

# NCAHF THE BULLETIN BOARD

MARCH / APRIL, 1993

*The Bulletin Board* is sent to NCAHF members only. It is intended to stimulate and aid in activism against health fraud, misinformation and quackery at the local, state & national levels.

## ARTHRITIS REMEDIES TASK FORCE FORMED

Richard S. Panush, MD, Chairman of the Department of Medicine, and Professor of Medicine at the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School will serve as Coordinator of NCAHF's new Task Force on Questionable Arthritis Remedies. Dr. Panush is a leading contributor to the medical literature on the topic of questionable arthritis remedies. He is active with the American College of Rheumatology and the Arthritis Foundation. A member who wishes to participate on the task force should contact Dr. Panush directly at the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School, Old Short Hills Road, Livingston, NJ 07039.

## NEW ANTIQUACKERY BOOKS AVAILABLE

NCAHF's list of *Recommended Antiquackery Publications* has been revised to include 31 items, 14 of which are brand new. The lists will be enclosed upon renewal, but some members may not want to wait. A free copy of the new list may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the main office at Loma Linda.

## 1992 FINANCIAL REPORT

### INCOME

Sales	\$ 1,631.95
Member Dues	24,451.10
Subscriptions	5,510.10
Contributions	4,638.22
Miscellaneous	909.29
Interest	1,742.75
Total Income	\$38,883.41

### EXPENSES

Labor & Contractors	\$12,150.00
Occupancy	18,000.00
General Operating	7,995.76
Legal Action & Defense	650.63
Promotion & Expansion	63.00
Directors' Expenses	2,407.68
To Chapters & Divisions	1,145.41
Total Expenses	\$42,412.48

1992 Net Gain / (Loss)	\$ 3,529.07
Net Cash Assets 12/31/91	35,203.63
Net Cash Assets 12/31/92	31,674.56
Cash belonging to Chapters & Divisions	2,040.61
Total Cash On Hand	\$33,715.17

## AMA REPORT ON CLINICAL ECOLOGY

The Council on Scientific Affairs of the American Medical Association published a report on Clinical Ecology in the December 23/30, 1992 *JAMA* 268;(24):3465-7.

## 1993 DIRECTORY CHANGES

**Minnesota:** Sandra Erickson, President, 240 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55401-1999; (612) 334-4103

**Utah:** David Roll, PhD, Acting President, College of Pharmacy, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112.

**National Association for Chiropractic Medicine:** Coord: Daniel Futch, DC, P.O. Box 794, Middleton, WI 53562; (608) 257-9700, Ext.413

**HealthWatch (UK & Ireland):** Presidents: Nick Ross & Dr Michael O'Donnell, Box CAHF, London, WC1N 3XX, Tel. 081-673-4401.

## HEALTH FOODS STILL PRICEY

A *New York Times* service article in the *Milwaukee Journal* (2/28/93) describes the high price of health foods and the uncertainty that consumers are getting what they are buying. Contains useful information for nutrition educators.

## HEALTH VALUE OF GARLIC

Stephen Fulder, PhD, presents an interesting review of claims and facts regarding garlic. He affirms that in order to be useful, the garlic must be odorful. He says that "on average 1/2 clove a day per person is consumed worldwide, and in some societies people traditionally consume several cloves a day." [Townsend Letter for Doctors, 11/92; pp.1024-6]. This should provide epidemiologists with ready populations to compare for real world effects of garlic use.

## HOW JAMA WAS HOODWINKED BY AYURVEDICS

Andrew Skolnick describes how the *Journal of the American Medical Association* was tricked into publishing a promotional article by the marketers of Ayur-Vedic medicine, a wing of the Maharishi Melesh Yogi's Transcendental Meditation cult. This is a classic. It appeared in the Fall, 1991 issue of *SW*. Available for \$1 and a SSAE.

## LEGISLATIVE AGENDA OF MAVERICK MEDICINE

An article by Monica Miller, publicist for the *Foundation for Innovative Medicine*, an advocacy group for "medical freedom" (ie, a buyer beware health care marketplace that would remove most accountability from physicians who want to sell dubious medical care), lays out the current regulatory system in the USA, and what their fans need to do to legalize and force reimbursement for their brand of medical care. It is clear that The proponents of "alternative" medicine are scrambling hard to find a niche in the reorganization of health care in the USA. Those of us who believe in responsible medicine need to be active as well.

### **PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THERAPEUTIC TOUCH**

The Rocky Mountain Skeptics have made the appropriateness of RNs using Therapeutic Touch (TT) on patients a public issue in Colorado. RMS representatives challenged the Board of Registered Nursing for offering continuing education credit for pseudomedical practices (eg, crystal healing, acupressure, color therapy). The result was a feature article on the topic in *Westword* and many letters pro and con. The exchange of views provides insight into the varying points of view one can expect on controversial health care, including some very eloquent defenses of rationality and social responsibility in health care. Most interesting has been the retreat by TT advocates from first claiming a scientific basis for TT to arguing that they must be able to perform TT in order to subject the practice to scientific investigation.

### **OHIO CONFERENCE ON CANCER QUACKERY**

The Ohio Division of NCAHF will cosponsor a conference of questionable methods of cancer management with the Ohio American Cancer Society, Ohio Nutrition Council, Doctor's Hospital, Columbus, and Kent State University at Doctor's Hospital North in Columbus on May 21. For information contact: Gina Garnett, MEd, RD, Secretary, Ohio Division P.O. Box 40792, Cincinnati, OH 45240-0792; 513-742-9665.

### **TAKING THE FEAR OUT OF EATING**

Ohio Council members and faculty members at The Ohio State University, Charlette Gallagher, RD (nutrition consultant in the Dept of Family Medicine) and John Allred (Professor of Nutrition) have written an excellent book aimed at helping people make sensible food choices. The authors look at both sides of the controversy over the connection between food and health. It addresses these issues in an authoritative and entertaining manner. Published by Cambridge University Press 1992; hardcover \$39.95, paperback, \$14.95.

### **CHROMIUM PICOLINATE**

An exchange of views between chief promoter of chromium picolinate supplementation, Gary Evans of Bemidji State University, and critic Robert Lefavi of the Health & Human Performance Laboratory, Georgia Southern University, appeared in the *International Journal of Sports Nutrition*, 1993; 3:117-122. Chromium picolinate is one of the hottest alleged performance enhancers on the market. Evans claims that its use will improve lean body mass. NCAHF gets many requests for information on chromium picolinate, and we know that this exchange will be useful to some of our members.

### **HISPANIC HEALTH FRAUD CONFERENCE**

A Southeast Region Hispanic Health Fraud Conference sponsored by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration will meet May 19-21 at Miami, Florida. Speakers from major federal, state and county consumer protection agencies will make presentations. NCAHF participants will include Dr. John Renner and Clara Lawhead. For more information contact Ms. Lawhead at Pasco County Health Dept., 10841 Little Rd., New Port Richey, FL 34654-2533; 813-869-3900, ext 121.

### **DR. BOLTON RECOUNTS BATTLE WITH ALTA DENA**

NCAHF Board member, pediatrician John Bolton, MD, did his professional and civic duty when he became involved in the problem of *Salmonella dublin* contamination of certified raw milk being produced in California. He found himself up against a \$100 million a year dairy with political connections so powerful that public health considerations had become secondary. Dr. Bolton describes the *S. dublin* problem, his involvement and how it led to a frivolous \$110 million SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) suit against him. He tells how his malpractice insurance company refused to cover him claiming it did not involve his medical practice, and how his homeowner's umbrella insurance refused saying it involved his medical practice business. The case was thrown out of court, but took its toll in terms of frazzled nerves. ["Raw milk and raw nerves," *Calif Pediatrician*, Fall, 1992]

### **HERBERT FILES FDA PETITIONS**

NCAHF Board member Victor Herbert, MD, JD, has filed 3 citizen petitions with the FDA regarding herbal remedies and over-the-counter supplements containing iron, vitamin C and folate. The petitions request that warning labels be required on supplement labels on these products. Of concern are (1) the lack of control over herbal remedies for content, safety or efficacy; (2) the effect of iron and vitamin C upon serum ferritin in men who are genetically predisposed to iron overload; and, (3) the possible overuse of folate supplements by pregnant women who do not need them which is being encouraged by promotional efforts that capitalize on a Hungarian study in which folate supplements decreased the incidence of neural tube defect. Dr. Herbert's call for the responsible marketing of supplements comes in the midst of efforts by the health food industry to throw all caution to the wind in the form of the 1993 Health Freedom Act being carried by Senator Orrin Hatch.

### **ARIZONA HOMEOPATH INDICTED**

Harvey Bigelson, MD, the Arizona homeopath featured in the *NBC Dateline* expose (12/1/92) was charged by a federal grand jury with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States; 63 counts of false, fictitious, or fraudulent claims; 44 counts of mail fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States; and 8 counts of obstruction of proceedings before departments, agencies and committees. The indictment states that he attempted to collect about \$8,000 for colonic therapy, massage therapy, and chiropractic services (including acupuncture) which he knew were not covered under Medicare by using code numbers indicating "physical medicine." Bigelson and two associates are also charged with changing data in computer account histories of several patients, and submitting altered and falsified progress notes in response to a grand jury subpoena.

Please send items of possible interest to NCAHF members for *The Bulletin Board*, or for readers of the *NCAHF Newsletter* to NCAHF, P.O. Box 1276, Loma Linda, CA 92354; Fax 909-824-4838. Provide clear (not Fax) copies suitable for photocopying, and complete references for citation purposes.