

Endnotes



**Phil
Rose-Neil**

BAC Chair

LAST WORD

A belief is a trust, a faith and a confidence in something. My belief is not only in acupuncture but also in you, the acupuncturists.

In recent times there has been a groundswell of activity and an increase in grass-root member-led initiatives. Acupuncturists are passionate people who have a great spirit and a great love of life. It is you, the membership, who are the ambassadors to the profession. Your interactions with your patients are our greatest tool. We as an organisation need to continue to crusade under a united banner as we have always done - schools of thoughts united. It is your conviction that motivates others to help progress acupuncture.

Many people have dedicated much of their lives to acupuncture: sung and unsung heroes. We have come a long way, managing to hew ourselves a position in the healthcare of this nation. It is paramount that the forward energy and momentum is not lost; that we ourselves do not stagnate.

Growing up, I was surrounded by people who were passionate about acupuncture. My parents ran a naturopathic hospital in Buckinghamshire and my father, Sidney Rose-Neil, dedicated his whole life and existence to establishing acupuncture in this country. He was a pioneer of acupuncture as a profession in the UK and the founding chairman of the British Acupuncture Association and Register, which later amalgamated and evolved into the British Acupuncture Council.

He, in my opinion, is the reason that we can practise our art as freely as we do here in the UK. He was also the catalyst that led to many of us knowing what acupuncture is. He was my hero, someone who tirelessly campaigned on behalf of acupuncture and of acupuncturists

to be represented. He was a true polymath and Renaissance man. His drive and desire is something that I see in your eyes when I attend the AGM and the conference or when I see or hear an acupuncturist talking about acupuncture.

A couple of years ago, I gave a lecture on the heritage of British acupuncture and the importance of early acupuncturist pioneers who brought acupuncture to the West. What I came to realise is that we are increasingly relevant and, because of revolutions that have led us to this point, the scent of paradigmatic shift is in the air.

Arthur Koestler wrote that the collective matrix of a science at a given time is determined by a kind of establishment, which includes universities, learned societies, and, more recently, the editorial offices of technical journals. Like other establishments, they are consciously or unconsciously bent on preserving the status quo - partly because unorthodox innovations are a threat to their authority, but also because of the deeper fear that their laboriously erected intellectual edifice might collapse under the impact.

The sceptics and detractors of acupuncture have been around from the beginning and as we continue to be accepted they will continue to fight us. It takes courage and conviction to stand up to these attacks. If we are strong and resolute and continue to treat effectively and to strengthen our evidence base, then we shall maintain our progress and preserve acupuncture as an important part of this country's healthcare.

Thomas Kuhn, the historian of science, theorised that, when one world view comes up against another, they integrate and a new world view is created. I believe that we are in the throes of that paradigmatic shift. The profession will continue to contribute to this brave new world and I hope to see our share within the healthcare of this country properly represented.

This all makes it an exciting time to be taking on the role of chair of the BAcC. As I do so, I will also take this opportunity on your behalf to thank Ron Bishop for all of his hard work and dedication. I hope to serve you as well as he has. I am very much looking forward to continuing to work with my fellow Board members and Paul, our new chief executive.

Compassion is forged in us, be it through our practice or what brings us to practice, and I view our membership as a bond. It is so heartening to meet and talk with students of acupuncture who will continue our noble profession and uphold our values.

So as I started by venerating those that came before us, let me take this opportunity to ask you to celebrate yourself and your colleagues for continuing to keep the rich tradition of what we do alive. We all will be responsible for furthering the cause and upholding the values of our medicine.

