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Example of Abstract:

# **THE FASCINATION OF TRADITION: THE ACUPUNCTURE**

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Honorary President of ICMART, Belgium

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## **ABSTRACT**

Tradition is part of culture which implies beliefs and acceptance according to the context of history and knowledge. Therefore Tradition draws its strength on continuity and on permanence. A background in time, a wealth of information transmitted through generations, an accumulation of experience, and an array of theories, thoughts and arguments. What does Tradition do to acupuncture in modern times? Does it help or hinder? Does it immobilize or stimulate? Does it have the final vote? We are all originating from civilizations or cultures relying on customs, habits or traditions. Our existence is modeled according to our past and then modified according to modern adaptations due to the progress in sciences and social behavior, according to individual and group tendencies, according to art, techniques and ethnic profiles. In the field of medicine the weight of Tradition has ambiguous effects. The part of experience it carries in itself is certainly a good start for understanding. Then modern and scientific approaches must prevail to sort out the part of blind faith always carried in Tradition from the actual pragmatic usefulness accompanying generally age old knowledge and techniques. To think about Tradition, especially in the case of acupuncture, gives us clues on where we should stand in front of this enormous amount of information. It allows us to examine from a distance the texts and references, the many schools and techniques. Then we might see acupuncture from a different perspective. Here, I am giving a small example of how the word “tradition” can be misleading and how information carried through centuries is not always accurate. I could call it: “Chasing the Midday-Midnight rule”.