

# The University

## *Two Campuses*

Five Branches University opened its first campus and health center in Santa Cruz, California in 1984, offering Traditional Chinese Medicine education and healthcare to the residents of this thriving, coastal Northern California town. In 2005, our main objective for opening the San Jose campus, located in the heart of Silicon Valley, was twofold: to provide the best of Traditional Chinese Medicine education and healthcare to this growing high-tech area; and to have a campus located in close vicinity to important university medical programs and hospitals such as Stanford Medical School and Kaiser Hospital.

## *Ten Programs*

Five Branches University offers ten programs related to Traditional Chinese and Integrative Medicine at its two California campuses:

### **Santa Cruz Campus**

- Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine (English)
- Master of Acupuncture (English)
- Asian Bodywork and Qigong Certification Programs (English)

### **San Jose Campus**

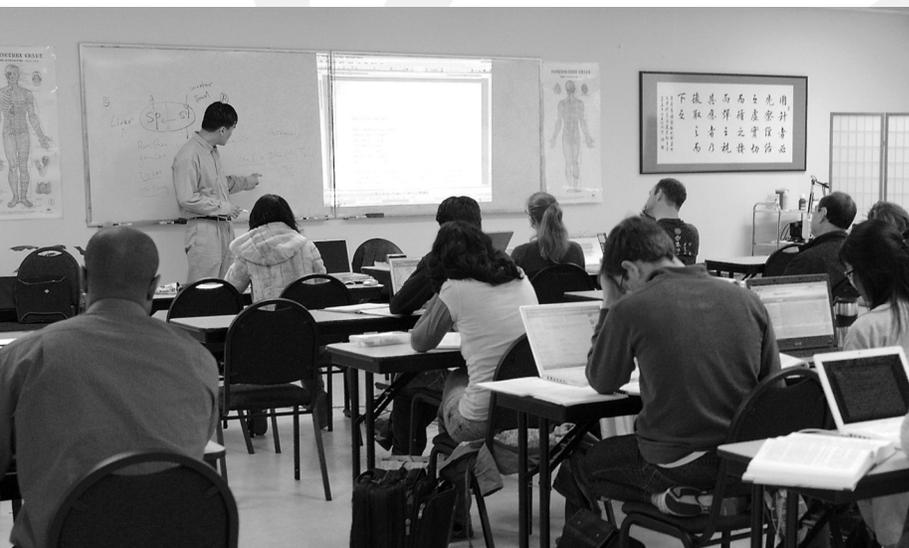
- Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine (English)
- Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Chinese)
- Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Korean)
- Master of Acupuncture (English)
- Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (English)
- Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (Chinese)
- Asian Bodywork and Qigong Certification Programs (English)

This catalog describes the Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM) program. The Master's degree and certificate programs are described in separate publications.

## *Mission and Purpose*

Five Branches University, Graduate School of Traditional Chinese Medicine, aims to set the standards for excellence in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) education and healthcare. Five Branches University is dedicated to:

- Provide the highest level of professional education in Traditional Chinese Medicine and integrative medicine in the U.S. and internationally.
- Develop highly-skilled TCM clinical practitioners, educators and researchers.
- Advance the practice of TCM as an independent medical modality through clinical practice, education and research.
- Encourage professional collaboration among TCM practitioners, faculty, patients, and other medical providers to transform the worldview of healthcare; to recognize TCM as a significant component of world medicine.
- Support an international and diverse cultural community by offering our programs in three languages, and providing students the opportunity to study abroad.
- Foster a professional environment for faculty, staff and students to promote academic excellence as well as personal growth and development.



- Provide exceptional TCM and integrative medicine patient care to the community through the Five Branches University health centers.
- Educate the general public about the significant benefits of TCM healthcare through continuing education programs and community lectures.

### *Vision and Values*

Over the next 20 years, Five Branches University will evolve into an international university, teaching high-level TCM education in English, Chinese, and Korean and offering TCM healthcare in an integrative medicine environment throughout the U.S. and worldwide.

TCM philosophy views medicine as a compassionate response to human suffering. We will embrace this philosophy by encouraging supportive and humanistic academic and healthcare environments. Our faculty members will be chosen based not only on academic excellence but also on the passion they emanate while teaching and mentoring students. Our students will be chosen for academic competence as well as their compassion and commitment to serve others.

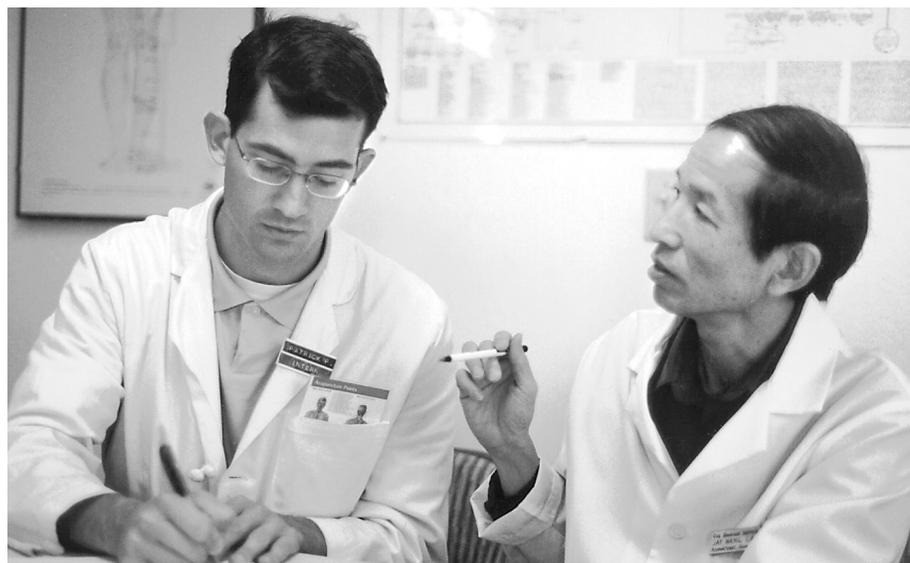
Four trends will influence our vision over the next 20 years:

An increasing number of patients will continue to seek highly qualified TCM practitioners as primary healthcare providers. TCM schools will continue to improve their programs to provide highly skilled TCM clinical practitioners to meet this growing demand.

TCM universities in China and medical experts in the U.S. will continue to collaborate and share their expertise in TCM and Western medicine, a vital component for the advanced development of TCM doctoral programs and research.

Scientists, researchers and medical institutions will continue to research the depth and efficacy of TCM, resulting in greater acceptance of Chinese medicine among medical professionals and medical schools in the U.S.

A greater demand for integrative healthcare will evolve as healthcare professionals join together to address the population's full health needs by educating one another about their work and collaborating to provide effective treatment, prevent disease and promote optimal well-being for patients.



### *Center for International Medicine and Education*

After eighteen years of educational and medical relations with China, Five Branches University formally established its Center for International Medicine and Education. With a mission to promote cultural and professional exchange, the Center brings experts and students from the U.S. and China together to participate in international conferences and programs in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), integrative medicine, medical administration, and language.

The Center's most continuous activity is its Study Abroad program which offers Five Branches students and TCM practitioners the opportunity to travel to Asia to receive specialized TCM and integrative medicine training in an affiliated hospital and out-patient center at one of our five sister schools in China, Taiwan or Korea: Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, Liaoning University of TCM, Tianjin University of TCM, China Medical University, and Daejeon University. After training in the hospital, many participants make time to travel throughout China and Asia.

In April 2004, the Center for International Medicine and Education, in partnership with Zhejiang Chinese Medical University, hosted their first international conference, *Treating Difficult Cases with Integrated Medicine*. Six representatives from Five Branches University, including eminent doctors of both Western and Traditional Chinese Medicine, traveled to

Hangzhou, China to present three research papers on TCM and integrative medicine.

The Center invited leading doctors from Stanford University and the University of California, San Francisco to attend the conference, along with other medical professionals from Europe and China.

Also in 2004, the Center, along with the Director of the Center for Education in Family and Community Medicine at Stanford University, organized a series of seminars on modern hospital administration. The seminars were presented to leaders of hospitals in Foshan, Chongqing and Shantou, China.

In Fall of 2008, Five Branches inaugurated two specialized medical centers: a Diabetes Center with Dr. Gan Ma of the Zhejiang Chinese Medical University Diabetes Center, and a Head Acupuncture Institute with Dr. Shunfa Jiao, the developer of Head Acupuncture in China.

In 2012, Five Branches, in partnership with Dr. Shi Xuemin, inaugurated the new Stroke and Rehabilitation Center at both of our campuses in Santa Cruz and San Jose, California.

From 2008 through 2014, the Center invited several renowned practitioners from China to teach in the Doctoral program and practice at the Five Branches health centers.

**First graduating  
class of Five  
Branches  
Institute, 1987**



## 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, 14 classrooms, 38 treatment rooms, 200 teachers, 450 dedicated students, 1500 alumni, and we see 160 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., and Lucy Hu, L.Ac., have been with us for over 30 years. Today, our faculty number over 200 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 practitioner 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 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

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 clinic to 22 treatment rooms

Five Branches and 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 Chinese TCM Master's Degree program is established at the San Jose campus

### 2009-2014

Korean Master's in Oriental Medicine program is established

Five Branches students travel to Taiwan for the annual Study Abroad program

Five Branches receives the maximum of seven years institutional and Master's degree program re-accreditation

The DAOM program receives full accreditation

The Stroke and Rehabilitation Center is inaugurated

The Mind-Body Department is established

## *Accreditation & Approvals*

### **Institutional Accreditation**

Five Branches University is institutionally accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), which is the recognized accrediting agency for freestanding institutions and colleges of acupuncture or Oriental medicine that offer such programs.

### **Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM) Program Accreditation**

The Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine degree program of Five Branches University is accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), which is the recognized accrediting agency for programs preparing acupuncture and Oriental medicine practitioners.

### **Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine (MTCM) and Master of Acupuncture (MAc) Program Accreditation**

The Master of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Master of Acupuncture degree programs of Five Branches University are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (ACAOM), which is the recognized accrediting agency for programs preparing acupuncture and Oriental medicine practitioners.

ACAOM is located at 8941 Aztec Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55347; telephone (952) 212-2434; website [www.acaom.org](http://www.acaom.org).



### **National and State Approvals**

Five Branches University is a private institution recognized, approved by, or is a member of the following national and state associations:

- 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
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security approval for foreign students
- Veterans Education, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- California State Acupuncture Board, California State Department of Consumer Affairs
- California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education, website [www.bppe.ca.gov](http://www.bppe.ca.gov).

Five Branches University is a private institution approved to operate by the California Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. Approval to operate means the institution is compliant with the minimum standards contained in the California Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009 (as amended) and Division 7.5 of Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations.

### What You Should Know About Our State

#### Re-Approval

Although this institution was approved to operate by the former Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education, our pending application for re-approval to operate has not yet been reviewed by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education. For more information, call the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education at (916) 574-7720, or toll free at (888) 370-7589, or visit its website at [www.bppe.gov](http://www.bppe.gov).

## *Board of Directors*

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

TCM Practitioner, Walnut Creek, California  
President, National Federation of Traditional Chinese  
Medicine Organizations, USA

Ex-commissioner of: Accreditation Commission for  
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine; California  
Acupuncture Board; National Certification  
Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

*Secretary:* **John K. Liu**

Counsel, Lowenstein Sandler LLP, Palo Alto,  
California

*Treasurer:* **Lar Short**

Director, Grace Essence Mandala, Taos, New Mexico

**Ron Zaidman, M.B.A., M.T.C.M., Doctoral Fellow**  
President and CEO, Co-founder of Five Branches  
University

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

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

**Steven Vaccaro**

Entrepreneur, Toronto, Canada



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

