



Saturday March 28, 2026

1:00-4:00 p.m.

OPTION B

Integrative Oncology Acupuncture

Speakers: Dr. Victoria Choi, BHlthSc (TCM), PhD and Erin Moran, DAOM RAc

ATCMA oncology acupuncture workshop

Course Overview:

With rise of cancer incidence, the World Health Organisation estimates over 35 million new cancers are predicted in 2050, a 77% increase from 20 million cases in 2022. As a result, an increasing number of patients are undergoing complex oncology treatments that often result in significant and persistent side effects. While pharmacological management plays an important role, many patients and healthcare teams are seeking effective non-pharmacological options to minimise symptom burden and reduce polypharmacy. Acupuncture has an expanding evidence base supporting its use as supportive care in oncology and is increasingly being integrated into outpatient clinics and hospital-based services.

Despite this growth, there remains a shortage of acupuncturists and TCM practitioners with the oncology-specific knowledge and confidence required to work safely with this population. This workshop is designed to help bridge that gap. It will introduce key oncology concepts, common treatments and terminology, clinical red flags, and the role of acupuncture in managing cancer and treatment-related side effects.

Grounded in current research and enriched by extensive clinical experience from both private practice and hospital-based integrative oncology settings, this workshop aims to equip practitioners with the confidence to deliver evidence-informed, supportive oncology care.

Learning objectives:

- Describe the fundamental principles of oncology treatments.
- Use and interpret common oncology-related terminology relevant to patient care.
- Identify clinical red flags in patients undergoing cancer treatment that warrant escalation or referral.
- Explain the scope of practice and day-to-day responsibilities of an oncology acupuncturist.
- Recognise common cancer and treatment-related side effects for which acupuncture may be used as supportive care.
- Identify important publications demonstrating acupuncture's effectiveness in the treatment of specific side effects.

Key topics covered:

- Lecture style overview of
- Epidemiology
- Brief history of cancer from classic texts
- Modern causes of cancer
- Pathogenesis of cancer
- TCM ethology and treatment approaches
- Zheng Qi and latent pathogenic factors
- Conventional cancer therapies
- Needling the cancer patient and safety concerns
- Contraindications and red flags
- Treating: chemotherapy-induced nausea/vomiting, neutropenia, pain, lymphedema, peripheral neuropathy, fatigue, xerostomia
- Clinical case studies of patients' treatment journey
- Current published guidelines available

Bios:



Dr. Victoria Choi is a senior acupuncturist and research fellow at Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, a leading specialist cancer hospital in Sydney, Australia. She is also a clinical lecturer at the University of Sydney and the chief examiner with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. Dr. Choi graduated in 2012 from University of Technology Sydney with a Bachelor of Health Science in Traditional Chinese Medicine. She went on to complete her international

internship rotation at Dong Eui University in Busan, South Korea where she gained clinical experience in an integrative model of care. She also completed a lab-based research internship at Seoul National University. Dr. Choi has been in clinical practice since 2013, specializing in medical acupuncture in supportive care and integrative oncology, using acupuncture to help manage symptoms and side effects of cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and radiation.

Dr. Choi was awarded a Ph.D. in Science in 2019 at University of Technology Sydney where her thesis examined the origins of acupuncture in Chinese Medicine and investigated how the ancient health paradigm informs current practices. Her current research focuses on the mechanistic effects of acupuncture in oncology and health services research. She is the Principal Investigator for the ongoing study pilot randomized sham-controlled trial of electroacupuncture for taxane-induced peripheral neuropathy in breast cancer patients during treatment, for which she was awarded a competitive cancer research grant.



Erin Moran has been a practitioner of Chinese Medicine since 2001. She completed her training in Seattle, Washington, and has practiced in both Bermuda and Canada.

Erin is currently based in Steveston, British Columbia.

In 2010, Erin earned her Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine degree with a specialty in Integrative Oncology. She has worked in cancer centres throughout the greater Seattle area and completed an internship at MSTI in Boise, Idaho. Her clinical experience also includes rotations in Chengdu and Shanghai, China, where she trained within integrative oncology wards that combined

chemotherapy and radiation with Chinese herbal medicine—an experience that demonstrated integrative medicine at its finest.

Erin contributed to acupuncture study design through the CAMEO program at the BC Cancer Agency. Today, her private practice at the Steveston Health Collective is dedicated almost exclusively to cancer care. She supports patients through all stages of treatment, including pre-surgical and post-surgical care, systemic therapies, and survivorship. Erin is an active member of the Society of Integrative Oncology's acupuncture special interest group and serves as a peer reviewer for the journal Medical Acupuncture.

In addition to her oncology-focused work, Erin is a qualified Five-Element acupuncturist and a certified instructor of Dragon and Tiger Qigong.