

To Whom it May Concern,

I am the owner of Resilient Health Acupuncture. We have 2 locations, Hunt Valley and Nottingham. We employ 7 licensed and Nationally Board Certified Acupuncturists, in addition to administrative and support staff. I am Traditional Chinese Medicine trained and I have been practicing for 18 years. Not one of us supports any other professions using needles to heal, under any other name.

I have watched as our scope of practice has continued to be whittled away by Physical Therapists, and Chiropractors under the guise of anatomical knowledge, not using points "on the meridians, or attempting to utilize qi" in their practice of needling. This is erroneous, it is an absolute mockery of what happens to the body when a needle is inserted, and most of all absolute cultural appropriation out of sheer ignorance and hubris.

In addition to the audacity of other professions to cherry pick one **tiny** piece of an entire body of healing methodology, what do those of us who spent years and thousands and thousands of dollars do as we see our educations, ability to make a living, but more importantly the efficacy of our practice being disregarded?

The only reason other practitioners and deciding boards think **dry needling** is separate and a different therapy than acupuncture, is because they do not have the cultural or educational understanding of acupuncture. And could it also be because the voice of TCM and Acupuncture comes mainly from women, or people from other cultures? Is there an invalidation of the seriousness and effectiveness of what we do, that stems from **implicit bias**?

I beg you to prove me wrong and show your respect for Acupuncture (dry needling) as a part of TCM. Even if this requires you to suspend your feelings of familiarity with words and marketing tools of PT and Athletic Trainers, hear and respect the voices of those of us trained and educated to practice this amazing and healing body of medicine as it should be.

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