



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of  
ACUPUNCTURE *and* ORIENTAL MEDICINE

PO Box 162340  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
866-455-7999  
916-443-4766 Fax  
[www.aaaomonline.org](http://www.aaaomonline.org)  
[info@aaaomonline.org](mailto:info@aaaomonline.org)

William R. Morris, OMD, MSED, LAc, President Emeritus AAAOM

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in leadership of this noble profession. I am leaving an official post as president of the AAOM. However, I will continue to serve as a board member and on the executive committee as president emeritus at the pleasure of President Leslie McGee in the newly formed AAAOM. I am confident in her leadership skills and balanced temperament. I trust her implicitly and believe that we as a profession are on the right track.

There are many people to thank for the single national professional association that we now enjoy. Past president Gene Bruno set the stage by standing upright for a style of behavior at the level of leadership that was respectful of both associations. Our successes would not have been possible without the transition team that included Corinne Axelrod, Martin Herbkersman, and Leslie McGee AAAOM executive director; Bekah Christensen was instrumental in the ongoing process of connecting both the people and the business models. Mike Schroeder, past chair of the California Republican Party, was brilliant at facilitating our efforts to work together. His partner at the American Acupuncture Counsel, Phil Stump, was instrumental in working through the unification discussions in Dallas where one national association emerged triumphant. In addition, the entire board membership and Dallas meeting attendees for the meetings are to be recognized. (Board Members attending the Dallas meeting include: Gene Bruno, Shane Burras, Scott Cormier, Martin Herbkersman, Jeannie Kang, and Deborah Lincoln.)

This effort was a response to an overwhelming cry from the field, and we have accomplished our goal. We can get to the work of making sure that practitioners in our field sustain the privilege of professional judgment and prosperity, grow our knowledge, and use freely the agents of our discipline. As a national professional association, our vigilance in seeking the needs of our membership and realizing those needs will sustain our authority. We will achieve a rightful place for Chinese medicine in America, and the people shall have access.

We belong to a 'homeland' which may be defined as a community of destiny. Homeland is a common identity across a culture, sharing a common, mythological origin, tracing back to a common mythic ancestor (Morin, 2006, pp209). In Chinese medicine, this ancestor is the Yellow Emperor. Stepping down from office, I return to stand on the shoulders of giants who created the medical discipline that I practice. I am indebted to

great ones who have gone before; these ancestors generated the great classics and traditions of practice. I appreciate the nation of China as the mother of Chinese medicine. I am indebted to the unknown authors of the *Yellow Emperor's Classic (Huang Di Nei Jing)*, *Spiritual Axis (Ling Shu)* and the *Difficult Classic (Nan Jing)*. I am beholden to the 'Saint of Medicine,' Zhang Zhang Zhongjing who authored the *Treatise on Damage by Cold with Miscellaneous Diseases (Shang Han Za Bing Lun)*. However, one historically great figure is my guru and I am his disciple in spirit, and that is Wang Shuhe, the author of the *Pulse Classic (Mai Jing)*. It is from this work that I was able to construct a meaningful practice and school of thought with respect to pulse diagnosis. I will continue to write, teach, and learn about this profound discipline in the presence of you, my friends and colleagues.

Sincerely,



William R. Morris, OMD, MSED, LAc  
President, AAOM

Morin, E. (2006). Realism and utopia. *Diogenes*.