

My Journey in WMI

By

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This May I will graduate from World Medicine Institute. It is hard to believe that my wonderful journey is coming to an end. The faculty and students have become a family to me. During my time at WMI I have been through ups and downs and have grown on so many levels. I got married to a wonderful man in a private Taoist ceremony led by Dr. Chang. I also endured the saddest time of my life when my father passed away. Through it all I had wonderful people standing beside me who guided and supported me in anyway they could. I will never forget that and I want to thank them from the bottom of my heart. Their compassion and understanding has led me to where I am today.

World Medicine Institute is a truly unique place. More than just an education, you will receive true healing skills. Under the watchful eyes of Dr. Todoki, Dr Ono, and Dr. Chang, a 64th Generation Heavenly Taoist Master, we learned to master ourselves in order to better help others. Everyone goes through his or her own evolution and whatever your strengths, they will be elevated to the next level. I had the great opportunity to assist Dr. Chang in the clinic for many semesters. This experience has greatly affected my treatment strategies and needling style. She is an extraordinary healer and often treats people that have been left with little hope. I have personally witnessed those treatments and their positive outcomes.

Dr. Chang taught me how to communicate with patients in a disarming way. I've learned that it is important to have a sense of humor. Laughter is a common occurrence in our temple and between the students and the patients it almost seems like part of the treatment. I also enjoyed Dr. Chang's lectures. Sometimes during clinic we'd sit around her as she would teach about herbs and TCM using

stories from Chinese history. She has such a wonderful way of teaching through metaphors and analogies. These were not regular lectures. They were spontaneous and often short, but they were very precious.

I would like to specifically commend Dr. Mead and Dr. Shimabukuro for being such wonderful teachers. Dr. Mead teaches Herb class with so much passion and commitment. He provided assignments and projects that engaged our senses as well as our intellect. Dr. Mead made us think about plants not only on a scientific level but on a spiritual level as well. Dr. Shimabukuro is a gifted teacher because he is able to present very difficult concepts in ways that are easy to understand. He is patient and encouraging while challenging us in every possible way. His exams are so hard I felt like laughing out loud to ease the mental pain.

Over the past semesters I learned Quto needling, Fire Needling, San Huang - Taoist treatment for serious internal conditions, 4 Flower Treatment, Cupping, Eight Silken- Chikung Form, as well as many herbal formulas and healing therapies. Best of all, I got to practice my skills on my very own patients at the University clinic. I treated conditions such as sciatica, plantar fasciitis, thyroid problems, drug addiction, emotional issues, headaches, vertigo, auditory issues, eczema, sports injuries, rhinitis, and problems with menstruation. Of course my most nerve-racking experience in clinic was needling Dr. Chang. She can be a little intimidating, but she gives the best possible feedback on technique.

I am definitely sad that this experience is coming to an end, but at the same time I am excited to get out there and start treating the public. I am anxious to use my tools and to continue to learn and grow as a healer. When I first came to WMI I thought we'd be going on nature hikes, but there was so much more waiting for me. I can't wait to find out what the world has in store for me next.