



Acupuncture Poll

Editorial Staff

The Acupuncture Poll's question for June 2004 was:

Do you support the efforts of the Vision Search Task Force (VSTF) in trying to unite the profession?

Results are as follows:



These results are based upon 319 responses. As this is a voluntary, non-scientific survey, caution should be used in generalizing the results. Here is a sample of the comments made by those who took the survey and how they voted. Some comments have been edited for brevity.

Yes: Given the acrimonious tenor of debates on the part of some vocal individuals as they push their various agendas for the profession (particularly from California), why would anyone not support efforts to facilitate unity? The lack of unity and preponderance of unprofessional communication on issues of importance to the profession is the reason why we are not nearly as effective in promoting the profession's interests as we could be.

Yes: Uniting the profession is very important. If there is even a chance that the VSTF can do this, the profession should support the process. It's pretty clear that the profession has lost its way and its effectiveness through in-fighting. This needs to stop (and we need to

come together) if we are to effectively further the interests of our profession.

Yes: What choice does the profession have? While a few very vocal and destructive individuals are busy trying to tear others within the profession apart from California, chiropractors, naturopaths, etc., are attempting to peel away our profession by expanding their scopes of practice in acupuncture based on unethical standards of training; the FDA is seeking to limit our pharmacopeia; insurance companies and/or workers' compensation systems are denying or limiting coverage for our services; and the list goes on. Again, we have no choice. Either we get it together as a profession so we are all working together cooperatively instead of at cross-purposes, or the profession will continue to suffer irreparable damage. Everyone who truly cares about the profession should support the work of the Vision Search Task Force. That is a no-brainer.

Yes: Establishing a vision for the profession is critical if we are to unite as a profession and heal the bitter disputes that have divided us all.

Yes: I support the work of the VSTF without any reservations. The profession has been bickering too long over everything from scope of practice and educational standards to certification. This has divided us and weakened the entire profession. If a consensus vision for the future of the profession can be achieved, it will go a long way toward bringing us as a profession together and allowing us to focus our limited resources on the real external threats the profession faces.

For more information on the Acupuncture Poll, contact *Acupuncture Today* at editorial@acupuncturetoday.com.

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