

## *Mission and Purpose*

**F**ive Branches University, Graduate School of Traditional Chinese Medicine, aims to provide a professional medical education in the art, science, and practice of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) through classroom courses and clinical training.

Five Branches University's educational focus is:

- The art, science and practice of TCM as rooted in the Classics
- TCM's success in modern clinical practice
- The integration of TCM with the best practices of Western medicine

Five Branches University is committed to providing the highest level of education in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

## *Educational Objectives*

1. To prepare our graduates to diagnose, prescribe and provide medical treatment within the parameters of Traditional Chinese Medicine.
2. To provide graduates with sufficient knowledge of TCM's non-technical modalities of diet, massage, Taijiquan and Qigong to become capable advisors to their patients on lifestyle issues that influence their state of health.
3. To instill in our graduates universal and professional medical ethics and the social responsibilities of providing primary healthcare.
4. To impart to each graduate the knowledge to make, whenever necessary, appropriate referrals of patients to other healthcare professionals.
5. To give each graduate the knowledge and skills to prepare for the national certification and California licensing exams.
6. To provide graduates with foundation knowledge in establishing and managing a professional practice.

## *Values*

TCM philosophy views medicine as a compassionate response to human suffering. At Five Branches University, students are chosen for their academic competence, and for their commitment to serving people. Our faculty members are chosen for the excellence they demonstrate in their specialized fields, and for the passion they emanate while teaching and mentoring students. Five Branches University encourages an academic environment where kindness prevails.

## *Vision of Five Branches*

Providing a community of learning and TCM healthcare, Five Branches University is dedicated to making the views and methods of Traditional Chinese Medicine a part of world medicine.

To facilitate the Five Branches' vision, we will continue in-depth development of TCM education and healthcare, and provide advanced levels of education and training in Western medicine through our Master's, Doctoral, and Asian bodywork certificate programs. It is our knowledge of Chinese diagnosis, herbal formulas, acupuncture, Tuina massage, Qigong and Taijiquan that offers a comprehensive, high level education to our students, and exceptional healthcare to our patients.

There are four trends influencing the Five Branches vision over the next 20 years:

- TCM universities in China and medical experts in the U.S. are sharing their expertise in TCM and Western medicine. This is vital for the advanced development of TCM doctoral programs and research.
- Growing public interest in Chinese medicine will result in more patients seeking highly qualified TCM practitioners. Our work is to continually improve our programs to provide the best educated and trained practitioners to meet this growing demand.
- Through research, healthcare professions and institutions will continue to discover the depth and efficacy

of TCM, resulting in greater acceptance among medical professionals and medical schools.

- Patients and healthcare providers will understand the advantages of integrated, multi-disciplinary medicine, creating a greater demand for a wider spectrum of healthcare modalities to enhance health, and to diagnose and treat disease and disharmonies.

In the next 20 years, Five Branches will evolve into an international university, teaching high-level TCM education in English, Chinese, and Korean both in the U.S. and worldwide. We will offer TCM healthcare in an integrative medical environment, including both outpatient and inpatient care. This high level of healthcare and medicine will be offered in a supportive and humanistic environment, reflecting, as a leading medical doctor at Stanford once stated, “simple kindness and caring.”

### *A Growing Profession*

The growth in the acupuncture profession from 2002 to the present has increased dramatically. According to the American Association of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, there are currently over 8,000 students enrolled in 65 Traditional Chinese Medicine colleges and over 26,000 licensed acupuncture practitioners throughout the United States. This is a growing profession!

Alternative healthcare has shown continual growth over the past decade. According to a nationwide government survey released in December 2008, approximately 42% of Americans are spending more than \$34 billion annually on alternative healthcare. This growth is a result of increasing public awareness of preventative

medicine, the importance of staying healthy, and the growing preference for safe and natural medicine. Employment in alternative healthcare, including Chinese medicine, chiropractic, massage and other modalities is expected to increase by 48.8% from 2002 to 2012.

We are very privileged to have acupuncture and Chinese medicine, healthcare and education, at such high levels in the U.S. We express gratitude to the pioneers who worked so hard over the last 40 years to get us to where we are today, and to those that continue to contribute their efforts in the transmission of this precious knowledge and medicine to the West.

### *Graduate Success*

Five Branches University graduates consistently achieve high passing scores on both the California state licensing exam and the national certification exam, maintaining the #1 position for 19 of our 25 years! In 2009, our graduates were again #1 for first-time test takers in northern California. These statistics speak to the level of quality of our faculty, our curriculum, and the dedication of our students.

Like an MBA program, the MTCM program prepares students to be theory-based, action-oriented leaders in the TCM profession. Five Branches has turned out extraordinarily accomplished alumni who are leaders in every facet of TCM: practitioners, teachers, authors, international lecturers, consultants, and researchers. Access to these alumni allows our students excellent networking opportunities for professional advancement.



**San Jose campus  
classroom**

## *History of Five Branches*

Five Branches University was founded on an auspicious day: February 4, 1984, on Chinese New Year in the Year of the Mouse, at the beginning of a 60-year cycle. We had one classroom, a clinic with three treatment rooms, five teachers, 18 dedicated students, one patient a day, and one typewriter. Today we have two campuses, 12 classrooms, 33 treatment rooms, 100 teachers, 450 dedicated students, 600 alumni, and we see 140 patients a day. We have grown.

From the beginning, it was our intention to invite Traditional Chinese Medicine practitioners to the West, to teach and transmit their precious knowledge of Chinese medicine and to share their subtle yet powerful ways of practicing medicine. The history of Five Branches began when several of these extraordinary yet humble practitioners of TCM accepted our invitation.

The essence of our success has been the quality and dedication of our faculty/practitioners. Jeffrey Pang, L.Ac., Joanna Zhao, L.Ac., Sharon Feng, L.Ac., and Lucy Hu, L.Ac., have been with us for over 20 years. Richard Liao, L.Ac., Richard Shwery, L.Ac., and Shao Hua Li, L.Ac., taught for over 10 years. Today, our faculty number over 100 distinguished members.

The most meaningful events of our history, however, are the memories of the hug and warm smile a patient gives one of our faculty members when they meet outside the clinic, the faculty member who shares how Chinese medicine saved their patient's life, and the heartfelt gratitude expressed by a graduate at their graduation for the gifts received from faculty during their time of study and training at Five Branches.

It is our comprehensive academic programs, the quality of teaching in both the classroom and clinic and the deep and sincere dedication of faculty, staff and students that have contributed significantly to the transmission of this incredible medicine into our communities and throughout the West.



## *History Highlights*

### **1984-1988**

Five Branches Institute is founded on February 4, 1984

Five Branches enrolls its first class of 18 dedicated students

Approved as degree-granting school by California Council of Education

Five Branches builds a modern seven-room clinic

### **1989-1993**

The Five Element Acupuncture program is established

Five Branches students travel to China for the annual Study in China program

The Medical Qigong program is established

### **1994-1998**

Five Branches Institute receives national accreditation

The NADA program is established

Five Branches expands the library, clinic and classrooms

Externship clinic program with community clinics is established

### **1999-2003**

The Sports Medicine program is established

Five Branches expands modern clinic to 22 treatment rooms

The Hepatitis C clinic program is established

Five Branches signs cooperation agreement with Zhejiang College of TCM to develop joint Doctoral/Ph.D. program

### **2004-2008**

Five Branches co-hosts the first International Conference on Integrated Medicine with Zhejiang Chinese Medical University in China

Five Branches establishes the San Jose campus, offering the TCM Master's Degree

Stanford doctors and staff explore cooperative education with Five Branches

The Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine program is established

The TCM Master's Degree in Chinese program is established at the San Jose campus

### **2009**

Five Branches University celebrates its 25 year anniversary

The Korean Master's in Oriental Medicine program is established

## *Accreditation & Approvals*

### **National Accreditation**

#### **Accreditation of Master of TCM Degree Programs**

The Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine degree programs of Five Branches University, Graduate School of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Santa Cruz, California and San Jose, California are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), which is the U.S. Department of Education-recognized accrediting agency for the approval of programs preparing acupuncture and Oriental medicine practitioners.

#### **Candidate for Accreditation of Doctoral Degree Program**

The Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM) program of Five Branches University is a candidate for accreditation with the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), which is the recognized accrediting agency for the approval of programs preparing acupuncture and Oriental medicine practitioners. Note: ACAOM is not currently recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for its accreditation or candidacy reviews with respect to doctoral programs in the field.

ACAOM is located at Maryland Trade Center Building, Suite 760, 7501 Greenway Center Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770; telephone (301) 313-0855; website: [www.acaom.org](http://www.acaom.org)

### **National and State Approvals**

Five Branches University is recognized and approved by the following national and state departments:

- National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM)
- Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM)
- Title IV Federal Student Financial Aid Program, U.S. Department of Education
- US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security approval for foreign students
- Veterans Education, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Member National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA)
- Accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA)

- Public Benefit, Non-Profit Corporation, California Secretary of State
- California State Acupuncture Board, California State Department of Consumer Affairs
- Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education, California State Department of Consumer Affairs

### **Board of Directors**

*Board Chair:* **Angela Tu, L.Ac.**

TCM Practitioner, Walnut Creek, California

Commissioner, Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

Ex-commissioner, California Acupuncture Board

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**Joanna Zhao, L.Ac., Doctoral Fellow**

Vice-President Academic Affairs, Co-founder of Five Branches University

**Joanna Zhao and  
Ron Zaidman,  
co-founders of  
Five Branches  
University**

