



# CMACC 2015 Returns to New York After Six Years

*By Marilyn Graham*

During the weekend of May 15-17th the AAS held the Charles Mraz Apitherapy Course and Conference in Flushing, New York revisiting this amazingly cultural Asian neighborhood that all participants appeared to enjoy immensely. This local ethnic community once again proved to be not only a convenient location to hold the conference, but also offered CMACC participants easy access to most amenities.

Of the participants attending the conference 17 different states and 4 different countries including Tunisia, the Netherlands Antilles, Canada, and the Netherlands were represented. Some of the participants were current members of AAS with the majority of the participants becoming new members inclusive of their participation. In addition to the participants themselves we had 7 faculty members representing the AAS with 4 invited guest speakers coming together to teach and share their knowledge on Apitherapy with an enthusiastic group of students.

Our guest speakers included Dr. Allen Dennison, MD, Dr. Michael Gurevich, MD, Dr. Frank Yurasek, PhD, L.Ac., all of whom did riveting presentations. Dr. Allen Dennison did a dynamic presentation on honey and wound care followed up by each participant receiving a wound care first aid kit to take home. His gregarious manner of connecting with the audience proved to be a catalyst in inspiring a tremendous increase in the social interaction amongst the attendees. Dr. Frank Yurasek delivered a unique and moving presentation on his work with war Veterans and the use of acupuncture points in combination with bee venom therapy (BVT) for the treatment of post war conditions such as ALS, MS, and Parkinson's disease. This year he presented a new angle of his work featuring bringing Apitherapy to the people in the home, in his words, "delivering healing power to the people." His main focus was on empowering the wives of war Veterans to administer home care BVT treatments to their husbands using prescribed acupuncture points directed by way of text or email. He calls this innovative program BVT Acupuncture Remote Therapy, and yes there is an app for that! Dr. Yurasek recently converted his acupuncture point handbook to an app called [the hologram handbook app](#) facilitating the premise of this self care program. There is a small charge for this app with part of the proceeds being donated to the Healer Warrior project, <http://www.healerwarrior.us>, a foundation for Veteran family self care initiative. For more information on Dr. Yurasek's work, visit him at [www.acuwerks.com](http://www.acuwerks.com). We also had the honor of having Dr. Michael Gurevich do a presentation on Apitoxin, his experience and passion were apparent and well received. Antonio Couto also joined us once again having come all the way from Portugal to share his expertise and extensive experience with micro stinging during the practical workshop. A very special thank you goes out to all of our guest speakers.

Representing the AAS were Frederique Keller, L.Ac., Dr. Andrew Kochan, MD, Vetaley Stashenko, PhD, Dr. Patrick Fratellone, MD, Hossein Yeganehrad, Kate McWiggins, and Marilyn Graham. Those who presented on behalf of the AAS did their amazing usual performance of delivering a wealth of their experience and knowledge to participants. We thank them for donating their time and effort to a cause for which they are all so passionate and committed to. For the very first time and also a highlight of the event, a post conference practical workshop was offered and presented by Frederique Keller, L.Ac., Dr. Patrick Fratellone, MD, and Antonio Couto bringing the classroom knowledge into the workshop featuring the practical application of bee venom therapy, an aspect that has eluded many in the past. The majority of the students elected to stay on Sunday afternoon to participate in the practical workshop where everyone mingled and chatted while practicing with test stings, micro stinging, and getting comfortable with the bees and how to properly do BVT. It was clear that everyone left the workshop taking with them the confidence that they would need to appropriately and safely practice BVT solidifying what they had spent all weekend learning. We are hoping that we are able to offer and incorporate this workshop in our future conferences, it was certainly a big success!

On a casual note and also a highlight of the weekend was the Friday night Asian banquet dinner where many of us got together for a most outstanding ethnic Asian meal. We were served at large round tables with lazy Susans in the center, a perfect setting to get to know everyone while enjoying and sharing Chinese cuisine at its best. We started out with Dim Sum appetizers progressing to various dishes of shrimp, chicken, duck, clams, fish, rice, noodles, and vegetables beautifully prepared and presented. Everyone had a great time and really appreciated the quality and authenticity of this most amazing meal. At the dinner we took the opportunity to recognize and say goodbye to Kate McWiggins who recently resigned from the AAS Board of Directors. We thank her for making the effort in coming to help us with this conference, she is loved and will be sorely missed.

As the conference was coming to an end Dr. Andrew Kochan, MD and a few of the other AAS board members compiled all of the CMACC presentations into a folder that was easily shared and transferred on to all of the participants' flash drives that we had provided. We were not able to video record the conference this year but we will have all the material posted for AAS members on the website soon. Also look for testimonials and photos of the conference in the June 2015 issue of the Journal of the American Apitherapy Society. We extend a very sincere thank you to all of you who came and participated in yet another great CMACC event. We look forward to your continued involvement with the AAS and hope to see some of you again at a future conference!

*"I wanted to follow up and say what a great job you did with organizing the Apitherapy Conference - it was a fantastic experience and I learned a lot - I also met a bunch of dynamic people!"*

*"I want to express my gratitude for all your work on the Apitherapy conference, and the presentations that you shared. I really enjoyed the event, and came back with more great info to further my studies with the bees. I look forward to next year's."*