



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maryland University of Integrative Health Takes Position on Dry Needling and Maryland SB 580

LAUREL, Md. – Should physical therapists and chiropractors be able to use acupuncture needles to treat patients? Jeff Millison, M.Ac., L.Ac., Academic Director of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine programs, will give testimony on behalf of Maryland University of Integrative Health (MUIH) to the Maryland Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee on Thursday, March 5, regarding Maryland Senate Bill 580.

While MUIH does not propose that physical therapists and chiropractors be prohibited from dry needling, its view of Maryland Senate Bill 580 is that it has been conceived and written to significantly expand their scope without requiring adequate formal training to do so. MUIH's primary concern with the bill is patient safety. As one of the leading acupuncture and Oriental medicine universities in the nation with more than 2000 alumni in practice, MUIH is concerned about the use of needling by those who have not been sufficiently trained.

Acupuncture is a system of medicine that utilizes needles to achieve therapeutic effect. Needles are inserted into internal muscle and other tissue of the body. Acupuncturists are licensed in Maryland through the Maryland Practice Act to use invasive needles in this way. Physical therapists and chiropractors are not. Lobbyists and professional associations for physical therapists have made the case that dry needling is not the same as acupuncture. However, the Attorney General for Maryland, in his August 2010 opinion, stated that acupuncture and dry needling are in fact "indistinguishable."

Education will be a critical factor in the preparation for and safe practice of dry needling. To date, the associations have proposed between 40 and 200 hours of formal training be considered.

"MUIH graduates, as dictated by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), receive a comprehensive education that includes more than 2000 hours of formal training and clinical experience." said Jeff Millison, Academic Director, Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine programs at Maryland University of Integrative Health. "If other professions would like to broadly treat patients with needles, we believe this educational standard should apply to all."

What: Maryland Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee Hearing

When: Thursday, March 5, 2015, 1 p.m.

Where: Miller Senate Office Building

For more information:

- Maryland Senate Bill 580: <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2015RS/bills/sb/sb0580f.pdf>
- Jeff Millison's testimony: https://www.muuh.edu/sites/default/files/documents/press-releases/2015_03_05_SB0580_Testimony_JeffMillison.pdf
- ACAOM standards: <http://www.acaom.org/>

About Maryland University of Integrative Health (MUIH)

Maryland University of Integrative Health, formerly Tai Sophia Institute, is the leading accredited academic institution for integrative health in the nation. For nearly 40 years, MUIH has educated practitioners in health and wellness through transformative and relationship-centered programs that draw from traditional wisdom and contemporary science. MUIH offers graduate degrees and certificates both on campus and online in a wide range of health disciplines, as well as programs for professional and personal development. Currently, more than 1000 students from 30 states are enrolled in academic programs and 1900 alumni practice throughout the nation. The on-campus Natural Care Center offers compassionate and affordable healthcare from student interns and professional practitioners, delivering more than 35,000 clinical treatments a year. Visit <http://muuh.edu> for more information.

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