

Dr. Thomas Kouo Bio

Dr. Thomas Kouo serves as the Vice-President for Academic Affairs at the Virginia University of Integrative Medicine (VUIM) overseeing the New Jersey campus for the institution. Prior to returning to VUIM, Dr. Kouo served as both Academic and Clinical Dean at The Eastern School of Acupuncture and Traditional Medicine (ESATM) in Bloomfield, NJ. Under his leadership, the Eastern School developed and implemented the first Masters degree in Acupuncture in the state of New Jersey in 2016 and recently achieved a full seven years of accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (ACAHM) for the first time in the school's history. Kouo currently serves as the Vice-President for the Council of Colleges for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (CCAHM). As VP of the council, Dr. Kouo served as the Council representative at the annual Academy for Integrative Health & Medicine conference in San Diego and has worked with the council's Executive Committee on behalf of the betterment of all the acupuncture medicine schools and the Acupuncture and Integrative Medicine profession. He also serves as the current Chair of the CCAHM School Clinic Committee and is the immediate past chair for the council's Herb Committee. He is a long time accreditation site visitor for (ACAHM).

Prior to arriving at ESATM, Dr. Kouo served at VUIM as the Academic Dean and Chair of the Herbology department. While at VUIM, he led the university through the ACAOM accreditation process and the university was awarded the maximum five years initial accreditation in March 2015. Prior to VUIM, Dr. Kouo worked at Pacific College of Health Sciences San Diego, where he was the chair of the Herbal Department and taught in both the Master's and Doctoral programs while also serving as a Clinical Supervisor.

A graduate of the Master's and Advanced Practice Doctoral programs (terminal degree) at Pacific College, Dr. Kouo founded and was the clinical director of Elemental Harmony Acupuncture in San Diego. Elemental Harmony Acupuncture served San Diego and was one of the foremost clinics for pediatrics, orthopedics, and women's health. He was also the creator of a special facial rejuvenation protocol named "Age-Reversal Therapy" (ART) that was featured at the renowned A & B Medical Spa in Hillcrest, California.

Dr. Kouo has treated athletes on the San Diego Chargers, Los Angeles Lakers, the US Winter Olympic Training team, and was the acupuncturist for the La Jolla Open Tennis Tournament at the La Jolla Tennis Center. Dr. Kouo was one of the original acupuncturists selected to pilot UCSD's Center for Integrative Medicine and was on staff in family medicine with hospital privileges working alongside UCSD's best physicians. He has also worked in the oncology department of Rady's Children's Hospital in San Diego where he developed his love and compassion in working with children. Dr. Kouo has lectured both locally and nationally on topics such as Chinese Medicine and HIV/AIDS, Fatty Liver Disease, healthy pregnancy, pediatric care, sports injury care,

and integrative medicine. He was also the Director of Wellness for a Fortune 500 company in Los Angeles and was the herbal consultant for the licensure review preparatory company, TCM Tests.

