

As a volunteer board, WEAMA board members works long hours strategizing how to can keep every WA LAc respected and to preserve our medicine, and we think adding acupuncture back into our name is imperative to clarify as well as to stand out in written legislation and policy updates as well as to serve as a national unification of our profession.

WEAMA would like to find a name that can clearly reflect what we do as a profession for legislative purposes, national unification and to create clarity for other provider types ie MD, NP, PT, DC etc that our profession works to integrate with. Nationally, the term acupuncture, or acupuncturist is widely recognized where as East Asian medicine is highly misunderstood and requires explanation. When dealing with legislators and policy makers who are knee deep in issues, it is most effective to use a name that is highly recognizable, a name that creates confusion and distraction away from the issues at hand and draws attention on figuring out who EAMPs are. In a system when we have 5 min to plead our case, it is advantageous to have a name that is easily identifiable. Many political figures and provider types do not realize that what we do is a full medical system and acupuncture is not a stand-alone technique. Because acupuncture is not in our title, they assume it is a technique and can therefor take that technique and add it to anther professions toolbox. It is part of our strategy to decrease the different ways that our profession can be pulled apart.

During our initial discussions it was brought to our attention that the Chinese community association brought up a request in 2010 when the name changed to EAMP, to consider the ramification of using the name East Asian as a racial slur, unfortunately that concern was not addressed at that time.

The name we are considering is "Washington Acupuncture Medicine Association." The use of "acupuncture" is to delineate our profession with a widely recognized name. Due to the long list of geographical areas that would need to be included if we do not use the scholarly reference "East Asian," the thought is, it may be preferred to leave out any geographical reference all together. The use of "medicine" is to include all the different modalities held within each tradition. Although, this name does not include the breadth and depth of our medicine, we can expand on that fully by an extensive list in our scope of practice.

There really is no easy answer to this and how we should proceed. What we do know, is that over the last 10 years confusion has spread with the use of EAMP. We also now know there are racial implications for our Chinese colleagues that have endured prejudice that included the use of racial slur East Asian sick man.

My approach to medicine and life is to keep it simple. Acupuncture medicine seems to fill the bill for clarity and simplicity, unifying as a profession nationally, integrating into standard medical systems and to be easily identified in legislation and policy updates.

Catherine Dayhoff, DAOM, LAc.