Saam Acupuncture Tradition: Practicum
Presented by Marintha Tewksbury

The medical interview is the clinician's primary tool for both developing a diagnosis and building rapport with the patient. In this immersive practicum, participants will engage in close observation and guided discussion of this heart-centered approach to the medical interview as practiced within the Saam acupuncture tradition. This observation will include an introduction to guiding principles, practical techniques, and reliable questions that support this method. Special emphasis will be placed on navigating the dynamic tension inherent in the medical interview—the balance between gathering specific clinical information and creating space for patients to offer spontaneous, meaningful insights.

As a special feature of this practicum, a limited number of participants will have the opportunity to bring one of their own patients for a live interview and diagnostic session during the morning observation period. These sessions offer a rare chance to see the Saam approach applied in real time with patients familiar to the attending clinicians, deepening both insight and relevance. Only three patient slots are available and will be allotted on a first come, first served basis. To reserve a slot, please contact the event organizer as soon as possible.

Accurate point location and appropriate needle techniques are essential to the effectiveness of the Saam acupuncture method. In the afternoon session, we will explore best practices for locating acupuncture points and applying the distinct needle techniques utilized by this tradition. Demonstrations will guide participants in refining their skills in palpation and needle insertion. The day will conclude with a hands-on practicum, where participants will work in pairs to conduct interviews, develop diagnoses, and when appropriate treat one another.

Participants will leave with sharpened diagnostic insights, refined needling skills, and a deeper capacity to cultivate patient rapport in complex clinical encounters. This practicum is ideal for clinicians seeking to refine both their technical execution and the art of diagnostic presence within the Saam tradition.

An Introduction to the Saam Acupuncture Tradition is a prerequisite for this course.

Schedule
• 8:30 – 9:00 AM | Orientation
• 9:00 – 12:00 PM | Patient observation and discussion (three sessions)
• 12:00 – 12:30 PM | Q&A
• 12:30 – 1:30 PM | Lunch
• 1:30 – 2:30 PM | Point location practicum
• 2:30 – 5:30 PM | Medical interviews, diagnosis, and treatment in pairs