

# THE NCAHF BULLETIN BOARD

JANUARY / FEBRUARY, 1996

*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.

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual General Membership Meeting will be held at 9 am on March 24, 1996 at the Holiday Inn, Bayside, San Diego. The Spring meeting of the Board of Directors will follow. Members with up-to-date membership cards are invited to attend. There will be a dinner meeting on Saturday night at the Holiday Inn Bayside starting at 6 pm. NCAHF board member Loren Pankratz, PhD, will be speaking on "Con Games." Dr. Pankratz, a clinical psychologist, is also a magician and an expert on the psychology of deception. He has published a number of articles exposing the use of tools of the magician's trade for fraudulent purposes. Cost of dinner is \$20 per person. For reservations contact Wallace Sampson, MD, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, 751 S. Bascom Ave, San Jose, CA 95128; 408-885-4146.

## NOVA MEDICAL LABS

On March 16, 1995, James Bernard King pled guilty in U.S. District Court at Akron, Ohio, to charges of filing false Medicare claims. King's lab was billing for laboratory tests which were never rendered, and for non-reimbursable testing. The lab was also illegally paying kickbacks to physicians. On August 17, Mr. King was sentenced to three years of probation, ordered to make restitution to Medicare of \$60,000, and to cooperate and provide testimony to the government in ongoing investigations and prosecutions of physicians who received kickbacks from Nova Labs. The investigation of Nova was initiated as the result of a complaint filed in 1991 by NCAHF's William London.

## THERAPEUTIC TOUCH STUDY GROUP

In mid-January, NCAHF representatives participated in the formation and first meeting of the National Therapeutic Touch Study Group (NTTSG). Representing NCAHF were John Renner, MD, a member of the board of directors, and Linda Rosa, RN, Coordinator of the NCAHF Questionable Nursing Practices Task Force. The NTTSG met at Birmingham, Alabama. Its initial meeting focused on Department of Defense grant N94-020 which has been given to the University of Alabama to study the effect of therapeutic touch on pain and infection in burn patients. The NTTSG is concerned that the research may be biased by TT true believers and become another public relations tool rather than legitimate scientific research. The NTTSG has asked to meet with University officials and the director of the project so it can have the opportunity to evaluate the study and interview past participants. Larry W. Sarnier is chairman of the NTTSG. He is located at P.O. Box 7117, Loveland, Colorado 80537; 970-669-2794.

For an index to the 1995 *NCAHF Bulletin Board* send a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Be sure to specify the year.

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 ON-LINE: <http://www.primenet.com/~ncahf/>

Board member Ira Milner is coordinating NCAHF's efforts on the internet. Available are back newsletter items, the list of topics on the Available Resource Materials (ARM) list (but not the consumer information statements themselves because of the problem of keeping up with on-going revisions), and miscellaneous items sent it by members. Members are invited to send items they think would be of interest to internet users, as well as comments and suggestions on how to improve the service. Send items to: Ira Milner, RD, 201H Kearsing Pkwy, Monsey, NY 10952, 914-356-3341 [home] 352-9000, Ext.354 [work] fax 352-2194 (clear copies of faxed items should also be sent by mail); E-mail: 71544.3006@compuserve.com

## NEW AREA NETWORK COORDINATORS

NCAHF is pleased to announce the confirmation of two new Area Network Coordinators (ANCs). Michael P. Elston, MD, will cover the entire state of South Dakota. Dr. Elston is a full-time faculty member at the Rapid City Regional Family Practice Residency Training Program. Greg Dubord, MD, MPH, will serve in Canada. Dr. Dubord is a graduate of the Loma Linda University School of Public Health where he completed a residency in Preventive Medicine. He is a General Practice Psychotherapist in Toronto. Due to legal limitations in Canada on how the term "council" may be used, Dubord is in the process of establishing the Rational Alternative Medicine Institute (RAMI). NCAHF representatives will serve on RAMI's board, and the agency will function in the same manner as an ANC. The area covered will include all of Canada. A conference is planned for September 21-22, 1996, at the Toronto Westin Harbour Castle. The addresses of these and other Area Network Coordinators appear in the NCAHF Directory on the opposite side of this page. Members who reside in the regions covered by ANCs who wish to be active in some way should initiate contact. NCAHF provides ANCs with a list of all who receive mailings within their areas.

## NIH ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE REPORT DISCLAIMERS

The title of the NIH report, *Alternative Medicine: Expanding Medical Horizons* furthers the illusion that medicine is being improved by "alternative" medicine. According to its foreword the document does not reflect endorsement of these therapies or recommendation for research by the NIH, Public Health Service, or the Department of Health and Human Services. It merely "reports on a series of opinions expressed by nongovernment participants" in the Sept, 1992 Chantilly, VA workshops. It cautions readers not to seek the therapies described without consultation with a licensed physician (Ed. An insufficient warning since many quacks are licensed medical mavericks!). It further cautions that many of the therapies have not been subjected to rigorous scientific investigation. NCAHF urges that these disclaimers be pointed out in any references to the report.

# 1996 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)

### **Dubious Healthcare Credentials**

(Jack Raso, MS, RD)

### **Ergogenic Aids**

(David Lightsey, MS)

### **Herbal Remedies**

(Richard Oksas, DPharm)

### **Homeopathy**

(William Jarvis, PhD)

### **Misinformation in Dentistry**

(John Dodes, DDS)

### **Naturopathy**

(William Jarvis, PhD)

### **Publications**

(John Renner, MD)

### **Questionable Arthritis Remedies**

(Richard Panush, MD)

### **Questionable Nursing Practices**

(Sharon Fish, RN)

### **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

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813-869-3900 ext 121

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### **Illinois**

Robert Vanni

Dept Health Sciences

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Macomb, IL 61455

309-298-1736 or 1076

### **Iowa**

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### **Michigan**

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### **San Diego, California**

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### **Washington**

Evelyn Ames, PhD

1134 Sudden Valley

Bellingham, WA 98226

206-676-3105

## **AREA NETWORK**

### **COORDINATORS**

#### **Canada**

Rational Alternative Medicine  
Institute

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416-203-3142; fax: 203-6585

### **California: Kern County**

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### **Colorado**

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### **Kentucky**

Nancy Tullis

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Louisville, KY 40205

502-454-5174

### **Massachusetts**

Diane DiPiero-Saia

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Springfield, MA 01013

413-737-1935

### **New York: Rockland County**

Ira Milner

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Monsey, NY 10952

914-356-3341 [h] 352-9000 [w]

### **South Dakota**

Michael P. Elston, MD

1600 Mt. View, Ste 108

Rapid City, SD 57702

605-342-2060

### **Tennessee: Memphis**

Carolyn Nasca

P.O. Box 381494

Germantown, TN 38183

901-522-0899

### **Wisconsin**

Ann Ruelle, RD

7878 North 76th

Milwaukee, WI 53223

414-354-6434

## 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 voice or fax

### **Committee for the Scientific**

**Investigation of Claims of the**

**Paranormal**

Barry Karr

Central 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

817-792-2000; Fax 277-3720

### **Lehigh Valley Committee Against Health Fraud**

Chmn: Stephen Barrett, MD

P.O. Box 1747

Allentown, PA 18105

610-437-1795

### **Consumer Health Information & Research Institute**

John Renner, MD

300 E. Pink Hill

Independence, MO 64057

816-228-4595; Fax 228-4995

### **National Association for**

**Chiropractic Medicine**

Coord: Daniel Futch, DC

P.O. Box 794

Middleton, WI 53562

608-257-9700, Ext.413

### **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

909-387-6320

### **HealthWatch (UK & Ireland)**

Presidents: Nick Ross & Dr

Michael O'Donnell

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*The complete NCAHF Directory is published in the Jan-Feb issue only.*

*Please notify the main office of*

*revisions. Corrections will be*

*announced in subsequent issues.*