

# THE NCAHF BULLETIN BOARD

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER, 1995

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

## NCAHF OFFICER TAKES POSITION AT ACSH

NCAHF Treasurer William London, EdD, has resigned from his position as Associate Professor of Health Education at Kent State University in Ohio, and joined the staff of the American Council on Science and Health (ACSH) in New York City on September 5. Dr. London's will serve as Director of Public Health Research for ACSH.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Fall meeting of the NCAHF Board of Directors will be held on October 29 at the Holiday Inn (formerly Seapoint Hotel) on Harbor Drive, in San Diego, California. Members are invited to observe at the meeting of the board. There will be no formal dinner meeting on Saturday night. Members who want to get together informally should make themselves known to Harold Loeffler at 619-453-3722.

## NUTRITION DIPLOMA MILLS TASK FORCE CHANGES

The Nutrition Diploma Mills Task Force has requested that it be renamed the Task Force on Dubious Healthcare Credentials. Coordinator Jack Raso, MS, RD, has expanded the TF's work to include the broader scope of activity in which most pseudo-credentialing agencies operate. Nutrition credentialing is only one dimension of the broader scope of offering bogus credentials in healthcare. Included among the degrees huckstered by nutrition-related correspondence programs are Doctor of Divinity (DD), Doctor of Holistic Health (HHD), Doctor of Naturology (DN), Doctor of Naturopathy (ND), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), and Doctor of Science (DSc). DN also represents two other nutrition-related pseudocredentials: Doctor of Naprapathy and Doctor of Nutripathy. Other bogus credentials identified by Raso include Master Herbalist (MH) and Health Educator (HE).

## OFFBEAT LITERATURE AVAILABLE

The Lehigh Valley Committee Against Health Fraud has more than 200 surplus copies of health food magazines, chiropractic journals, vitamin catalogues, and other sources of misinformation. Send \$10 for ten assorted items or \$15 for 20 assorted items to LVCAHF, P.O. Box 1747, Allentown, PA 18105. (Satisfaction not guaranteed!)

## CONSUMERS UNION HITS HOMEOPATHY

*Consumer Reports* (July, 1995) informs its readers about unproved homeopathic over-the-counter products that are competing with preparations that have been proved effective for vaginal yeast infection, cold and flu relief, arthritis pain relief, and sleeping aid. Named are homeopathic products *Vaginex*, *Vagisil*, *Yeast Gard*, and Sunsource Products *Cold Relief*, *Flu Relief*, *Arthritis Relief*, and *Calms Forte*. CU's inquiry to the FDA brought the usual response of "too big a workload, and too small a staff." [Note: Sunsource Products are advertised on the Rush Limbaugh show. These are touted by "Dr. Ronald Hoffman, a medical doctor." Could this be the same Ronald Hoffman, MD, who practices chelation therapy and clinical ecology in New York City?]

## CLINICAL ECOLOGY'S INVENTOR PASSES

Theron Randolph, MD, the man who invented the pseudomedical subspecialty called "clinical ecology" died on September 29. He was 89 years old. Randolph, who diagnosed the condition in himself, believed that a broad range of common physical and psychological disorders can be triggered in susceptible persons by ongoing low-level exposure to chemicals or foods. Patients are said to be suffering from "environmental illness," "brain allergy," "food addiction," "ingestant intolerance," or are allergic to "the 20th Century," "everything modern," or simply everything in "total allergy syndrome." Randolph married one of his patients. Both believed that they became ill if they ate ordinary food. The couple won a case brought against them by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for deducting \$3,000 of their \$6,000 food bill for the year (1971) which they spent on "organically grown" foods to avoid adverse reactions. A clinic bearing his name is operating in Arlington Heights, Illinois.

## NCAHF ARM LIST

The main office personnel are working as hard and as fast as possible in updating the Available Resource Materials (ARM) list. It was clear from the response received from the list provided in the last *NCAHF Bulletin Board* that members and other readers want to know what is available, therefore, updated lists will be published regularly. We invite suggestions for additional topics.

## APOLOGIES FOR DELAYS

Please accept our apologies for delays in responding to letters and faxes. It seems like some sort of quackery bomb has exploded. NCAHF is being swamped with calls from the media, health professionals, consumers, and educators interested in teaching coursework on "alternative" medicine. This increased workload, plus the enormous job of preparing consumer information statements for the revised ARM list is overwhelming NCAHF's meager resources. The good news is that the LLU dietetics program has included NCAHF on its list of agencies where students may fulfill their community service requirements. We now have a volunteer that services ARM list requests and other routine information inquiries.

## CANCER QUACKERY: COMPREHENSIVE OVERVIEWS

Excellent articles that provide comprehensive overviews of cancer quackery are: "An overview of alternative therapies chosen by patients with cancer (Montbriand) *Oncology Nurses Forum* 1994;21:1547-54; and "Unproven (unorthodox) cancer treatments; a guide for healthcare professionals" (Zaloznik) *Cancer Practice* 1994;2(1):19-24.

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.

## NCAHF AVAILABLE RESOURCE MATERIALS (ARM) LIST

The sixth edition of the NCAHF *ARM* list itemized over 500 articles. While developing the seventh edition, it became apparent that it was no longer feasible to list every article in a single pamphlet. As a result, the NCAHF *ARM* list has been revised to be a catalog of consumer health information statements containing concise descriptive information along with NCAHF's insights and criticisms. Many include a bibliography. Each statement is copyrighted and dated. Attached to each consumer information statement is a list of additional *available resource materials*--the ARM list. Items are listed with sufficient information for people to locate original publications. NCAHF is not in the business of selling reprints per se. The purpose of the ARM list is to make readers aware of these materials so they can arm themselves against the health misinformation that sustains health fraud and quackery. The NCAHF library provides a service in which it will photocopy and mail single copies of articles listed. The difficulty with getting the new system up and running is that it takes a considerable amount of time to develop each consumer information statement. These are being done as inquiries are received and as time permits. The list will eventually contain several hundred topics. Updated lists are available upon request. Existing consumer information statements and the ARM list will be revised as information becomes known to NCAHF.

Consumer Information Statements available as of October 10, 1995

\* This topic is covered by the consumer information statement in parentheses ().

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|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Acupuncture (see traditional Chinese medicine)</li> <li>[ ] Alternative Medicine</li> <li>[ ] American Preventive Medical Association</li> <li>[ ] Anthroposophical medicine</li> <li>[ ] Applied Kinesiology</li> <li>[ ] Astrology</li> <li>[ ] Ayurvedic medicine</li> <li>[ ] Barley Green</li> <li>[ ] Bio-Nutritional Consultants</li> <li>[ ] Blue-Green algae</li> <li>[ ] Body Toddy</li> <li>[ ] Cancer Quackery</li> <li>[ ] Cancer medicine, questionable</li> <li>[ ] Candidiasis</li> <li>[ ] Hypersensitivity</li> <li>[ ] Chelation Therapy</li> <li>* Chinese herbalism</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[ ] Chiropractic</li> <li>[ ] Chiropractic Back Care</li> <li>[ ] Chlorophyll</li> <li>[ ] Chopra, Deepak</li> <li>[ ] Chromium Picolinate</li> <li>[ ] Colonic Irrigation</li> <li>[ ] Cousins, Norman</li> <li>[ ] Dental Mercury</li> <li>* Electroacupuncture (see Energy Medicine)</li> <li>[ ] Energy Medicine</li> <li>[ ] Environmental Impact of Quackery</li> <li>[ ] Fasting</li> <li>[ ] Food allergies</li> <li>[ ] Harm Done by Quackery</li> <li>* Health freedom (see Nat'l Health Federation)</li> <li>[ ] Herbal Remedies</li> <li>[ ] Health Spas</li> <li>[ ] Homeopathy</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[ ] How to file a complaint</li> <li>* Interior Design</li> <li>Nutritionals (see NuSkin)</li> <li>[ ] Iridology</li> <li>[ ] Juice Plus</li> <li>* Kirlian photography (see Energy Medicine)</li> <li>[ ] Kombucha Mushroom</li> <li>[ ] Magnets, healing</li> <li>[ ] Melatonin</li> <li>* Miller, Clinton (see Nat'l Health Federation)</li> <li>[ ] Mindell, Earl</li> <li>* Moxibustion (see traditional Chinese medicine)</li> <li>[ ] Multilevel Marketing of Health Products</li> <li>[ ] National Health Federation</li> <li>[ ] Nature's Sunshine</li> <li>[ ] Naturopathy</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>[ ] NuSkin</li> <li>[ ] Pharmacists: questionable practices</li> <li>[ ] Pycnogenol</li> <li>* Qi gong (see traditional Chinese medicine)</li> <li>[ ] Quackery</li> <li>[ ] Radionics (A Abrams)</li> <li>[ ] Sham Nutritionists</li> <li>[ ] Shark Cartilage</li> <li>[ ] Smart Drugs</li> <li>[ ] Soul Treatment / Healing</li> <li>* Spirulina (see blue-green)</li> <li>[ ] Sunrider International</li> <li>[ ] Therapeutic Touch</li> <li>[ ] Thermogenic Products</li> <li>[ ] Traditional Chinese medicine</li> <li>* Transcendental meditation (see Ayurvedic medicine)</li> <li>[ ] Wheatgrass Therapy</li> <li>[ ] Whitaker, Dr. Julian</li> <li>[ ] Williams, Dr. David</li> </ul> |
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