addiction, stroke rehabilitation, infertility and asthma. In addition, the World Health Organization also lists acupuncture as a proven effective therapy in relieving nausea during pregnancy, anxiety, panic disorders and insomnia. In 2012, the US military began officially using acupuncture to treat soldiers suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and pain management.

An acupuncturist is an integral member of the allied health profession, competent through education, experience, and understanding of patient welfare. When choosing an acupuncturist, it is important that consumers research and ensure that the acupuncturist has the educational credentials and is licensed to provide holistic treatment and care as defined by existing laws in the State of Maryland. To find an acupuncturist near you, go to:

<http://mas.wildapricot.org/findanacupuncturist>.

The mission of Maryland Acupuncture Society includes the promotion of acupuncture and Oriental medicine, support and representation of practitioners, and the dissemination of relevant information.

