

September 8, 2004

I think so highly of the skills of Steven Collins that I drive 200 miles for an appointment with him and have not sought out an acupuncturist closer to home. Now that's slightly misleading, since I also come to visit the friend who first encouraged me to see him for help with chronic joint pain. It is wholly true, though, that I have developed such confidence in Dr. Collins that I am unwilling to be treated by anyone else. It is the unique combination of his knowledge of Western medicine (as evidenced by his RN degree) with his four-year study of Chinese medicine that made me comfortable with the idea of consulting him in the first place. I have not been disappointed.

Dr. Collins brings a number of skills to bear in addition to his training. He is perhaps the most careful and sensitive listener I have ever encountered in the medical profession. One gets the sense that he develops a course of treatment based on the information he is collecting from his patient, not simply applying a textbook formula to an initial presentation of a complaint. He is calm and patient in exploring the basis of a problem, open to discussing and explaining treatment options in an unhurried manner that makes me both comfortable and confident in his abilities. He also has what I think is an innate gift - something I have encountered rarely and can only call "magic fingers". That is, he listens not only with his ears but also with his hands as he places needles and manipulates pressure points.

I have never failed to obtain at least some amelioration of my pain as a result of his ministrations. My only regret is that distance precludes me from entering into a regular course of treatment that might give me more complete relief.

In short, Dr. Collins is a healer.

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