

Family man

By Adriana Ermter



Acupuncturist Lorne Brown knows when and how to hit health's mark

Sticking it to the client is all in a day's work for needle-wielding Lorne Brown, B.Sc, CA, Dr. TCM, R.Ac. The acupuncturist is founder and clinical director of Acubalance Wellness Centre, a traditional Chinese medicine clinic in Vancouver, where he helps couples overcome reproductive health issues. "It's a great job. I help couples achieve their goals, get healthy, start a family. We've had over 200 babies come out of our practice in just six years," says Brown, who uses Chinese holistic practices to enhance fertility and support assisted fertility treatments such as in vitro fertilization.

But being on the baby track wasn't always part of Brown's career path. Graduating with a science degree in mathematics from the University of Western Ontario in 1990, the 38-year-old New Brunswick native obtained a CA designation from Ontario in 1998. Later, he began offering educational seminars on practice management for health professionals in Vancouver. "I debated settling in Calgary, twice. But I came out to [BC] on a holiday and I was like 'wow!' Vancouver resonated with me," Brown says.

In the late '80s, Brown began suffering from health problems that baffled doctors so he turned to a Chinese herbalist for help. The treatments worked. In fact, the experience was so positive Brown enrolled in a traditional Chinese medicine program at Vancouver's International College of Traditional Chinese Medicine. "Accounting and Chinese medicine are very parallel professions; they are both all about balance," Brown says. While working as a CA to pay tuition fees, Brown completed his doctor of traditional Chinese medicine in 2000, then focused his professional development on gynecology and fertility. "[Chinese medicine] is just like being a CA," says Brown. "In the CA world, your clients come to you with a lot of requests and information and you have to pull out the red herring; you have to be a good detective. [Being a CA] made me a better diagnostician," he says. Now, the man who used to help people balance their books is helping balance their health instead. "I'll even throw out a good tax tip," he laughs.

R é s u m é	1990 obtains science degree, University of Western Ontario
	1998 obtains CA designation (Ont.)
	2000 obtains Dr. TCM, International College of Traditional Chinese Medicine (BC)
	2000 opens Acubalance Wellness Centre, Vancouver.