

CIHS Origins

Dr. Motoyama 100th birthday celebration

by Dr. Gaétan Chevalier, CIHS faculty

In the summer of 1992, a friend of mine gave me a copy of a magazine with an article about research that Dr. Motoyama was doing in Japan. His research was on the Chinese meridian system and on the chakra system using novel technology that he had developed. That article interested me a lot. I saw that there was an address at the end of the article. I decided to write a letter explaining my interest and my qualifications as a researcher in nuclear fusion and plasma physics at UCLA. I was thinking that maybe I could do some experiments on my own here in California while keeping in touch with Dr. Motoyama in Japan.

I quickly received a response from a Dr. Ichikawa who was Dr. Motoyama's main assistant in Japan. Dr. Ichikawa told me that Dr. Motoyama was coming to do a lecture at a yoga center in Santa Monica. It turned out that lecture was very soon and the location was close to where I was living at the time, which was in Westwood Village, south of UCLA main campus. I attended Dr. Motoyama's lecture and I must say that it was not easy to understand what he said. I learned later that Dr. Motoyama spoke 3 languages: Japanese, English and German. Nevertheless at the end of the lecture I went to talk to Dr. Motoyama about my interests in the research he is doing.

Dr. Motoyama listened to me very quietly then stopped to think and then looked at me squarely and said: "Can you teach electricity and magnetism?" I was quite surprised about this question, especially because when I was a PhD student at the École Polytechnique (Polytechnic School, an engineering school part of the University of Montreal), that was the only course I taught. So my answer was "yes". He then said: "Very good! Are you open to teach at my new school that is located in Encinitas in San Diego County?" I said yes again. I told him that I could come on Saturdays and teach a basic course on electricity and magnetism. Dr. Motoyama responded: "That is perfect, please speak to Dr. Livesay to organize the details." Dr. Livesay was at the time the Dean of Administration of CIHS.

I started teaching in the fall of 1992. At the time the school was renting space in a building close to the City Hall of Encinitas, on the south-east corner of Vulcan and E Street. I had 3 students: a couple who were acupuncturists and Richard Jelusich, the current CIHS Chairman of the Board. I did not know at the time, but these were the only 3 students at the time.

In summer 1993, Dr. Motoyama offered me a full-time position as faculty at CIHS. At the time research on meridians and chakras was considered rather woo-woo science at the time (at least in UCLA academic circles). Nevertheless I accepted and became a full time faculty member in the fall of 1993.

For about 10 years, I learned directly from Dr. Motoyama about meridian and chakras, his books and journals, asking him questions and working with him and students on research papers that were published in peer-reviewed journals. I travelled with Dr. Motoyama and Ms. Motoyama wherever Dr. Motoyama was asked to speak, being the “translator” in case people had difficulty with understanding him. I have also seen him doing healing in person and distant healing. I am very grateful to have been so close to him for all these years and to have learned so many things on a variety of interesting subjects.