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Spring Newsletter, 2016

A·B·O·R·M

AMERICAN BOARD OF ORIENTAL REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE

Upcoming Dates



We hope to see you at some or all of these events.

Next ABORM Exam:

Saturday, January 28, 2017, Orlando, FL

Integrative Fertility Symposium (IFC) 2017
March 30 - April 2, 2017, Vancouver, BC

ASRM 2016
ASRM Annual Meeting
October 15 - 19, 2016
Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information:
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CAM SIG Meeting

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President's Message

Dear Colleagues:



It was great meeting many of you in Vancouver this year. I am always so impressed with the level of knowledge amongst us, and the enthusiasm for our special community. The ABORM is truly something unique. I can't believe that we have now exceeded 450 members!

For those that weren't able to come to IFS this year, you really must try to attend in the future. The energy there is infectious and well worth the difficulties trying to arrange being away from your clinic and families. Lorne and his staff really stepped it up this year and succeeded at ensuring incredible speakers, informative sessions and a comfortable environment. The gorgeous view of the water and mountains from the conference venue certainly doesn't hurt either!

On another note, Chris Axelrad and I just returned from TCM Kongress in Rothenburg, Germany where we had the privilege of representing ABORM and presenting several lectures on infertility. We were very well received and ignited a lot of interest from many European colleagues interested in joining our organization. Though the European community has been buzzing for several years about the ABORM, our presence legitimized the depth and breadth of our organization. The environment there is



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Member Reminders



All Fellows first certified in 2008/2010/2012/2014 are due to renew their ABORM Membership by April 30th, 2016.

Go to the [Members Only](#) section and click on Member Renewal to download the [Member Renewal Form](#) and read about the requirements for renewal.

already very integrative. Several people interested in sitting for our exam are IVF doctors that also practice Chinese medicine. It seems that by continuing to expand our reach into new markets that the level of knowledge from practitioners around the world will continue to provide our patients with the best possible care.

As your new President, I am tasked with taking this already successful organization to higher levels. Ultimately, quality patient care is at the forefront of what and why we do what we do. So to continue to broaden our reach to effect this quality across the globe, we are exploring further expanding internationally. Yet we're also at the point in our development in which we recognize the value of our members and want to continue to support you and create value in the work you do. There is definitely power in numbers and as a profession. In Chris's term as president, he was successful at fostering a collaborative community, and I want to continue to do so. We are a membership community and one in which I value the members.

We recently instituted quarterly board meetings and have a highly motivated team in place. We have established several committees to help us succeed in our goals and are always looking for fellows interested in helping out. I will keep you posted on our mission and organizational goals throughout the year, but please know that I am interested in all of your thoughts at any time. Please feel free to reach out via phone or email. Thank you for being part of this great community of caring practitioners!

Warmest regards,

Katherine Alexander Anderson, MBA, L.Ac. (FABORM)

Practitioner Spotlight



**Julie McCormick,
L.Ac., FABORM**

I had not set out to work with Chinese medicine, and specifically infertility, but the work found me. It was early in 2001, and I had just had my second child, my beautiful boy. I was in the depths of post partum depression, and on the recommendation of a friend tried Chinese medicine. It worked! This piqued my interest in acupuncture and herbal medicine. At the time I had a great job working in chemistry and I wasn't looking to alter my life's course, although

that would soon change.

When my son was 9 months old he stopped growing and dropped off the growth chart. We consulted with several specialists, but no one could determine what was happening. Some very frightening diagnoses were being discussed. Again, I remembered how Chinese medicine had helped me, and in desperation I brought my son in to our acupuncturist. Within two weeks of some minor food changes, herbs, and Tuina, he started to grow again. This is when I knew that I needed to understand how it worked. I read and learned and became fascinated with the elegant logic and healing ability of Chinese medicine.

I began formally studying Chinese medicine in 2002, and opened my own practice, Selby Acupuncture, in 2007.



Infertility work began almost right away. I was working with a woman who had chronic neck and back pain, and she mentioned that she hadn't had a period in 6 months and wanted to begin trying to have a

baby. I told her this wasn't my area of expertise and I could refer her to someone with more experience. She said, "I want to keep coming here, I don't care if you aren't an expert." We began working together. Then she sent in her friend with a complicated diagnosis of endometriosis and PCOS, who had been trying to conceive for over two years. I knew I was in way over my head, and again, I tried to refer the patient out. She wanted to stay. At that point, I knew that this was something I needed to learn well.

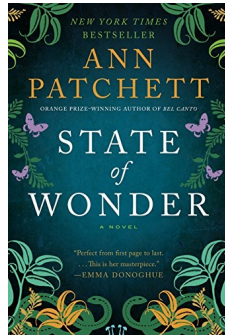
Having heard about ABORM previously, I decided that being able to sit and pass the exam would be a great method of studying and learning the treatment of infertility. I became a fellow in 2011.

My practice began with just myself, and has since grown to four Chinese medicine practitioners, a Shiatsu/Craniosacral provider, and two office staff. Our providers see between 40 to 50 patients a week, and we tend to work heavily with herbal medicine, using pills, powders or raw herbs for most patients.

ABORM as an organization has been pivotal to my practice. It has been amazing to find a supportive, knowledgeable and curious group of practitioners dedicated to bringing out the best of our medicine. I am grateful to be a part of it.

(I am happy to report, my son is now well over six feet tall, and both women mentioned have been able to build their families!)

New Book

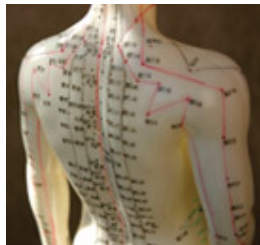


State of Wonder: A Novel

by Ann Patchett

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