

From: [Sunset Advisory Commission](#)
To: [Janet Wood](#)
Subject: FW: Sunset Commisison Hearing Testimony
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From: Diane Stanley [mailto:dstanley@aoma.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 10:33 AM
To: Sunset Advisory Commission
Subject: Sunset Commisison Hearing Testimony

Dear esteemed members of the Sunset Commission,

I regret that I was unable to be at the hearing. I was sequestered to an auditorium where I spent three hours answering questions about gene regulation. I am an aspiring clinician-scientist. I have a profound belief that Traditional Chinese Medicine holds the key to the future of health. I appreciate you taking the time to read/listen to my story.

On June 23rd, 2015, I gave birth to my son. We call him our little Viking baby as he was in the 99th percentile for height, weight, and head size. Logan had a difficult delivery, after which, he needed to go to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. He had an infection, needed fluids, a CPAP machine, and required a drug to help his bronchioles absorb more oxygen. Four days later, we received a call from the doctor that Logan was having focal seizures localized to his right arm and right leg. Imaging revealed he had suffered a stroke that blocked blood flow to both his left sensory and motor cortex. He needed two medications to control his seizures and it was unclear how long he would need to be in the NICU, because he was having trouble swallowing. He had to learn to coordinate his movements just to eat. When we were able to take him home, it was probable he would never be able to walk unassisted if at all. The vast majority of prenatal and neonatal stroke survivors lose function of their hands on the affected side as well. The doctors estimated eight or nine months before we would see any more signs of the stroke affecting his motor skills. He quit using his right arm at five months and was already showing signs of weakness in his right leg.

I started taking Logan for acupuncture immediately. He met all of his development milestones, and at 18 months, I am proud to report that Logan is walking unassisted and has full use of both his arms. This recovery is unprecedented in the American pediatric stroke community. However, Dr. Song Luo, my mentor and Logan's acupuncturist, informed me that this is quite common in China where Traditional Chinese Medicine and Allopathic Medicine are fully integrated. My goal is to establish an American Board of Oriental Pediatric Medicine and an American Board of Oriental Neurological Medicine. Traditional Chinese Medicine needs to be expanded and avenues for specialized training developed. This applies not just to needling; it also applies to herbs.

When my son also struggled with focal seizures, the general consensus among my Chinese professors was that herbal intervention was not generally utilized for pediatric seizure activity. Unable to find an alternative, we opted for standard pharmaceutical care, which had not been tested for neonates. My son recovered, but I was haunted by the experience of giving drugs to my son that had not been tested for his population. I continued my research and discovered febrile seizures are one of the most common conditions affecting the neonatal population. As well, a significant portion of the traditional herbal formulas to treat seizures were originally published in pediatric classics. Subsequently, I read a Taiwanese review showing 99% of the 200 Chinese

formulas deemed “essential” by the Taiwanese government exhibited histone modification in vitro, meaning that Chinese herbs have the potential to regulate gene expression. I recently submitted my application to the Institute for Cell and Molecular Biology at UT where I hope to study just this. My love of acupuncture did not start with my son, though. As an AmeriCorps Alumni, in 2009, I originally returned to UT as a pre-medicine student with aspirations to become an immunologist. Very quickly, health conditions I battled throughout my own life worsened to a degree that inhibited normal daily function. Allopathic measures were completely unsuccessful, and when, one day, while shadowing a physician, these symptoms culminated in my first seizure, I decided not return to school the following term. Upon receiving the sage advice of a physician mentor, I apprehensively turned toward alternative medicine. I did what any uninformed, skeptical, former pre-medicine student would do. I googled “alternative medicine”, and I went to AOMA Graduate School of Integrative Medicine for acupuncture treatment of knee pain I’d been told would take surgery to fix. I was pain free for three months. I opened up, and symptoms that perplexed multiple specialists were met with a, “mmhmm...” by the professors at AOMA followed by an immediate differential diagnosis based on years of clinical expertise in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). All of my health problems resolved with the successful combination of Functional Medicine and TCM, which sealed my chosen profession and opened my mind to realize the true potential of acupuncture and herbalism. There is a void in our current medical paradigm. Classical Chinese methods can yield safer, more effective treatments for all of us, especially children, and we have only scratched the surface in the United States. TCM deserves your protection and support. There is not a single moment in my experience as a patient, as a mother, or as a practitioner in which I have ever have felt confident that someone with training in dry needling could successfully treat my son or myself. To allow TCM to be watered down by giving the same scope of practice to professionals without the appropriate training when it holds such potential for the next stage of medical care would be a profound mistake and a massive liability.

Thank you for taking time to consider these issues so carefully.

Best wishes,
Diane Stanley

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