

Abstract - Kay Fielden & Vesna Zdravkovic

Regulation of the New Zealand acupuncture community brings with it opportunities and challenges. At the New Zealand School of Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine, there is an ongoing project exploring the integration of biomedicine and TCM. This is required for greater acceptance into a community, where the Western medicine model is dominant. Hai (2014) suggests that TCM practitioners should be providing explanations of TCM as abstractions and constructs that relate to observable body functions and illness symptoms and interpreting TCM theory as models constructed from clinical experience to fit empirical observations of how illness is treated with TCM. To bridge the explanatory gap between acupuncture and TCM, Zhang, Wang, and McAlonan (2012) suggest the use of a Neural Acupuncture Unit to interpret and measure the effects of acupuncture. In this presentation, the connections between a biomedical and TCM view of how acupuncture works will be explored.