In 1972 Dr. Michael Yan Ferng, Dr. Duke Won and Dr. Wing Won (ND, DC) started using acupuncture in Oregon. All three providers were arrested. Though the cases were dismissed, the practice of acupuncture remained illegal in Oregon, except when done by MD's or DO's until later that year.



While Traditional Chinese Medicine first arrived in Oregon in the 1800s with the first wave of Chinese immigrants—the practice of Acupuncture was not legalized in Oregon until 1973.



The first bill passed in Oregon to legalize the practice of acupuncture was SB 489. It was passed on November 15, 1973 and was sponsored by Senator Carson and Representative Gordon after many of these doctors' patients signed petitions to legalize acupuncture.

The first legal private acupuncture clinic in the United States was opened in Lincoln City, Oregon. Kok Yeun Leung was the first acupuncturist at the clinic. He was later joined by Professor Shui Wan Wu and later by Dr. Wai Tak Cheung. Three of the first seven acupuncturists in Oregon were from Vancouver, B.C.

The first year that acupuncturist were able to see patients without the "supervision of a physician" regulation was in 1979. However, the referral for acupuncture still needed to come from an MD or DO.

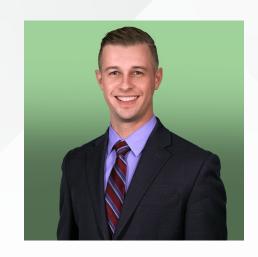
In 1975, the first Acupuncture Association was formed (OAA). The first meeting was held on August 3 with Mi Fu Shu serving as president.

- President Mi Fu Shu
- Vice President and Executive Secretary Nung Kuo
- Research and Studies Department Head Kok Yuen Leung
- Publications Department Head Yuet Sun Chan
- Secretary and Treasurer Chin Gee Shen
- Acupuncture Educational Committee Yuet Sun Chan, Kok-Yuen Leung and Nung Kuo
- Acupuncture Regularizing Committee Mi Fu Shu, Kok-Yuen Leung, Chon Gee Shen and Nung Kuo.



The first year that the OAA hired a lobbyist was 1988. OAA is currently represented by Pac/West Lobby group and our lobbyists are Dan Cushing and Rachel Mann.







The official title "Licensed Acupuncturist" was approved in 1991 reflecting the passing of a licensing exam. This was a change from the title of "Registered acupuncturist."



Oregon currently has around 1,200 active licensed acupuncturists. And there are currently more than 28,000 licensed acupuncturists in the United States.



In 1997 under the Good Samaritan Law – LAcs were added to the "Good Samaritan" law, allowing us to perform medical procedures (according to our scope of practice) in an emergency situation, and to be held harmless.



Acupuncture gained attention in the U.S. after President Nixon's visit to China in 1972 when an accompanying reporter experienced significant post-operative pain relief after undergoing an emergency appendectomy and wrote about the benefits of acupuncture upon his return to the U.S.

As of 2004 nearly 50% of Americans who were enrolled in employer health insurance plans were covered for acupuncture treatment. (Insurance Coverage for Acupuncture on the Rise, Michael Devitt, Acupuncture Today, January 2005, Vol 6).

