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Getting the right treatment for injuries without running foul of anti-doping legislation is a perpetual balancing act for many sports people. Unsurprisingly, alternative therapies that get results are welcome in the sports community – and one of UTS's first Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) graduates is only too glad to help.

Hung Chung isn't exactly what you'd expect of an acupuncturist. No white medical coat, just ¾ combat pants, brown polo and trainers. His premises, Point Therapy in Bondi Junction, could easily be a suite of offices, and you'd be forgiven for thinking that Hung's profession is sports promotion. Signed rugby jerseys hang framed around the reception area – including the green and gold the Wallabies wore at the 2003 World Cup, the Waratahs' blue, league shirts from Wests Tigers and jerseys from more than one State of Origin (the Blues, of course). At the end of the day, if you get that player on the field, that's what matters.

Hung himself is quietly spoken, very serious about his practice, but with an assured and relaxed air that leaves you in no doubt that you're in good hands. He was in the first intake of students to graduate from the Bachelor of Health Science in Acupuncture (now the B Health Science in Traditional Chinese Medicine) back in 1999, and has been building his private practice since before then. "I had a clinic back home in my last year of uni," he says. "I was only ten minutes away, in Glebe, so I turned

one of my rooms into a clinic setup and I was slowly getting my own clientele."

Hung's grandfather was a *Tid Da*, a kind of Chinese physiotherapist. Roughly translated, *Tid* is 'metal' and *Da* 'beating' which gives some idea of the vigorous technique. "He specialised in acute injuries, bone setting and things like that," Hung says.

But having Chinese heritage didn't necessarily make grasping the concepts easier. "You're challenging your way of thinking," he says. "The Chinese think more holistically. It's almost poetry, a lot of philosophy." Hung found the course's balance of Western medicine and traditional Chinese medicine fascinating. "A lot of aspects of the course are science-based, because it is a science degree too. So you do anatomy, physiology, research, statistics, analytical research - how to critique research papers... I had a really good time," he adds. "To think back, there's not many courses where you can have massages and give someone else massages!"

Hung has always specialised in sports acupuncture, mainly in sports injury and pain management. It's been a good niche for him, and he spent the first year of professional practice travelling with the Tigers. "Working with sports people started when a friend of mine told me about a Tigers player whose career had been put on hold because of a leg injury," he says. "Several months of acupuncture did the trick and he was soon back on the field. I was amazed at how quickly word got around and before long I was asked to be the team's TCM therapist." Perhaps it's not so surprising - the sporting community is one which shares health knowledge (if not training techniques!) and, given the current issues around drug use, it's one that's particularly receptive to alternative medicine. "Very receptive," Hung agrees. "At the end of the day, if you get that player on the field, that's what matters. Anything that works."

In 2005, six years on from graduation, Hung established Point Therapy in Bondi, a larger clinic where he's slowly bringing more of his university training in energy, or *chi*, into his practice. He also has more space to work with clients on remedial exercise and stretching - he's also a qualified personal trainer. Hung is modest about his success, but when you're acupuncturist to super middleweight boxer Anthony Mundine and a raft of other high-profile Australian athletes, the success speaks for itself. "The most important thing for me is a strong referral base," he says. "If you treat someone and they tell their friends, that's reassuring."

