International Society for Complementary Medicine Research

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Welcome

The ISCMR Executive Committee will send out a regular electronic News Bulletin to its members. In this first issue we update you on our activities over the past months as well as our plans for the future. We very much hope that you will provide us with feedback, suggestions and information that is relevant to our members. About 60 people signed up as Founding Members at the 10th Annual International Symposium for Complementary Health Care in London, November, 2003. One of our high priorities is to expand our membership. We hope we can count on our current membership to assist us with these efforts. To facilitate that effort, please find a membership application attached. We encourage you to share this with your interested colleagues. Anyone electing membership by June 30, 2004, will be considered a Founding Member.

Our Purpose

A multidisciplinary scientific organization to foster the development and dissemination of new knowledge regarding whole person healing and whole systems healthcare research, including all traditional, holistic, alternative, complementary, and integrative forms of medicine.

Our Executive Committee

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Please contact us with your suggestions!

Journals

At our inaugural meeting in London, in November last year, some of the original membership material suggested that the journal, FACT, would be an integral part of the membership package. In our first letter to members, however, we explained that we were in the process of negotiating with all the main CAM journals, including Complementary Therapies in Medicine, the Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine, eCAM, Evidence Based-Integrative Medicine, as well as FACT. We believe that one of the primary benefits of membership will be to deliver to our members the option of the cheapest possible journal subscriptions, with the journal(s) of their choice, so the aim of our current negotiations is to get the best possible discounts from the relevant journal publishers. If any of you would like us to think about any other CAM or integrated medical journals, we would be happy to do so. Our plan is to have as much information as possible collected and collated by April and get back to you in May this year with a firm offer.

Our Current Activities

At the moment your Executive Committee is having regular telephone conferences with the aim of trying to get all the administrative details of the Society in place so we can actually get on with our major function, which is promoting and fostering international research links. We believe that this will be especially relevant to researchers who wish either to attend conferences or who wish to cooperate on various research projects. For instance, one of the big issues in European Union funded research is finding appropriate partners in other EU countries. As this is a pre-requisite for funding submissions to some funds, we believe the International Society will enable this process.

Our website will be supported through the University of Calgary. This will enable us to set up a modest website which we believe is an excellent beginning. We have applied for a small grant to the John and Lotte Hecht Memorial Foundation (Canada) to cover the expenses related to website development.

Activities that we will further explore and pursue in the future are establishing relationships and partnerships with other research groups, networks and societies, as well as the development of special interest groups.

Conferences

We would also like to formally announce that the 11th Annual Symposium for Complementary Health Care, the "Exeter Conference," will be happening in Exeter on November 17-19, 2004, and another international conference is also planned in Alberta, Canada, in the fall of 2005. A representative of ISCMR will be on the planning committee for both conferences. ISCMR will hold its annual meeting of members in conjunction with these conferences. There is also the possibility of satellite working groups or workshops. If any of you know of conferences that are either national or international, please send them to us as we would like to keep our web site continually updated with as much conference information as possible from all over the world. Our Executive and Board will try to represent ISCMR at as many conferences as possible and be available to provide information and answer questions. At the first Natural Health Product Research Society Conference in February in Montreal, Canada, Marja Verhoef was given some time for a brief keynote address. We will continue to look for such opportunities.

Suggestions

If you have any suggestions as to what you as an individual member would like to see in our regular newsletters, please let any one of the Executive Committee know. We are working hard to make this society a reality so that we may serve the international research community.

Membership

Our intention, as an Executive Committee, is to make all those who join ISCMR by June 30, 2005, Founding Members, and to make our normal membership year begin July, 1 2004. We believe that by July 1 we will have a properly constituted Board of Directors with appropriate registered non-profit status, bylaws and a bank account registered in Michigan. That means that all the Founding Members will have valid membership through June 30, 2005.

Conference Calendar

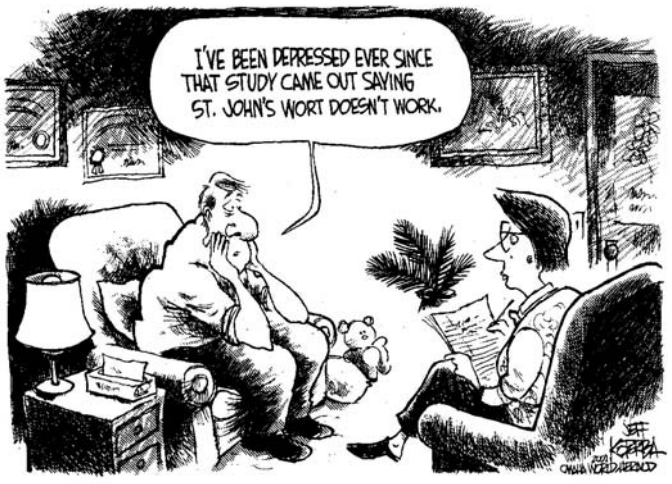
May 14, 2004. Developing Research Strategies: Research in Practice, a one-day conference in Southampton, UK. For more information contact Jane Cousins at jcc2@soton.ac.uk

June 25, 2004. First Annual Research Symposium on Energetic and Spiritual Processes of Healing, Colorado Springs, Colorado. To register or for more information, please contact Lizzie Woodburn at research@ncnm.edu or visit www.ncnm.edu/energy-symposium

November 17-19, 2004. 11th Annual Symposium on Complementary Health Care, Exeter, UK. For more information contact Barbara Wider at B.Wider@exeter.ac.uk

December 4-5, 2004. First Annual Conference of the Canadian Interdisciplinary CAM Research network (IN-CAM), Toronto, Canada. To register or for more information: www.incamresearch.ca

Almost all national societies will have regular meetings that will involve some element of research and we intend to include access to this on our website through information gleaned from each national representative. For the present time we have just listed international non-therapy specific research conferences.



JEFF KOTERBA