

The Next Stage.



An eight session online course for acupuncturists who have been in practice for a few years and are comfortable in their work, but who are looking for a coherent approach to the next stage of their professional development.

The course as a whole will challenge participants to make their work more focussed, more creative and more highly attuned to the needs of each individual patient. It will also encourage the development of the practitioner's unique talents and skills.

Each session will last for one and a half hours and will contain an overview of the topic, exercises to make it come alive and discussion of patients and treatments. By the end of each session the participants will have new ideas and skills which they can use in the succeeding weeks. The content of each session will build on the one before so that by the end of the course the practitioner will be working with more ease, more clarity and more confidence.

The teacher

The course will be designed and taught by John Hamwee. John was formerly a senior lecturer at the Open University and has been in practice for over thirty years. He has published seven books on acupuncture or related topics, has contributed many articles to *Acu*, has lectured at the B.Ac C. conference and has taught at The College of Integrated Chinese Medicine and the Northern College of Acupuncture.

The sessions – brief overviews.

1. What works for you, and what doesn't.

This session shows you how to play to your strengths - how to make the best use of your innate talents, and how to select from among the vast resources of Chinese medicine those parts that work best for you.

2. Diagnosis refreshed.

Textbook diagnoses are inevitably generalisations - they put patients into a category or categories. Which leave the question – answered in this session ‘ –How do you diagnose for an individual patient with his or her unique set of complaints and concerns at a never-to-be-repeated stage of life? ’

3. Listening and talking.

Listening to our patients is a crucial skill, and this session shows how we can all get much, much better at it. We also need to be clear about what are we trying to achieve with our words; how can they support and amplify the effects of the needles?

4. Learning from mistakes - and how to make fewer of them.

We all make mistakes in the treatment room. The key skill is to know as soon as possible when you've made one. This session shows how - and how to put it right. It also teaches a set of warning signs which will alert you to the danger of carrying on regardless.

5. Truth and healing.

We may sometimes find it hard to tell our patients the truth about their ailments - for example that they are the consequence of their habits or lifestyle. And there are times when patients (like the rest of us) find it hard to tell themselves the truth. Either of them will block the power of acupuncture treatments. This session shows how to foster truth into the treatment room.

6. The power of attention.

The quality of an acupuncturist's work is directly related to the quality of his or her attention. If you can't see your patients clearly how can you treat them accurately? If you can't sense of the nature of their energy how do you know if you are changing it for the better? This session will result in a heightened awareness, which will prove to be a wholly reliable guide to treatment.

7. Creativity and point combinations.

The classic point combinations all ensure that a treatment is not unbalanced. However, they rarely help you to devise new combinations to serve the needs of particular patients. This session teaches two main ways of designing such combinations, which will become helpful additions to any practitioner's repertoire.

8. What is your approach to practice?

The course ends with a summary and a challenge. What is your approach to the practice of acupuncture? – for that will influence every aspect of your work. For example, are you treating a patient's shoulder problem as an isolated dysfunction or as a symptom of something bigger and deeper? The clearer you are about this the more precise and effective you will be in the treatment room.

The cost.

Payment will be in two tranches – £80 will be payable before the course starts and will cover the first two sessions. Any participant who does not want to continue with the course beyond those sessions will owe no further payment. The second tranche of £240 will cover the remaining six sessions.

The timing.

There will be four weekly sessions starting on Wednesday the September the 13th. Then, to allow time to digest what has been done, there will be a break of one week, so no session on the 11th of October. Then four more sessions weekly until the 8th of November.

All sessions will be from 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm.

Recording.

Sessions will be recorded so if you miss one then you can watch the recording. It won't be the as good as participating live because in each session there will be exercises which you will do with colleagues, nor will you be able to join the discussion of those exercises, but it's better than nothing.

Support.

Between sessions John will be available by email to answer questions and offer suggestions. Also, participants will be encouraged to meet in small groups between sessions to share their experiences of using the ideas and skills of the course.

More.

To join the course or for further details please email jjhamwee@icloud.com