

Meet Our Practitioners

Andrew Nugent-Head, Chief Practitioner

Founder & president of the 501c3 not for profit The Association for Traditional Studies, Andrew Nugent-Head lived in China for 28 years before returning to the US in 2014. He moved to China in 1986 to study Chinese medicine, internal cultivation practices and martial arts. He was privileged to learn in traditional mentor-disciple relationships with the last generation of practitioners born and educated prior to the arrival of Communism in 1949. Andrew is one of the only contemporary practitioners to have learned classical medicine directly from the practitioners who were trained before it was modernized into what is ironically known today as Traditional Chinese Medicine, or TCM.

Andrew's journey into Chinese medicine began in 1986 when he was hit by a taxi in Taiwan, fracturing the metatarsals on his right foot. Choosing to have the bones set with Chinese medicine instead of going to a western medical hospital there, he discovered first hand just how tangible, effective and fast Chinese medicine could be. He was back to walking in just two over two weeks.

Andrew began studying Chinese medicine the following year, with a passion for treating physical injuries and acute trauma cases. He spent ten years under the tutelage of Dr. Xie Peiqi (1920-2003), a well known doctor and martial artist who specialized in difficult to treat internal medicine and external injury patients. Along with learning the physical medicine, Andrew assisted Dr. Xie in treating cancers, auto-immune disorders and many other diseases for which the patients had no acceptable western medical option. He quickly learned that practiced correctly, Chinese medicine



was equally tangible and effective for internal as well as external medical conditions.

After the passing of Dr. Xie in 2003, Andrew was accepted as the last and Closing Door disciple of Professor Li Hongxiang (1924–). Professor Li, the retired head of Chinese medicine of the Beijing #3 Hospital, is truly one of the greatest practitioners left today. A brilliant teacher of the classic texts as well as stellar clinician, Professor Li demanded a level of scholarship from Andrew to match the clinical skills he had developed over his years training with previous teachers. Andrew spent 6 years in the clinic with Dr. Li, and over 10 years documenting his clinical experience and knowledge. He continues to fly to Beijing each month to spend time with Dr. Li, who is now 92 years old.

The Alternative Clinic is the realization of a dream each of his teachers shared: to create a place where patients can experience the true efficacy this medicine, a place where the clinical practice of Chinese medicine can be taught in an open, encouraging environment.