

# NEWSLETTER OF THE ISCMR

ISSUE 3, 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*Harald Walach*

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It has been a while since we informed you about the most recent developments within ISCMR. This has to do with the fact that we had a lot of organisational ups and downs regarding our website and payment methods that kept us very busy. However, we also achieved some progress in several areas. One of them, which we already announced last time, is the setting up of a series of conferences. You all know that the Sydney conference is coming up very quickly, and we look forward to our first expansion into the Pacific realm. We also hope to attract many Chinese and Asian members to ISCMR. For that to be successful in the future, we will publish our series of conferences.

## **NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE, MINNEAPOLIS, 2009**

We have finally come to at least a provisional agreement with the North American conference, which will be held from May 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Minneapolis, and there will be an international ISCMR day on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May somehow. At present we don't know how we are going to organise and run this, but we will surely have our ISCMR day then. So please mark this day in your calendars and come along if you are at all able to.

## **EUROPEAN CONFERENCE, TROMSØ, NORWAY, 2010**

We will then have the next European conference in Tromsø, Norway, organised by Vinjar Fønnebø and his NAFKAM group, May 19-21, 2010. At this time of the year it will be nearly daylight all day and you will experience a magnificent Nordic spring. Visit

www.iccmr2010.com or email Vinjar Fønnebø at Vinjar.Fonnebo@fagmed.uit.no for further information.

#### **EUROPEAN CHAPTERS/FIRST EUROPEAN CONGRESS FOR INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE**

Meanwhile, the European chapter of ISCMR is forming itself as its own group. It will be constituted at the first European Congress for Integrative Medicine, which is going to be held in Berlin, November 7-8, 2008 (contact Prof. Stefan Willich at stefan.willich@charite.de for further information). We are in contact with the organisers of this conference to ensure some ISCMR input into the organisation, and they have agreed to make this conference also a platform for ISCMR Europe. We use this to encourage you all to think about potential local or national ISCMR sections that could allow to pursue your national or political agenda more effectively. In the same vein, we will be discussing the option for larger groups to join ISCMR at the annual general meeting to be held in Sydney.

#### **CAM SUMMER SCHOOL, POTSDAM, GERMANY**

Postgraduate education has always been on the agenda of ISCMR, and we are pleased to announce that there is a research methods in CAM international summer school that is organised by German members Claudia Witt and Klaus Linde, in Potsdam from September 3-7, 2008, which is open to a small number of international participants. Whoever is interested should visit [www.charite.de/epidemiologie](http://www.charite.de/epidemiologie) (see NEWS) or [www.muemo.med.tu-muenchen.de](http://www.muemo.med.tu-muenchen.de), or contact Klaus Linde at [klaus.linde@lrz.tum.de](mailto:klaus.linde@lrz.tum.de). I take this opportunity to encourage you all to let us know about your postgraduate education efforts, so we can publish it on the ISCMR website and include it in our Newsletters.

#### **GLOBAL INTEGRATIVE TRADITIONAL MEDICINE CONFERENCE, VANCOUVER, CANADA**

The Canadian Research Institute of Spirituality and Healing is organising a conference on Global Integrative Traditional Medicine - Rediscovering the Essence, to be held in

Vancouver, Canada, September 27-29, with abstract submission deadline May 1, 2008.  
More information can be obtained from [www.crish.org](http://www.crish.org), or by emailing [info@crish.org](mailto:info@crish.org).

#### **PAYPAL**

Our treasurer, Laurie Lachance, would like to remind everybody that from the point of administration using Paypal is the most efficient method of payment. We know that this is not always the preferred method of payment for many as there is a lot of Paypal spamming around on the net. However, it is still the most effective and cheapest way for us to obtain membership fees. So would you please all use the Paypal system if at all possible, or else credit cards. We will have to increase membership fees for those using cheques or money transfers, as they always incur roughly 20 USD costs if coming from abroad.

May I take this opportunity to remind all members that the ISCMR Newsletter is not just an outlet for the Exec to inform you about ISCMR activities, but also a potential outlet for you to inform other members about your ideas and activities. So please do use this outlet if you have something to say.

I hope to see you all in Sydney for an exciting conference and to hear back from those of you who won't be able to make it either by email or by receiving information.

Harald Walach  
President, ISCMR

## ANNUAL MEETING IN SYDNEY

*Corina Güthlin*

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Please come to our Annual Meeting at Sydney. It will take place on Sunday, March 30, 2008, 5.15-6.15pm.

Your input to the following topics will be very much appreciated:

- life-long membership
- bylaws changes with respect to length of membership and
- SIGs Regional Chapters
- re-election/ election of Board of Directors meeting, etc.

We will have to confirm BOD members in their office and have to elect one new member. Please find here the candidates' statements:

*Dr. Ursula Wolf, M.D.*

I am a MD and also educated in anthroposophic medicine. Besides my clinical education I have been involved in research for the last 16 years, when I started research during my doctoral thesis. I have spent three and a half years in the US carrying out research in biomedical optics and in the field of basic research on homeopathically potentized substances.

After my return from the US I have been working on the Swiss Program Evaluation of Complementary Medicine (PEK), one of the largest and most comprehensive assessments of CAM worldwide. I directed the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in phytomedicine and contributed intensively to the others (a total of 5) and thus acquired a broad knowledge of different types of CAM.

During the last years I have been employed as a senior scientist at the Institute of Complementary Medicine KIKOM in Bern, Switzerland, where I am mainly performing research but also teach and see patients.

I am a member of the Board of the Swiss Anthroposophic Doctors' Association and a member of the Scientific Board of the European Information Center on CAM (EICCAM). It will be my great pleasure to contribute my expertise to ISCMR. I am convinced that CAM will continuously grow and gain increasing importance and it is therefore my wish and intention to support and assist ISCMR on this crucial path.

*Dr. Moshe Frenkel, M.D., Associate Professor*

Dr. Moshe Frenkel is the medical director of the Integrative Medicine Program, in the Department of Palliative Care and Rehabilitation Medicine.

Dr. Frenkel is in the process of developing a multidisciplinary team in integrative medicine that provides clinical consultation and integrative treatments to patients and their families who wish to integrate complementary and integrative medicine (CIM) into their cancer care. Part of his responsibilities is to continue to develop and improve the clinical CIM provision and collaborate on research initiatives related to CIM. In the course of this process advance knowledge on the outcome and effectiveness of these therapies through peer reviewed mixed methodology research. Dr. Frenkel is particularly interested in developing collaboration on these issues with national and international academic centers with similar interests.

Dr. Frenkel attended medical school at Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Israel 1980. He completed his residency and received his diploma in Family Medicine from Hebrew University, Hadassah Hospital, Jerusalem, Israel. He completed a Family Practice Residency at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital Medical Center, Patchogue, New York Affiliated with Stony Brook University. Prior to joining M. D. Anderson he was at The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. As a faculty member, he served as a key contributor to an NIH grant on integrating CIM into the medical school curriculum, as well as providing CIM consultations to patients and families.

*Dr. Natalie Walker, Ph.D.*

I am an epidemiologist involved in the design, conduct and analysis of clinical trials, systematic reviews and observational studies at the Clinical Trials Research Unit, School of

Population Health, Auckland University, Auckland, New Zealand. My specialist research interests include cardiovascular epidemiology (particularly venous disease in the lower limb), smoking cessation research, the use of novel technology in disease prevention, and research into the efficacy and safety of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM).

I am one of few people in New Zealand that are undertaking CAM research, and I feel that maintaining a link with an international organisation such as ISCMR is vital for gaining credibility for this field of research. I am a member of the Interim Joint Expert Advisory Committee on Complementary Medicines for the New Zealand government, and am a long-standing member of the Australasian Epidemiology Association. In both roles I have the opportunity to champion the role of ISCMR and encourage the conduct of high quality research and appropriate funding in the area of evidence-based CAM research.

*Dr. Jongbae Park, M.D., Assistant Professor*

I am Jongbae Park, Assistant Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with expertise in acupuncture, clinical trial, and research methodology. I joined the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation here at UNC following my career as Instructor in Medicine at the Harvard Medical School. I recently participated in an NIH Center for Excellence grant initiative in collaboration with researchers at the Duke University as Associate Director of the program, of which result we are awaiting. My current research interests include low back pain, scientific study on acupuncture sensation, and the effect of randomization and blinding.

I was initially trained in Korea, then spent 6 years in the UK for my post graduate training, and now permanently settled in the USA. The time and contacts that I have established up to this point in Asia, Europe and USA gives me confidence in promoting international collaboration in the field of complementary medicine research. I have two good reasons to stand for a BOD of ISCMR : I enjoy the role, and I believe that I can make significant contribution to the expansion of the Society.

## NAFKAM IS GIVEN STATUS AS WHO COLLABORATING CENTER IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

*Vinjar Fønnebo*

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On Friday February 22 NAFKAM received the official letter designating them as the second WHO Collaborating Center in Traditional Medicine in Europe. NAFKAM will collaborate with WHO in the following areas:

- To promote communications and information exchange in the field of TM/CAM through maintaining and updating the Centre's database of TM/CAM
- To promote research, particularly of clinical study of TM/CAM through organizing training programmes/workshops/symposium on research approaches and evaluation of TM/CAM
- To develop principal and appropriate methodology for clinical research and evaluation of safety and efficacy of TM/CAM through cooperation with WHO and other research institutions worldwide.
- To engage in international collaborative efforts, and to provide consultation relative to CAM research and training, upon the request of WHO.

## NEW CHAIR OF RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE

Professor Nicola Robinson, Head of the Centre for Complementary Healthcare and Integrated Medicine, the Faculty of Health and Human Sciences at Thames Valley University, has been appointed as Chair of the Research Council for Complementary Medicine (RCCM).

Professor Robinson takes up this position in the charity from Professor Mike Saks, Pro Vice Chancellor (Research and Academic Affairs) at the University of Lincoln, Chair of the RCCM since February 2003.

As such, she will be spearheading an organisation that has long championed evidence-based practice in Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM). A crucial part of its new strategy involves working closely with government, universities, the public, and professional bodies to further the development of CAM nationally and internationally.

Professor Robinson said she was “delighted to take on the role and is looking forward to continuing the process of raising the profile of complementary medicine”.

Professor Robinson is an acupuncturist and also chairs the British Acupuncture Council’s Research Committee.

Mike Saks, working closely with Trustees, has seen the RCCM through a transitional period in which it relocated premises from Devonshire Street to the newly refurbished Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital in Central London.

The RCCM has undertaken crucial work on initiatives such as building the strongest CAM research network in the UK, establishing the National Electronic Library for CAM and conducting a major funded project for the Department of Health defining the major priorities for CAM.’

Professor Saks said: ‘It has been a pleasure to lead the RCCM over the past four and a half years, where there have been very real achievements in continuing to extend the research base for CAM.’

He added: ‘I am sure that Professor Robinson will bring the necessary commitment, energy and expertise to the leadership of the RCCM through its next crucial phase of development, as it enters its twenty-fifth anniversary year.’