A scientific and contemporary approach to acupuncture based on rational mechanisms of action and informed by evidence.

Medical Acupuncture and Integrative Neuromodulation™

This 114 Hour Online Continuing Education Program Takes a Comprehensive, In-Depth, and Strictly Scientific Approach to Acupuncture Anatomy and Physiology, Evidence-Informed Treatments, and Strategies to Move Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques into the Forefront as Top-Tier Level Care for All Patients
Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, FAAMA, president and CEO of CuraCore, designed the MAIN™ educational program to meet the need for ongoing educational requirements of a broad array of acupuncture clinicians, including physician and non-physician acupuncturists, physical therapisrs, chiropractors, and those involved in the research and teaching of integrative therapies.

What Is MAIN™ and how does it differ from other acupuncture training programs?

Dr. Robinson’s unique approach of Medical Acupuncture and Integrative Neuromodulation (MAIN™) combines her decades-long experiences in medical acupuncture and related techniques (osteopathic manual medicine, photomedicine) into a cogent and effective treatment strategy practiced by thousands across the globe.

Goals and Objectives:

Become a more effective acupuncturist and/or researcher
- Evolve from point formula and habitual approaches to more sophisticated treatments informed by the latest neuromodulation research and acupuncture science.
- Multiply treatment options by learning when, where, and how to include laser therapy and medical massage.

Design more comprehensive and effective acupuncture treatments and be able to explain the science behind them
- Treat patients’ problems more fully by normalizing neural function and releasing myofascial holding patterns.
- Learn how to “read” the body’s strains and dysfunctions in order to derive deeper insights into pain problems and the after-effects of trauma.

Promote your practice with science
- Critically examine acupuncture research.
- Educate your colleagues and clients about acupuncture from a grounded, rational perspective instead of metaphors and metaphysics.

Implement electroacupuncture and other adjunctive acupuncture approaches more safely and effectively
- Explain how electrical stimulation augments acupuncture treatments’ effectiveness and why it has become a standard intervention in so many research experiments investigating acupuncture.
- Describe the pros and cons of non-needling approaches such as acupressure, manual therapy, and laser therapy if a patient clearly resists needling or if the clinical scenario calls for an alternative to needling.

Effectively educate others about the value of acupuncture
- Assemble an effective, science-based presentation that could be given to colleagues in your practice, to the community, or to larger professional venues in order to expand awareness of the value of medical acupuncture and related techniques.

Course Curriculum

The MAIN™ Online course has four sections, a total of 12 modules and an estimated 114 hours of continuing education. Each module may contain video, audio, and reading assignments as well as a variety of assessments so that participants can gauge their level of competency with the topics covered in each module.
Course Overview

Section I: Acupuncture Anatomy – Channel Trajectories and Neurovascular/Myofascial Point Features (20 hours*)
• This section begins with an intensive overview of acupuncture channel trajectories and comparative (i.e., cross species) point anatomy, drawing from some of the original recorded lectures from the premier scientific veterinary course, Medical Acupuncture for Veterinarians (MAV). These lectures provide novel insights into comparative acupuncture in small and large animals and a broader perspective on point anatomy.
• Topics encompass the MAIN™ technique and the central, peripheral, and autonomic nervous systems, a review of the channels, and the neurovascular/myofascial relationships of both major and minor points.

Section II: Acupuncture Physiology – How Stimulation of Neurovascular and Myofascial Structures at a Point Translates into Functional Benefits (8 hours*)
• This section focuses on the local, regional, and systemic physiologic effects of point stimulation. Participants learn how medical acupuncture and related techniques engender physiologic shifts by means of neuromodulation and alleviation of myofascial dysfunction.
• Topics span acupuncture analgesia, autonomic neuromodulation, functional brain imaging, the response of connective tissue to needling and stretch, and more.

Section III: Treatment Approaches based on Medical Acupuncture and Integrative Neuromodulation (MAIN™) and Informed by Research Results (12 hours*)
• After building a rational and scientific foundation in the first two sections, participants create and critique treatment approaches based on the principles and practices of neuromodulation and myofascial interventions.
• Participants will learn the basics of a myofascial evaluation and the information it can provide, as well as MAIN™ approaches for 50 common and not-so-common conditions.

Section IV: Setting New Standards of Care for Patients and the Science that Justifies Our Doing So (10 hours*)
• Section IV analyzes a spectrum variety of acupuncture methods, Chinese, Japanese, French, auricular, and other popular approaches. Doing so deepens awareness of the history and legitimacy (or lack thereof) of nonscientific acupuncture practices in order to promote safer and more clinically effective care.
• Participants will learn the advantages of an "Acupuncture First" concept, i.e., a paradigm of practice in which medical acupuncture and related techniques occupy a position front and center in modern medical care and as an aid by which to counter the prescription opioid epidemic.

Online Course Format

The field of on-line learning is rapidly evolving, and we continue to follow the latest and best practices on this dynamic method of instruction. This includes empowering and encouraging the on-line learner to engage in the course in an active manner and for the instructor to inspire and cultivate intellectual curiosity. Participants will encounter diverse instructional activities that draw from a wide array of on-line resources, including video, journal articles, monographs, and more. While we will at times draw upon lecture-based recorded content, we do so in order to provide a starting point upon which to scaffold more complex ideas and insights.

Required Text:

Interactive Medical Acupuncture Anatomy by Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, FAAMA, published by CRC Press, March 2, 2016. The course will refer frequently to required reading assignments from this book.

*Time required to complete each activity will depend on the nature of each activity (i.e., video or reading) and each individual’s learning styles.
Narda G. Robinson, DO, DVM, MS, FAAMA is the leading authority on scientific integrative medicine from a One Health perspective. With over two decades of practicing, teaching, and writing about integrative medical approaches in both veterinary and human osteopathic medicine, Dr. Robinson helps healthcare professionals sort fact from fiction.

A scholar, researcher, and widely read author, Dr. Robinson held the only professorship at a veterinary college designed specifically to investigate the legitimacy of integrative medicine. In 1998, she launched Colorado State University’s first integrative medicine service and for eight years directed CSU’s Center for Comparative and Integrative Pain Medicine. Over the past two decades, Dr. Robinson has taught a variety of popular, scientifically based continuing education courses, ranging from medical acupuncture and massage to herbology and photomedicine.

Dr. Robinson holds a Bachelor of Arts (AB) degree from Harvard/Radcliffe, a doctorate in osteopathic medicine (DO) from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, and a doctorate in veterinary medicine (DVM) and master’s degree in biomedical sciences (MS) from the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. She is a fellow within the American Academy of Medical Acupuncture. She also serves on the American Board of Medical Acupuncture, the board-certifying organization for physician medical acupuncturists.

Register Today - Begin Learning Today! CuraCore.org
Change your life, your practice, and your patient’s future for the better!

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