

NCAHF THE BULLETIN BOARD

JANUARY / FEBRUARY, 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.

93-94 NCAHF OFFICERS AND BOARD CONFIRMED

A total of 110 ballots for 1993-4 officers and board members were returned. Although a small number came in after the deadline, all were counted. All nominees were confirmed.

NCAHF ANNUAL MEETING

The 1992 Annual General Membership meeting was held in conjunction with the Winter Board of Directors meeting at the Seapoint Hotel in San Diego. Membership and financial reports were presented (a financial report will appear in the March-April issue of the *Bulletin Board*). President Jarvis addressed the group on the status of NCAHF and the challenges facing it. No other business affecting the general membership was done.

SPLENDID BOOK ABOUT QUACKERY

American Health Quackery (Princeton Univ. Press, 1992), a collection of essays by the eminent historian James Harvey Young, is a major contribution to both the history and psychosocial dynamics of quackery. The chapters "Quackery and the American Mind" and "The Foolmaster Who Fooled Them" alone make the book a treasure to anyone interested in the behavioral aspects of quackery. More than a recitation of the foibles of human weakness preyed upon by quacks, the book provides lessons from the past that can keep society from repeating errors (recall Santiyana's famous caveat "those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it"). Particularly useful is Young's separation of two vantage points from which quackery may be viewed, from *above*, by health professionals and regulatory officials, and from *below* as seen by citizens.

The chapters "Folk Into Fake," "A Historian's Advice," and "Regulation of Health Quackery" are also highly relevant for today. Dr. Young tells how he became interested in quackery and why he writes with the high purpose of helping thwart quackery. His statement that the FDA "should take the lead in reenergizing a crucial phase of its basic mission, to *promote honest, rational, scientific medicine by vigorously opposing its opposite* (emphasis ours)," I believe, reflects the insight of science historians who are aware that obscurantism is the eternal enemy of human progress. The failure to adequately oppose quackery has allowed it to become a mega-industry with the resources to engage in the political and entrepreneurial destruction of responsible medicine.

1992 BULLETIN BOARD INDEX

Member can obtain a copy of the 1992 NCAHF *Bulletin Board* index for no charge by request and sending a stamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope to the main office at Loma Linda.

CRITIQUE OF GERSON CANCER THERAPY

Saul Green, PhD, provides a detailed critique of the Gerson Clinic's use of coffee enemas and diet for cancer treatment (*JAMA*, 1992;268:3224-7). Past efforts at discrediting questionable cancer remedies have focused upon the theory of, and lack of evidence for, the proponent's claims. Green's penetrating analysis goes beyond this approach to the proponent's alleged mechanisms of action, thoroughly discrediting the physiological rationale behind this popular cancer therapy. Few qualified scientists have been willing to put forth the effort such a critique requires. Green has made a great contribution to consumer health education, and we are told that more such work will be forthcoming. Dr. Green is a new member of the NCAHF Board of Directors.

COURT DISMISSES HERBERT FROM CTCA LAWSUIT

On Dec. 16, U.S. District Court Judge A. Joe Fish dismissed Victor Herbert from the *Cancer Treatment Centers of America* lawsuit for lack of jurisdiction. He and others were sued for critical comments published in the *Dallas Morning News*.

NIH FUMBLE: NAIVETE OR CONSPIRACY?

NCAHF's main objection to the new NIH Office of Alternative Medicine has been the use of NIH's prestige by the proponents of questionable health care in their promotions. We now learn that NIH rules require contractors sign an agreement not to use their association with NIH in their promotions, but that in the case of the ad hoc committee, the rule was waived. Not only have several used their NIH association in publicity, but at least one used it in the courtroom to legitimize his promotion of unapproved cancer remedies. We wonder if this deviation from the rules was due to incredible naivete or a behind-the-scenes conspiracy by the advocates of pseudomedicine.

HEIDELBERG APPEAL

Last issue members were informed about the Heidelberg Appeal which pleads for the use of science in decision-making about environmental concerns. Signers are receiving a special issue of *Projections*. The issue is well worth reading if you are interested in questions regarding hazardous substances, the ozone layer hole, overpopulation, and so forth. More than 2,000 individuals, including 63 Nobel Prize winners, have signed the appeal and filed them with the Coordinator of the Heidelberg Appeal in Paris, France. NCAHF members who would like a copy of the 1-page appeal for their possible signature, send a SSAE to NCAHF.

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.

1993 DIRECTORY

Special Task Force Groups

(Coordinator)
Acupuncture
 (Wallace Sampson, MD)
Addiction Therapy
 (William London, EdD)
AIDS Quackery
 (John Renner, MD)
Broadcast Media Abuse
 (Russell Worrall, OD)
Children's Health Threats
 (Seth Asser, MD)
Chiropractic
 (William Jarvis, PhD)
Consumer Activism
 (Wallace Sampson, MD)
Diet and Behavior
 (Joyce Nettleton, DSc)
Dubious Cancer Care
 (Ben Wilson, MD)
Ergogenic Aids
 (David Lightsey, MS)
Herbal Remedies
 (Richard Oksas, DPharm)
Misinformation in Dentistry
 (John Dodes, DDS)
Naturopathy
 (William Jarvis, PhD)
Nutrition Diploma Mills
 (Ira Milner, RD)
Publications
 (John Renner, MD)
Supplement Abuse
 (Alison Eldridge, PhD)
Unsound Weight Loss
 (Francie Berg, MS)
Victim Redress
 (Stephen Barrett, MD)
Vision-Related Misinformation
 (Russell Worrall, OD)

CHAPTERS & DIVISIONS

Arizona

Jim Lowell, PhD
 1932 Camino Claveles
 Tucson, AZ 85745
 (602) 743-7320

Florida

Clara Lawhead, MS, RD
 Pasco County Health Dept
 7511 Little Road
 New Port Richey, FL 34654
 (813) 847-8146

Illinois

Robert Vanni
 Dept Health Sciences
 Western Illinois Univ.
 Macomb, IL 61455
 (309) 298-1736 or 1076

Iowa

Debbie Johnson, RD, LD
 1229 8th St.
 Nevada, IA 50201
 (515) 382-5053

Michigan

Merlin Nelson, PharmD
 Dept Pharmacy Practice
 Wayne State University
 Detroit, MI 48202
 (313) 381-1750

Minnesota

Mary Darling, RD
 43 Main St., S.E.
 Minneapolis, MN 55414
 (612) 379-4046

New York

John Dodes, DDS
 86-39 Woodhaven Blvd.
 Woodhaven, NY 11421
 (718) 849-3700

Ohio

Gina Garnett, MEd, RD
 P.O. Box 40792
 Cincinnati, 45240-0792
 (513) 742-9665

Oregon

Ben Wilson, MD
 700 Bellevue St., #290
 Salem, OR 97301
 (503) 399-8105

San Diego

Jean Benthien, CRNP
 Pt. Loma Naz. College
 3900 Lomaland Drive
 San Diego, CA 92106

Utah

John Haines
 222 N. 1200 West #172
 Orem, UT 84057
 (801) 224-0697

Washington

Evelyn Ames, PhD
 1134 Sudden Valley
 Bellingham, WA 98226
 (206) 676-3105

Wisconsin

Ann Ruelle, RD
 7878 North 76th
 Milwaukee, WI 53223
 (414) 354-6434

AREA NETWORK

COORDINATORS

California: Kern County

David Lightsey
 501-A 40th St
 Bakersfield, CA 93306
 (805) 327-4357

Colorado

Jackie Nielsen, MS, RD
 1907 Hillrose Drive
 Loveland, CO 80538
 303-669-4640 ex.382 beeper 498

Kentucky

Nancy Tullis
 2610 Broadmeade Road
 Louisville, KY 40205
 (502) 454-5174

Massachusetts

Diane DiPiero-Saia
 55 State Street
 Springfield, MA 01013
 (413) 737-1935

New York: Rockland County

Ira Milner
 67F Robert Pitt Drive
 Monsey, NY 10952
 (914) 426-1040

Tennessee: Memphis

Carolyn Nasca
 P.O. Box 381494
 Germantown, TN 38183
 (901) 522-0899

Vermont

Janice Wall-Moore
 4 Blakeslee St.
 Brattleboro, 05301-3502
 (802) 254-2290

INDEPENDENT AFFILIATES

American Council on Science & Health

1995 Broadway, 2nd Floor
 New York, NY 10023
 (212) 362-7044; Fax 362-4919

Children's Health Is a Legal Duty

Rita Swan, PhD
 Box 2604
 Sioux City, IA 51106
 (712) 948-3500

Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal

Barry Karr
 Centrl Park sta Box 229
 Buffalo, NY 14215
 (716) 834-3223; Fax 636-1733

Greater Dallas-Ft. Worth Area Council Against Health Fraud

Chair: Tim Gorski, MD
 P.O. Box 202577
 Arlington, TX 76006
 (214) 263-8989; Fax 660-8961

Lehigh Valley Committee Against Health Fraud

Chmn: Stephen Barrett, MD
 P.O. Box 1747
 Allentown, PA 18105
 (215) 437-1795

Medication Information Service

Rich Oksas, PharmD, MPH
 Los Angeles Free Clinic
 8405 Beverly Blvd
 Los Angeles, CA 90048
 (213) 854-MEDS

Consumer Health Information & Research Institute

John Renner, MD
 3521 Broadway
 Kansas City, MO 64111
 (816) 753-8850; Fax 753-6706

National Association for Chiropractic Medicine

Coord: Daniel Futch, DC
 P.O. Box 794
 Middleton, WI 53562
 (608) 233-8991

North Dakota

Nutrition Council
 Pres: Kim Krohn, RD
 St. Joseph's Hospital
 P.O. Box 5001
 Minot, ND 58702-5001

Nutrition Council of Duval County Florida

P.O. Box 40484
 Jacksonville, FL 32203

Ocean County Task Force on Senior Victimization and Elderly Abuse

Michael Patmas, MD
 1749 Hooper Ave, Ste 101
 Toms River, NJ 08753
 (201) 255-9300

The Nutrition Quackery Prevention Task Force

Paula Benedict, MS, RD
 County Health Dept.
 351 N. Mt. View Ave.
 San Bernardino 92415
 (714) 387-6320

Campaign Against Health Fraud (UK & Ireland)

Caroline Richmond
 Box CAHF
 London, WC1N 3XX
 Tel. 081-673-4401

NOTICE

The NCAHF Directory is published once a year in the January-February issue of the *Bulletin Board*. Although we try to keep it up-to-date, some changes may have occurred. The main office should be notified of revisions. Corrections will be announced in upcoming issues.