

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

This has been an incredible spring for the Consortium.

I just wanted to share with all of you my excitement about where the Consortium is at this moment, and about the incredible momentum we have right now (thanks to all of you) in helping move the field of integrative medicine forward in ways that no other organization in the world is able to do.

In April 2013 alone, six new developments occurred through the Consortium which represent advances in the field that could not have taken place without the collaboration possible through CAHCIM's existence. Take a minute to read and enjoy, and dream about what comes next:

1. A new consensus set of competency guidelines for fellowship education in integrative medicine, the product of an interdisciplinary multi-institution task force in the Consortium, was accepted for publication by Academic Medicine, the leading academic journal in medical education. These guidelines will set a new standard for fellowship education in our field.
2. An article was published by a team of authors from the Consortium in the journal Family Medicine describing the results of a survey of CAHCIM clinical practices, providing the first comprehensive picture of how integrative medicine is being practiced within the academic setting in North America
3. In response to a letter from faculty at 20 Consortium member institutions to the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) on the need for more integration of non-pharmacological treatments for pain into JCAHO's standards, Dr. Daniel Castillo, Medical Director in the Division of Healthcare Quality Evaluation agreed to establish an expert panel to further develop the Joint Commission's standards in this area.
4. The LEAPS into IM program, a leadership training program for medical students sponsored by the Consortium, was funded by the Weil Foundation for a fifth consecutive year. This year 67 students applied for 30 available spots.
5. The International Congress for Clinicians in Complementary and Integrative Medicine, a conference planned by CAHCIM for October 2013, received 199 submissions for peer review, more than double the number of proposals anticipated.
6. The planning committee for the next International Research Congress in Integrative Medicine and Health, taking place in Miami in May 2014, secured a commitment from former Army Surgeon General Eric Schoomaker to deliver a keynote address entitled "The Imperative for Integrative Medicine in the Military."

As we race through our busy days and weeks of patient care, research, teaching and activism, I just wanted us all to stop for a minute to appreciate the magnitude of what we are accomplishing by working together as we do.

Thank you all for all your energy and hard work in moving integrative medicine forward, and for being part of the Consortium. I can't wait to see what comes next!

With great gratitude and respect,

Ben Kligler