



## International Society for Complementary Medicine Research

April 2009

Dear ISCMR Members

This is the last newsletter from the Executive Committee before our Annual General Meeting of ISCMR within the NARCCIM Conference from May 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> in Minneapolis.

### **Annual General Meeting May 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 Minneapolis 530-7pm Salon G Hilton Hotel**

I would like to invite you once again to join us in our Annual General Meeting of ISCMR on Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 from 530 to 7pm at the Conference Venue in Minneapolis, Salon G. We will be holding elections (see below), and we will be giving you an update of the state of the society. Also we will ask your input on several political discussions in the future, and we hope that you come along.

### **ISCMR Day May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Unlike other conferences, we could not, for organisational reasons, co-organise the conference with the conference organiser, as the consortium is itself a very complicated structure. Instead, our President Elect, Cheryl Ritenbaugh, succeeded in getting a grant that allows us to run a specific day on International Collaboration as an ISCMR pre-conference day, and we will also be organising a Whole Systems Complexity workshop within the conference. The ISCMR day is a special event that needs to be booked separately. ISCMR Members receive full discount and the whole event can be booked via the NARCCIM website ([www.imconsortium-conference.org](http://www.imconsortium-conference.org)). We will have a full day on International Collaboration with some invited presenters and room for discussion. Please come along and invite all your friends. Non- ISCMR members who register for this day will receive a full years ISCMR membership with the registration. You will find the programme attached to this newsletter and on our website ([www.iscmr.org](http://www.iscmr.org)).

### **Board of Directors Election**

We will have several vacancies for our Board of Directors this upcoming period. The Board of Directors is the actual steering group that directs ISCMR business and oversees the actions of the Executive Committee. Hence everybody interested in the political development of ISCMR can have influence via the Board of Directors. Although we have a couple of candidates (see candidates statements below) we are still open to receiving nominations and we will also accept nominations from the floor. Please consider being nominated or nominate yourself if you are interested in steering ISCMR business.

## **Candidates for Board of Directors**

### George Lewith

I've been involved with the International Society for Complementary Medical Research since its inception, initially as Vice President and then subsequently as President. I have a strong continuing attachment to the Society and would like to remain on the board of directors to help, enable and to facilitate the Society's development and progress. I've been involved in complementary medical research for the best part of 30 years and I'm personally acquainted with many of the individuals who work in the area and would like to put these networks at ISCMR's service.

### Tsutomu Kamei

1985. Graduated from Nagasaki University School of Medicine

1989. Graduated from Nagasaki University Graduate School of Medical Science

After postdoctoral fellow in University of Michigan, Pediatrician and Researcher in Shimane Medical University, Director in Shimane Institute of Health Science,

2009. Professor in European University Viadrina

Visiting professor in Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana, University of Saugar, Jiangnan University, Kanazawa University Graduate School of Medical Science  
Medical Specialist Associated with the Japan Society for Oriental Medicine, Health Care Physician,

2005. Award of Honour by Yoga and Psychotherapy Association of India and 2nd International Conference on Psychotherapy, Yoga and Spirituality

2008. Poster Abstract Award by International Society of Behavioral Medicine

Director of Japanese Society for CAM, International Society of Life Information Science, Council on EBM for Natural Products

Editorial Board of Oriental Pharmacy & Experimental Medicine

Board of International Editorial Advisors, Online Journal – Ayurvision Bulletin

### Stephen Myers

I initially trained as a naturopathic physician and then in conventional medicine. Pursuing a career in research I completed a PhD in basic and clinical pharmacology undertaking a project on natural products. I headed the first professional training program in naturopathic medicine in a publicly funded Australian university (Southern Cross University) in the mid-90's. I now lead a small research unit (NatMed-Research) which undertakes a wide range of clinical research and trains post-graduate students (PhD, MSc). We hope to develop whole-practice research expertise across a range of CM modalities.

### Torkel Falkenberg

Associate Professor Torkel Falkenberg is Academic Leader of the Unit for Studies of Integrative Health Care ([www.ki.se/csc](http://www.ki.se/csc)) and Head of Division of Nursing

(<http://ki.se/ki/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=24828&a=62989&l=en>) at Karolinska Institutet. The unit is involved in research, development and education related to utilisation and provision of traditional, complementary, alternative and integrative therapy. Research project members often include a wide range of medical, traditional, alternative and complementary professionals and researchers from various disciplines including nursing, midwifery, medicine, medical anthropology, etc as well as (when relevant) health care planners and

decision makers nationally and internationally. Our aim is to contribute to integrative health care development based on a broad and multidisciplinary 'evidence house' where research methods are triangulated to form the basis for evidence based health sector reform and best practice development. Such rigorous and evidence based integrative health care programmes should at the same time be sensitive to the patients' freedom of choice and safety and acknowledge health and wellness of the whole person including biological, psychological, social and spiritual aspects, whenever relevant. Falkenberg has carried out health systems research and contributed internationally to improve health care utilisation through national drug policies and health systems interventions. Falkenberg has acted as international coordinator, national coordinator and senior researcher respectively in large international health care interventions projects which have attracted substantial EC framework funding. In addition, Falkenberg has contributed to several WHO strategies and papers in the area of TM/CAM as well as authored textbooks - recently the first textbook in Swedish entitled Integrative Care.

### **Election of ISCMR Executive Committee**

This year we will have a full election of the ISCMR Executive Committee. I myself will stand down as President, and Cheryl Ritenbaugh is going to succeed me as President. We will have to re-elect a President Elect, and we have secured Claudia Witt as a potential candidate, who I would hope will find a majority vote. Please see her statement in this newsletter. Laurie La Chance will continue as a treasurer if you give her your vote again, which I hope everyone will do. We have secured the candidature of Purusotam Basnet for Administrative Secretary, who we are very grateful for.

Although we have found candidates for all these positions, this does not mean that you can not present yourself or somebody else as an alternative candidate for any of the positions. We will also be accepting nominations from the floor at the time, but it would be good if you could step forward should you be interested in being nominated for one of the positions, as we can then inform members of your profile.

#### **Claudia M. Witt**

Claudia M. Witt, MD, MBA is professor of complementary medicine at the University Medical Center, Charité in Berlin Germany. She is trained as a conventional physician and epidemiologist. In May 2008 she was appointed to the first chair specifically for research into complementary medicine, in Germany. She is also Vice Director of the Institute for Social Medicine, Epidemiology and Health Economics at the Charité and head of the CAM division. Her name is associated with many of the recent large German acupuncture trials, but she has also conducted basic and clinical research in several different CAM fields. She has more than 70 publications in peer reviewed journals. Not only is Claudia a well qualified researcher but she also has an MBA and considerable administrative experience.

For further information see ([http://www.charite.de/epidemiologie/english/ag\\_witt.html](http://www.charite.de/epidemiologie/english/ag_witt.html)).

For the past two years I had the privilege and pleasure to serve the ISCMR as board member and now I seek to increase and develop my engagement. It would be an honor to serve the ISCMR as president and to enhance its role by emphasizing its international, cooperative approach. In addition I believe that as a next step a structured CAM research methodology

training within ISCMR could help to professionalize and develop young scientists and support our mission of promoting rigorous research into CAM.

### Purusotam Basnet

I was born and educated to the university level in Nepal. I got my Ph.D. degree from Toyama Medical and Pharmaceutical University, Toyama, Japan. I completed two postdoctoral researches in Japan and Germany. I was visiting associate professor and visiting professor in Toyama Medical and Pharmaceutical University, Japan and Ehime University, Japan, respectively. I served as educator, administrator and policy maker with the role of professor, program director, dean, and also as a member of university, academic and executive councils in Pokhara University, Nepal. Currently, I have been continuing research as a senior researcher in NAFKAM, University of Tromsø, Tromsø, Norway. I have spent past 20 years in education, research and university administration. Immunomodulating properties of traditional medicine are my research interests. My aim is to find logical reason and scientific evidence for the use of traditional medicines of natural origin, particularly those originating from Asian countries.

### **ISCMR Business**

Although you have not heard much from us we have been very busy behind the scenes, both with organising the ISCMR day, Cheryl with finding the funding for it, and with other organisational issues. Let me take this opportunity to thank Cheryl very much for the huge effort she has put into getting the funding for this meeting sorted, and for actually acquiring funds at a time when it is very, very difficult to find extra funding. Our treasurer Laurie La Chance has spent a lot of time and work behind the scenes getting finance and handling membership so that our business can move forward and we still have money in the bank. Let me thank Laurie for her enormous efforts and let me assure you that the money you are giving to ISCMR is well invested and is growing the impact of ISCMR as a scientific society. We will be presenting more of what we have done at our Annual General Meeting, and those of you who cannot come will read our reports in the next newsletter. One of our major focal points over the last few months has been to get the automatic renewal and membership handling system up to date, and we hope we will have a solution to present to you at the Annual General Meeting, either for approval, or if the Board of Directors has approved it, to inform you.

### **Conferences in Tromso, Norway 2010 and Asia 2011**

As you know the Tromso conference is already well planned. It will be from May 17<sup>th</sup> to May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 in Tromso, Norway. You will receive an update at the Annual General Meeting or in the next newsletter. Please mark the date. In 2011 the meeting will be in Asia again, and we are currently in discussion with the Chinese group to hold the meeting in China. We are also open to other proposals, but have not received any substantial proposal which we can move forward on so far, so our guess here at the Executive Committee is that our Board of Directors will support the proposal which we have already in hand.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at our Annual General Meeting in Minneapolis in May and, until then, with my best wishes,

Harald Walach, ISCMR President