



Medical Acupuncture

Department of General Practice



Medical Acupuncture

Many GPs / Family Physicians in active practice recognise the need for upgrading knowledge and skills and some yearn for the intellectual stimulation which a structured program provides. As adult learners each has specific needs and barriers exist that must be overcome to meet these needs. For busy GPs / Family Physicians, lack of time and difficulty in reorganising the practice to travel to an institution are important barriers.

Recognising this, the Department of General Practice at Monash University established a range of postgraduate courses which can be undertaken via off campus learning. Since 1992, we have been able to deliver a flexible and portable graduate studies program to students in Australia and Overseas which not only meets the academic standards required of degrees, but also contains subject matter which is relevant for day to day practice.

The Graduate Certificate in Medical Acupuncture course is recognised and approved by the RACGP (Royal Australian College of General Practitioners) for a generous quantum of CPD points and has the support of the Australian Medical Acupuncture Society.

We invite you to come and join the hundreds of other doctors who have already derived the benefits, satisfaction and opportunities that come with one of our postgraduate qualifications.

Graduate Certificate in Medical Acupuncture

This will be, for most of you, the first experience of a different approach to Medical Care. For really ill patients, modern methods of medical care are excellent, and many peoples' lives are happily extended, and we must always aim for this outcome.



But what of the large number of patients in a general practice setting who have chronic complaints – often made worse with drug management. This probably accounts for 60-90% of people seen in daily practice, and it is here that other methods of care can help the patient 'help themselves'. Medical Acupuncture is one of these methods of patient care that frequently helps the chronically ill patient.

The course provides graduates to help patients without the recourse to the multitude of tests and pharmacological interventions. You will find that your rate of investigation will drop off, your pharmaceutical prescribing will reduce, and your rate of referral will drop. Most of all patient satisfaction will be high, and the results provide you with satisfied and happy outcomes to many hitherto difficult patients.

This program is the culmination of over twenty years of experience in the teaching of Medical Acupuncture by a small group of highly experienced doctors.

Course Objectives

After completion of this course, graduates should be able to:

- Understand the history and philosophy of acupuncture, and to see clearly its interlocking role in modern medical care
- Understand the mechanisms of action of acupuncture in scientific terms
- Take a competent and full medical history, and address those facets of illness which are important in an acupuncture diagnosis
- Apply the knowledge gained from the study material, and practical guidance, to begin practising medical acupuncture with confidence on their own patients, in appropriate clinical conditions
- Develop non-pharmacological pain management strategies and promote self appraisal of drug prescribing and referral patterns for patients with pain
- Use and appraise validated outcome measurements following acupuncture treatment and audit results
- Develop basic research skills in the field of medical acupuncture

What will I study and how long does it take?

The course will take approximately 12 months to complete part-time, off campus.

Semester 1

CMA1001 History and Philosophy, Channels and Points

CMA1002 Modern Physiology and assessment of pain

Semester 2

CMA1003 Acupuncture techniques and therapeutics

CMA1004 Clinical Practice

General Information

Entry Requirements

Applicants must be currently registered by the medical board in their respective state, or have a qualification which is eligible to be registered in a state of the Commonwealth. A minimum of two years of work experience in general practice is essential, and preference will be given to applicants who are currently employed and have been in active general practice for a minimum period of two years. Special consideration may be given to suitably qualified overseas graduates residing in their own country.

How much time do I need?

Regular course instruction is equivalent to two half day sessions per week (10 hours approximately), including assignments.

How is the course delivered?

The course is delivered part-time via off campus learning (distance learning). Although delivery will be largely through printed material and study guides prepared by lecturers which is forwarded prior to the commencement of each unit, other media including audio, CD, DVD/Video may also be used.

Are there any face-to-face workshops?

The course will have two compulsory weekend workshops attached. These will be held at the Department in Melbourne, Victoria Australia and the dates will be provided to students at the commencement of the course.

What are the Assessments?

In addition to the written assignments for each unit, students will be required to complete (as part of the requirements for CMA1004) 10 sessions (30 hours) of practical instruction with an approved Mentor. A list of mentors will be provided who are located throughout Australia and are all experienced Fellows of the Australian Medical Acupuncture Society.

Additional Requirements

Students will be required to successfully complete an examination at the conclusion of the course (part of the requirements for CMA1004) which may be subject to an additional fee.

How do I Apply?

Prospective students are encouraged to visit the department website (listed below), for further detailed information.

All applicants are required to complete a departmental application form and return to the address below, together with a legally certified copy of their undergraduate medical degree.

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/general-practice/teaching/pgrad.html>

Contact details:

Graduate Studies Office
Department of General Practice
School of Primary Health Care
Building 1, 270 Ferntree Gully Rd
Notting Hill Victoria 3168
AUSTRALIA

T: + 61 3 8575 2216

F: + 61 3 8575 2233

Email:

genprac@med.monash.edu.au

Website:

<http://www.med.monash.edu.au/general-practice/teaching/pgrad.html>

The information in this brochure was correct at the time of publication – October 2008. Monash University reserves the right to alter this information should the need arise. You should always check with the institution when considering a course.

CRICOS provider: Monash University 00008C