COLUMNS

The Global Landscape: Organization and Association News

Academic Consortium for Complementary and Alternative Health Care

The Center for Optimal Integration: Creating Health is a project of the Academic Consortium for Complementary and Alternative Health Care (ACCAHC). The main goal of the Center is to provide a central, unified web portal for the dissemination of information that supports the values, practices, and disciplines associated with integrative health and medicine while engaging a diverse group of stakeholders in collaborative communities of learning.

A recent project of the Center began in 2013 as a collaborative effort with 7 ACCAHC member institutions that received funding from the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (now National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, NCCIH) to increase the incorporation of evidence-informed practice (EIP) into academic curricula. Resources developed through these grants were shared with ACCAHC and are housed in the Center via our Project to Enhance Research Literacy (PERL). EIP was identified in 2011 as 1 of 6 key “Competencies for Optimal Practice in Integrated Environments,” as endorsed by the ACCAHC Board of Directors and by councils of colleges associated with the 5 licensed integrative health and medicine professions represented by ACCAHC.

PERL was funded during 2014 principally through the Josiah Macy Jr Foundation with the working title “Organizing, Convening, and Stimulating Engagement in Evidence Informed Practice (EIP).” Our goal was to promote cultural change toward EIP in all ACCAHC member academic institutions by utilizing the PERL repository and Center site as a base to develop and nurture communities of learning among educators in the roughly 175 institutions and programs affiliated with ACCAHC.

A key strategy for 2014 included engaging the leadership of ACCAHC-member organizations as instrumental partners in dissemination. One highlight of this engagement was a collaborative webinar series dedicated to EIP for the massage therapy community. This series of 5 webinars journeyed from the role of research in massage therapy to practical ways of incorporating evidence into curricula and everyday practice. Produced in conjunction with multiple massage therapy organizations, the webinars have drawn professionals from outside of the massage therapy community. This series dedicated to EIP for the massage therapy community.

Work in 2015, also funded largely through the Josiah Macy Jr Foundation, will focus on the promotion of a standardized ACCAHC EIP competency assessment across all academic programs affiliated with ACCAHC.

Submitted by: Deb Hill, MS, PERL project manager

Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health

The Consortium of Academic Health Centers for Integrative Medicine, an organization devoted to advancing the principles of integrative medicine and health within academic institutions, has recently changed its name to the Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health. In addition to providing its 60 institutional members with a community of support for academic missions, the consortium is interested in strengthening its partnerships with other organizations to advance integrative healthcare.

In October 2014, the consortium met in Washington, DC, to discuss the future direction of the organization. From that meeting came 5 strategic priorities: (1) organizational identity and branding; (2) creating additional value for members; (3) engaging a full complement of disciplines within academic health centers/systems; (4) developing new, sustainable relationships with other organizations; and (5) improving the consortium’s website. The new name and logo are direct results of this meeting, and other changes are planned in the near future.

The consortium is working with the University of Maryland on the National Institutes of Health’s National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH) Cochrane Grant to develop an innovative educational module on Cochrane Reviews in Integrative Medicine to be shared with all consortium members. Susan Gould-Fogerite, PhD and Ben Kligler, MD, are spearheading this effort. A webinar was presented through the American College of Preventative Medicine (ACPM) Integrative Medicine in Preventive Medical Education (IMPriME) on using Cochrane and systematic reviews...
in integrative medicine in February 2015.

The consortium will host this year’s Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 3 to 5, 2015. The conference will feature meetings of its executive and steering committees; working groups with a focus on the strategic priorities; a day-long workshop led by Bill George, a professor at Harvard Business School and a supporter of integrative medicine; and the Bravewell lecture by Karen Feinstein, PhD, president and chief executive officer of the Jewish Healthcare Foundation and its two supporting organizations, the Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative and Health Careers Futures.

Planning continues for the 2016 International Congress on Integrative Medicine & Health that will be held May 18-20, 2016, in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Congress is being transformed into a meeting that not only features state-of-the-art research in the field, but will also have vibrant clinical, education, and policy tracks conducted with partner organizations.

For more information on the consortium, please visit www.imconsortium.org. The consortium’s new offices are located at 6728 Old McLean Village Dr, McLean, VA 22101.

Submitted by: Margaret Chesney, PhD, Chair, Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health

Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine

The Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine (AIHM) unites and harmonizes the many voices of integrative health—medical, naturopathic, and chiropractic physicians; psychologists; acupuncturists; nurses; nurse practitioners; physician assistants; physical therapists; massage therapists; pharmacists; midwives; homeopaths; and many others—to build bridges between professions and offer a high standard of educational programs for licensed healthcare providers.

AIHM has recently welcomed 4 new members to the Board of Directors: Rauni Prittipinen King, RN, MIH, BSN, CHTP/I, HNB-BC; Bill Meeker, DC, MPH; Lucia Thornton, RN, MSN, AIHN-BC; and Jennifer Blair, LAc, MaOM. The diverse board contributes resources and wisdom to the academy’s commitment to pluralism and interprofessional collaboration.

The next AIHM conference, “People Planet Purpose: Global Practitioners United in Health & Healing,” will take place in San Diego, California, October 24 to 29, 2015. The conference offers continuing medical education credit and will attract a community of healthcare professionals participating in a renewal of spirit and a confirmation of values. Speakers will discuss a shared vision of health that includes themes of accessibility, social equity, planetary stewardship, self-care, interdisciplinary teamwork, and resiliency.

In addition to the annual conference, AIHM is working with its membership to develop chapters around the country. AIHM has established chapters in Michigan, Ohio, and San Francisco and has sprouted beginnings in San Diego, Bombay, and London.

Among the upcoming initiatives of AIHM is a commitment to expand its international presence. In addition to the development of international chapters, AIHM is planning a conference with 2 other organizations in Europe in 2016. AIHM is also delighted to partner with the Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health (formerly CAHCIM) on the clinical track of the “International Congress on Integrative Medicine and Health” (ICIMH) in Las Vegas, Nevada, in May 2016.

AIHM’s advocacy initiatives are taking root thanks to a partnership with the Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium (IHPC). The groups have agreed to work collaboratively on issues of international health and policy.

AIHM is also pleased to partner with the Academic Consortium of Complementary and Alternative Health Care (ACCAHC) to develop the first of AIHM’s certificate programs for healthcare professionals. The first module of the “Certificate in the Practice of Integrative Health: Transforming Ourselves, Our Patients and Our World” is anticipated to be announced by early spring 2015 and available by mid-autumn.

For more information about AIHM’s mission, vision, and values, membership benefits, educational programs, and opportunities to take action, please visit www.aihm.org.

Submitted by: Nan Sudak, executive director, AIHM

American Public Health Association

National Public Health Week: A Time to Celebrate Wellness

Initiated 20 years ago by the American Public Health Association (APHA), National Public Health Week (NPHW) is a time for all advocates of public health to rally. NPHW will be commemorated in 2015 from April 6 to 12. Its theme is “Healthiest Nation in One Generation.” The aim of this theme is to improve health indicators in the United States, which currently is ranked at no. 15 of the top 17 industrialized countries in terms of health outcomes. APHA is directing its educational pro-
A number of exciting recent initiatives have been established in Australia with both national and international significance for traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine. The Australian Research Centre in Complementary and Integrative Medicine (ARCCIM) has recently been awarded a research grant by the Chiropractor’s Association of Australia to independently design, lead, and conduct the first national-scale practice-based research network project focusing on Australian chiropractic care. The Australian Chiropractic Research Network (ACORN) project has received funding for an initial 3 years of research to provide a mapping of chiropractic across Australia and to establish a sustainable database resource for building research capacity around chiropractic. This exciting initiative is led by Professors Jon Adams and David Sibbritt and will examine issues of safety, effectiveness, and affordability of chiropractic care utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods. For further information, please visit www.acorn-arccim.com.

Similar to a number of other national public health associations, the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) has an established special interest group focusing on promoting public health research and scholarship in complementary healthcare. The PHAA “Evidence, Research, and Practice in Complementary Medicine” (ERPCM) special interest group has strong collaborations and memoranda of understanding with a number of similar special interest groups around the world including the American Public Health Association (APHA), Indonesian Public Health Association (IAPKMI), Brazilian Collective Health Association (ABRASCO), and Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA). Members from all of these public health association special interest groups are currently collaborating on a flagship book providing the first critical public health and health services research overview of traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine.

Submitted by: Jon Adams, PhD, Professor of Public Health and Director, ARCCIM, Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney; National Convenor, PHAA Special Interest Group in “Evidence, Research, and Practice in Complementary Medicine”

Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium

When the Integrative Healthcare Policy Consortium (IHPC) launched CoverMyCare.org, its first consumer-facing campaign in October of 2014, it was only days before the US Senate Appropriations Committee was due to receive from the departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, and Labor revised guidance on Section 2706 of the Affordable Care Act, “Non-discrimination in healthcare.”
CoverMyCare was launched with sponsorships from Bastyr University’s Center for Health Policy Leadership, Kenmore, Washington, and by the American Massage Therapy Association. In 2015, additional funding has been provided by the Academy of Integrative Health & Medicine, the Institute for Integrative Health and Life University. For more information, please visit the site: http://www.covermycare.org.

Submitted by: Taylor Walsh, CoverMyCare Program Director, IHPC, and Alyssa Wostrel, MBA, Executive Director, IHPC

International Society for Complementary Medicine Research

To help bring researchers around the world together, the International Society for Complementary Medicine Research (ISCMR, www.iscmr.org) co-organizes an annual international research congress. This year, ISCMR’s 10th Annual International Congress on Complementary Research (ICCMR) is in Jeju, South Korea, May 13-15, 2015 (see www.iccmr2015.org/). For anyone interested in joining ISCMR—particularly Asian-Pacific clinicians and researchers this year—this is an excellent opportunity to learn about ISCMR and engage with the membership. And joining ISCMR (for $90) saves you $125 on the registration fee for the Congress.

The ICCMR theme is “Inspiring Future Healthcare: The innovative role and sustainable development of traditional and integrative medicine.” Key congress objectives include increasing dialogue around the possibilities, limitations, and future development of traditional/integrative medicine treatment in future healthcare. To this end, keynote lectures include

- “Regulating CAM: Be Careful What You Wish For” (Heather Boon, Canada)
- “Evidence of Kampo Medicine and Government Initiatives on Integrative Medicine in Japan” (Kiichiro Tsutani, Japan)
- “The Co-evolution of Tai Chi and Biomedical Research: A model for Integrative Mind-Body Therapies” (Peter Wayne, United States)
- “Clinical Research Paradigm of Acupuncture and Moxibustion of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Real World” (Liu Baoyan, China)

On an ongoing basis, ISCMR supports regional chapters and research methods–focused special interest groups in its primary work to support and promote rigorous research inquiry and knowledge transfer between clinicians and researchers about complementary and alternative modalities, integrative healthcare practices, and traditional medicine. It also provides access to resources such as a member database and discounts with scholarly journals in the field for its members. For more information, please visit www.iscmr.org.

Submitted by: Heather Boon, PhD, President, ISCMR

World Federation of Chiropractic

In January, the World Federation of Chiropractic (WFC)
announced the launch of an important free online service for the chiropractic profession and the public it serves—a suggested reading list of key research papers.

The initiative is being led by Chair of the WFC’s Research Council, Greg Kawchuk, DC, PhD. Dr Kawchuk, who is also chair of Spinal Rehabilitation at the University of Alberta, Canada, has brought together expert curators from within the Research Council and abroad.

These curators have each focused on a subject area, resulting in 10 key papers listed in each of the 21 subject areas. These subject areas include cost-effectiveness of care, biomechanical and neuro-physiological mechanisms of action, safety, pediatrics, wellness, and many others.

Each listed paper includes the published abstract and link to the original publication when available. Importantly, the site is searchable and visitors can leave suggestions for new topics and papers. The selective reading list will be a live resource and updated as new research emerges. It can be accessed from the home page of the WFC at www.wfc.org.

Meanwhile, the WFC continues to work in conjunction with the European Chiropractors’ Union in preparing for its joint congress in May 2015. Titled “The Alpha and Omega of Spinal Healthcare,” the congress will bring together many of the world’s leaders in spine care. Initial indications are that it will be well attended and it is already attracting interest from nations in each of the WFC’s seven world regions.

The congress will see the retirement of its longstanding Secretary-General, David Chapman-Smith, who has held the post since the WFC was founded in 1988. Instrumental in the New Zealand government’s commission of inquiry into chiropractic in the 1970s, Mr Chapman-Smith has had a profound effect on the global development of the chiropractic profession worldwide. As a barrister and solicitor, he has represented and advised chiropractic associations throughout the world and has been involved in the chiropractic profession over 5 decades.

The WFC represents 90 countries from 7 world regions. For more information, visit www.wfc.org.

Submitted by: Richard Brown, DC, LLM, FEAC, FRCC, Executive Director, WFC