



INTEGRATIVE HEALTH POLICY CONSORTIUM

IHPC Board of Directors

Leonard A. Wisneski, MD, FACP
Chair

Alyssa Wostrel, MBA, DIHom (*Ex officio*)
Executive Director

Pamela Snider, ND
Vice-Chair

Gerard Clum, DC
Treasurer

Nick Jacobs, FACHE

Bill Reddy, LAc, DiplAc
Secretary

Karen Allen, CCH

Stan Appelbaum, OD, FCOVD

Dan Asimus, MD

Winona Bontrager, LPN, LMT

Sarah Buseman, ND candidate

Sherman Cohn, JD

Coquina Deger, MBA

Nancy Gahles, DC, CCH, RSHom (NA)

Susan Haeger

Mary Lawlor, CPM, LM, MA

Stephen Marini, DC, PhD

Peter Martin, DC

Erica Oberg, ND, MPH

Eric Polgar, MBA, LMT

Kasra Pournadeali, ND

Terri Roberts, JD, RN

Brian Thiel, MBA

Michael Traub, ND

Lucia Thornton, ThD, MSN, RN, AHN-BC

Robert Twillman, PhD, FAPM

Kory Ward-Cook, PhD, CAE

Stephen Welsh, DC, FICA

Rob Wyse

IHPC Partners for Health

Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine

American Academy of Pain Management

American Association of Naturopathic
Physicians

American Holistic Nurses Association

American Massage Therapy Association

Alliance for Massage Therapy Education

Bastyr University, Center for Health Policy and
Leadership

International Chiropractors Association

International Chiropractic Pediatric Association

Life University

National Association of Certified Professional
Midwives

National Center for Homeopathy

National Certification Commission for
Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine

Naturopathic Medical Students Association

Palmer College of Chiropractic

Samueli Institute

October 1, 2015

Josephine Briggs, MD, Director
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health
National Institutes of Health
31 Center Drive, Building 31, Room 2B-11
Bethesda, Maryland 20892-2182

Dear Dr. Briggs:

The Integrative Health Policy Consortium (IHPC) is writing to request that you restore the makeup of the NCCIH Advisory Council to include nine licensed alternative practitioners on the eighteen person board as called for in the original law that established the NCCIH. We make this request out of a deep commitment to interprofessionalism and team care in the field of integrative health and medicine as well as the influential role the NCCIH has in promoting the development of research capacity in the educational institutions within the complementary health field.

The IHPC is a national nonprofit 501(c)(4) consortium composed of 16 organizations and institutions (“Partners for Health”) representing more than 400,000 licensed, and state and nationally certified healthcare professionals. Our mission is to advocate for an integrative healthcare system with equal access to the full range of health-oriented, person-centered, regulated healthcare professionals.

IHPC’s Partner for Health organizations represent the licensed and certified integrative and complementary professions of chiropractic, acupuncture, homeopathy, naturopathy, certified professional midwifery, holistic nursing, massage therapy and integrative medicine (MDs/DOs, who have a met a standard in this field via certification through the American Board of Integrative Holistic Medicine). When a new Partner for Health organization joins IHPC, their association or organization is duly represented on the IHPC board. This intentionally invites all of the professions to have a “seat at the table” to participate in discussion of policy and advocacy issues critical to IHPC’s mission of the advancement of integrative healthcare in the US today and the full integration of conventional and complementary healthcare.

Our concern and reason for reaching out to your organization is that the Advisory Council of NCCIH does not reflect the diversity of the integrative and complementary professions. Out of the 18 seats on the Council, only two currently represent the multiple professions that deliver integrative care, a chiropractor and a naturopathic doctor. Congress charged NCCIH to have at least 50% of those seats filled with representatives from the complementary and integrative fields. Certainly, the professions of acupuncture, homeopathy, massage therapy, holistic nursing and midwifery are missing on the Advisory Council, and because of that, opportunities to advance interprofessionalism and team care are lost as well.

IHPC was formed in 2000 at the behest of legislators to represent a unified policy voice of the complementary and integrative professions. It is with that spirit that letters voicing similar concerns about the lack of diversity on the Advisory Council are attached to this email — representing two of our Partner for Health members, the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine and the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians. Additionally, a third letter is attached from IHPC’s sister organization, the Academic Consortium of Complementary and Alternative Health Care.

The Council is no longer in compliance with the spirit nor the letter of the Congressional mandate that established the NCCIH. This depleted representation on the Advisory Council for the diverse fields in integrative and complementary healthcare is restricting research capacity that your mandate intended to instill in their educational institutions. The original Advisory Council contained a full complement of nine alternative practitioners. Since then, this representation has diminished and the research capacity that could have been bolstered in those complementary and integrative professions has been allowed to erode.

We urge you to reverse this trend and fulfill your mandate regarding its composition. Hopefully, the new Council would advise a shift in research projects toward investment in the complementary schools. Complying with this mandate will also fulfill its important purpose and role in the development of research capacity in the complementary healthcare educational institutions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Leonard Wisneski, MD, FACP
Chair, IHPC



Bill Reddy, LAc, DiplAc
Secretary, IHPC



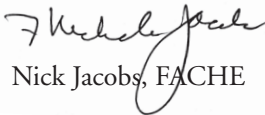
Alyssa Wostrel, MBA, DIHom
Executive Director



Gerry Clum, DC
Treasurer, IHPC



Pamela Snider, ND
Vice-Chair, IHPC



Nick Jacobs, FACHE

Attachments:

American Association of Naturopathic Physicians

Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine

Academic Consortium of Complementary and Alternative Health Care