

# *Acupressure Eases Stress of Traveling*

Susan Popiel RN, BSN, CST and Cathy Miller MM, LMT, ABT, Alvina Quatrano, LMT  
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*In a "perfect storm" of events last year I was set to travel cross-country to make a presentation at a meeting. A family emergency kept me up all night before my trip, and I knew that with the time difference, I would be making my presentation having had minimal sleep for 2 days. By using special acupressure points to reset my body clock, I was able to arrive relaxed and refreshed. My mind was clear and focused, and the meeting went great. ---Cathy Miller, acupressure therapist & instructor*

Many of us travel frequently for work, for continuing education, or for vacation. As we travel, we often cross one or several time zones which may disrupt our normal schedules and bodily rhythms. We experience sleep disturbances, fatigue, difficulty with concentration and physical discomfort. By using acupressure self-care techniques, we can decrease or eliminate Jet Lag and the challenges experienced when traveling across times zones.

Acupressure is an ancient form of bodywork that uses the gentle pressure of a finger or hand to facilitate balance of the energy flows within the body. There are twelve major meridians or energy pathways. Acupoints are the windows into the meridians.

Each of the 12 meridians has a consistent 2-hour period each day when it is the strongest of the 12, and each meridian has one point that functions like a "reset button" for your internal clock. For example, the large intestine meridian is the strongest, or is considered dominant, from 5 a.m. until 7 a.m. daily. If you hold the "reset" point on the large intestine meridian during those hours, you are calibrating your body clock to that time zone (see [Time/ Point Locations chart](#) below).

So---to reset your body clock for the time zone of your destination, follow these easy steps.

1. As you are preparing to board at your departure gate, note the current time at your destination airport.
2. Visualize being at your arrival airport and set your watch to that time.
3. Select the acupoint that is appropriate for the current time at your arrival airport. (see [Time/ Point Locations chart](#) below)
4. Apply gentle pressure to this point for two minutes as you picture yourself being at that location.

5. For best results, continue these mini treatments every two hours while you are traveling, and for a few hours once you arrive at your destination.

When you arrive, look or walk outside to become fully acclimated to the present and to the local time. Try not to think about the time zone of your return destination until you are ready to travel again. Doing so, or saying "it's really 5 p.m. at home" will make your transition to the new time zone more difficult. When you are ready to return home or to journey to your next destination, follow these steps again. You will feel more energetic and refreshed when you arrive.

### **Time/ Point Locations:**

**5 a.m. to 7 a.m.:** (LI1) On the index finger, at the base of the radial side of the nail bed ([see picture below](#))

**7 a.m. to 9 a.m.:** (ST36) On the lower leg, just below the head of the tibia, one thumb-width lateral from midline ([see picture below](#))

**9 a.m. to 11 a.m.:** (SP3) On the medial arch of the foot, proximal to the joint connecting the big toe to the foot ([see picture below](#))

**11 a.m. to 1 p.m.:** (HT8) On the palm of the hand, where the tip of the little finger rests when making a loose fist ([see picture below](#))

**1 p.m. to 3 p.m.:** (SI5) On the ulnar end of the wrist crease distal to the ulna ([see picture below](#))

**3 p.m. to 5 p.m.:** (BL66) On the lateral side of the foot, proximal to the joint connecting the little toe to the foot ([see picture below](#))

**5 p.m. to 7 p.m.:** (KI10) On the medial side of the leg, just above the end of the popliteal crease ([see picture below](#))

**7 p.m. to 9 p.m.:** (PC8) At the center of the palm, where the tip of the 3rd finger rests when making a loose fist ([see picture below](#))

**9 p.m. to 11 p.m.:** (TW6) On top of the forearm, 3 thumb-widths proximal to the wrist, between the bones ([see picture below](#))

**11 p.m. to 1 a.m.:** (GB41) On top of the foot, between the 4th and 5th toes, where the bones meet ([see picture below](#))

**1 a.m. to 3 a.m.:** (LV1) On the big toe, at the base of the lateral side of the nail bed ([see picture below](#))

**3 a.m. to 5 a.m.:** (LU8) On the forearm, one thumb-width proximal to the radial aspect of the wrist crease ([see picture below](#))

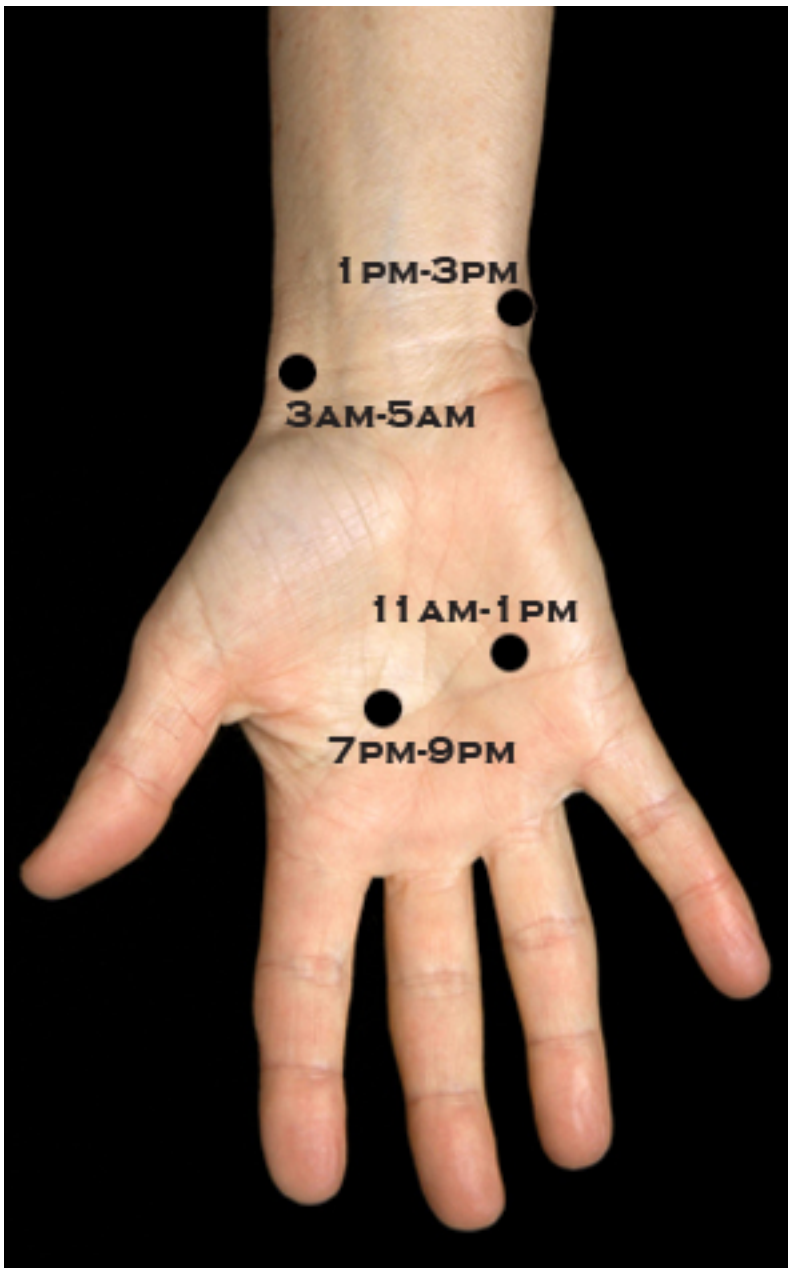
## About the Authors

**Susan Popiel** RN, BSN, CST graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill and has served as a nurse for over 25 years. Her interest in natural, integrative healthcare led her to study Clinical Acupressure, Process Acupressure, Craniosacral Therapy, Zero Balancing, Insight Dialogue Meditation, guided imagery and journaling. She holds certification in Clinical Acupressure and Craniosacral Therapy and teaches the Acupressure Seva Stress Release Protocol Course. Susan has a private practice in Pisgah Forest, N.C.

**Cathy Miller** MM, LMT, ABT is an acupressure therapist, licensed massage therapist and Diplomate of Asian Bodywork Therapy (NCCAOM). She sees clients at Crossings: a center for the healing traditions in Silver Spring, Md., and is an affiliated practitioner

**Alvina Quatrano** LMT is a colleague of Susan and Cathy who lives and practices in Naples FL. She teaches acupressure which is also approved for CEU's by The Holistic Nurses Association and NBTCMB. Alvina also teaches Intro to Reflexology and offers an online and hands-on Art of Holistic Massage Class approved for 34 FL CEU credits each. See [www.AOHMassage.com](http://www.AOHMassage.com) for more information.





**1 PM-3 PM**

**3 AM-5 AM**

**11 AM-1 PM**

**7 PM-9 PM**









## Affirmations Insomnia Points

LI 1 5-7 am Warmth moves us to let go so that a quality and purpose returns to life.

ST 36 7-9 am Leg Three Miles, Walk your path with strength and confidence.

SP 3 9-11 am Refresh. Find your roots, stability and balance to follow your life path.

HT 8 11 am -1 pm May the warmth and love of the Heart comfort you and encourage you to shine forth.

SI 5 1-3 pm Yang Valley. Enjoy the warmth and brightness of Love.

BL 66 3-5 pm Let go and revitalize with confidence to move forward.

KI 10 5-7 pm Calm, quiet strength gives you balanced movement to flow easily with vitality of life.

PC 8 7-9 pm With Love the journey through life becomes warm and rich.

TW 6 9-11 pm Welcome Love and Joy. Move in Harmony and Balance.

GB 41 11pm-1am A place of stillness where change can happen.

LV 1 1-3 am Confidence to put goals into action and leave behind what is no longer needed. Frustration & worry can be left behind and you can move forward.

LU 8 3-5 AM Your beautiful inner essence and threads of your life can move with quality and respect. Wash away what is done and Fill your lungs with heavenly goodness.

## For Insomnia

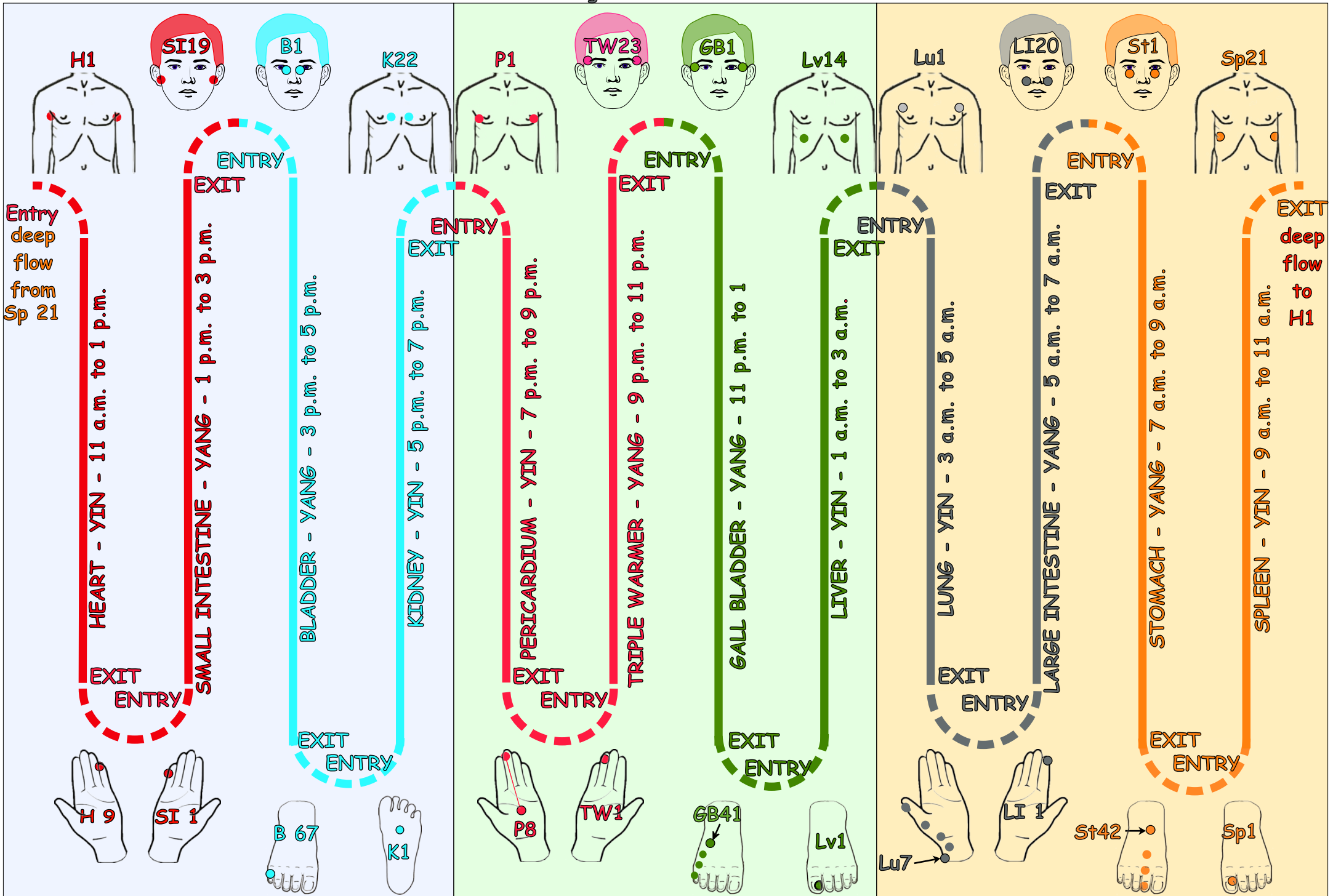
Each of the 12 meridians has a consistent 2-hour period each day when it is the strongest of the 12, and each meridian has one point that functions like a "reset button" for your internal clock. You can begin to "treat" yourself by stimulating the acupoints anytime you like. Use the point for the time of day that you are in. If you wake up at night do the point for that time.

## To Avoid Jet Lag

Reset your body clock for the time zone of your destination, follow these easy steps:

1. As you are preparing to board at your departure gate, note the current time at your destination airport.
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3. Select the acupoint that is appropriate for the current time at your arrival airport.
4. Apply gentle curved pressure to this point for two minutes as you picture yourself being at that location.
5. For best results, continue these mini treatments every two hours while you are traveling, and for a few hours once you arrive at your destination.

# The Flows of the Organ Meridians over a 24 Hour Period



### Notes: The Energy Flows of the Organ Meridians over 24 Hours

1. This schematic chart was conceived by Shelagh Marshal to represent the tidal flow of vital energy (chi) within the Organ Meridian system over a 24 Hour Period. The dashed lines represent the internal flows between meridians (from the exit point of one meridian to the entry point of the next).
2. Comprising 12 individual organ meridians the whole system is broken down into three circuits of the body. Each circuit takes around 8 hours to complete and comprises four meridians which are always paired together in this sequence:  
Heart & Small Intestine; Bladder & Kidney;  
Pericardium & Triple Warmer; Gall Bladder & Liver;  
Lung & Large Intestine; Stomach & Spleen.
3. Each circuit begins in the Chest area (by virtue of internal flows), moves down the arms to the fingers, up the arms to the head, then down the full length of the body to the feet, before returning to the Chest.
4. Within each circuit, the polarity of the four meridians alternates between Yang and Yin. Between circuits, the polarity of connecting meridians is the same, Yang to Yang or Yin to Yin.

# Horary Clock

