

February 22nd, 2016

**Statement of World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies:
Dry Needling is within the Scope of Acupuncture and Moxibustion of
Traditional Chinese Medicine**

It is known that some practitioners are applying a method of treatment, called dry needling, in their medical practices. This method of treatment refers to puncturing trigger points in the myofascial tissue with acupuncture needles, so as to release statues, such as pathological muscle tension, and to treat diseases, such as myofascial pains. These trigger points are actually channel points, extra points and Ashi points in acupuncture and moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine. Besides, puncturing manipulations and needles of dry needling are the same as those of acupuncture and moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine. Therefore, dry needling is actually 're-discovery' of acupuncture and moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine, and is a component of different kinds of traditional and modern acupuncture therapies.

World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies acknowledges that, dry needling is a component of the therapy of Chinese acupuncture and moxibustion, and it cannot be developed independently without medical principles of Chinese acupuncture and moxibustion.

World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies advocates, in the course of utilizing the achievement of acupuncture and moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine, practitioners should respect the fact that dry needling is within the scope of acupuncture and moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine, respect acupuncture theories and traditional culture of acupuncture and moxibustion of traditional Chinese medicine, so as to promote the worldwide development of acupuncture industry in a healthy and orderly way.