

May 2-7, 2010, at Esalen Institute, Big Sur, California

**Chinese Pulse Diagnosis and
Integrating Western & Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicine**

Brian LaForgia & Brian Kie Weissbuch

Workshop Description

This class is designed **for acupuncturists, naturopaths, and primary health care professionals**, and consists of two interpenetrating parts: Chinese Pulse Diagnosis and Traditional Western and Chinese Herbal Medicine.

Pulse diagnosis offers a detailed map of a person's past, present, and future health, and so holds the possibility of predicting and preventing disease. Yet, it is an art that is often incompletely taught. The pulse system brought out of China by Dr. John H.F. Shen comes from an unbroken lineage of Chinese medical practitioners. His student Leon Hammer has extensively elaborated this system and replaced the lengthy traditional apprenticeship form of learning with a small group, experiential hands-on format. The emphasis in this class will be on learning the six principal and twenty-two complementary pulse positions. The qualities found in the pulse will be identified, described, and interpreted including the three depths, rhythm, and rate.

Treatment with herbal medicine is dependent upon accurate and thorough pulse diagnosis. We will discuss Dr. Shen's herb formulas in the context of pulse presentation and corresponding treatment protocols. We will explore the Traditional Chinese Medicine energetics and indications of Western herbs; incompatibilities and contra-indications of herbs with pharmaceuticals, food, and supplements; herb combinations; posology (dosage and administration); phytopharmacology, pharmacognosy, toxicology and dysjunct cosmopolitan Asian and American species with similar properties and uses. The plants in the Esalen garden and trails will be introduced from the vantage point of botany and Chinese medicine.

Leader Biographies

Brian Kie Weissbuch L.Ac.

CEO, KW Botanicals Inc.
Brian Kie Weissbuch is an herbalist and acupuncturist in private practice in Northern California since 1991. Co-founder of KW Botanicals Inc. in San Anselmo, Calif, he has 40 years experience as a botanist and western herbalist.

Brian LaForgia L.Ac.

Brian La Forgia has been practicing Chinese Medicine for the past 30 years. In 1992, he met Leon Hammer and studied Dr. John Shen's pulse system intensively with him. Since 1995 Brian has been teaching Pulse Diagnosis internationally.

For more information, contact:

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For more information & to register, visit www.esalen.org

The link above takes you to a description of our retreat and links for registration and detailed information about Esalen facilities and opportunities.

CEUs available for Acupuncturists (28 hours: California Acupuncture Board and NCCAOM, pending approval)

This provides time during the day and evening to enjoy the baths, stroll in the garden, schmooze, and schedule massages.