

THE NCAHF BULLETIN BOARD

MAY / JUNE, 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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: FBI HEALTH CARE FRAUD INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH SPECIALISTS GS11/12/13 (\$36,174-\$67,021)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has challenging opportunities available for Intelligence Research Specialists in various specialty areas. One of these is health care fraud. Duties include: (1) performing collection of raw intelligence data, research and analysis for the preparation of intelligence reports for dissemination to the intelligence/law enforcement community; (2) participation in briefings for VIPs, FBI executives and field personnel and others as well as assist in the development and initiation of research analysis projects in support of criminal investigations; (3) maintain current knowledge and continue to develop expertise as it relates to specialty area domestically and internationally. Travel required. GS13 duties also include planning and directing unit activity. Spanish speaking ability is a plus. Candidates must incur their own travel expenses for an interview.

Qualifications: In addition to the general qualifications below, applicants must also meet qualifications for specific specialty areas as indicated:

*Knowledge of principles of deductive reasoning to analyze and validate data.

*Ability to work with complex computer programs.

*Experience with techniques for the collection, analysis and presentation of facts in a clear, concise manner.

*Excellent written and oral communication skills.

Send resume no later than June 3, 1996 to FBI Headquarters, Attn: IRS Dept, Room 5129, 935 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20535.

FREE CONFERENCE ON DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

On June 3-4, 1996 a scientific workshop on "The Role of Dietary Supplements for Physically Active People" will be held at the Natcher Conference Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. The goal of the meeting is to develop a research agenda that will identify key areas warranting further investigation. The workshop is sponsored by the NIH Office of Dietary Supplements, the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, the American Institute of Nutrition, and a number of unnamed NIH components. To register for the workshop by mail write 3203 Tower Oaks Blvd, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20852-4200; by phone: 301-770-3153; by fax: 301-468-2245; by e-mail: confdept@tech-res.com. The conference is open to the public and there is no charge for registration.

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.

1995 NCAHF FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME

Membership Dues	24,505.50
Contributions	10,198.57
Subscriptions	5,563.00
Interest/Dividends	1,323.42
Reprint service	1,441.07
Book Sales Share	647.00
Royalties	<u>599.00</u>
Total	44,267.56

EXPENSES

Occupancy	18,000.00
Telephone	282.60
Advertising	1,224.71
Book purchases	170.25
Chapters share	1,877.50
Directors' travel	4,659.31
Donation expense	343.00
Fundraising expenses	532.88
Funds lost in transfer to U.S.	863.00
Member to consumer orgs	75.00
Miscellaneous	78.60
Office supplies	145.41
Returned check fee	30.00
Subscription	301.15
Tax (SB County)	30.53
Contractual: Accounting	1,100.00
Contractual: Computing	2,175.00
Contractual: Legal	917.83
Contractual: Secretarial	9,900.00
Contractual: Fund raising	900.00
Printing NL & BB	3,434.02
Other printing	758.35
Postage & Shipping	5,051.27
Other expenses	<u>40.00</u>
Total	52,890.41

1995 Gain / Loss	(8,622.85)
Net Cash Assets 12/31/94	32,580.85
Net Cash Assets 12/31/95	23,958.00

E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF US SENATORS

Legislation is a major area in which people against quackery need to be more influential identified by the NCAHF board. One way to do this in today's world is via the Internet. NCAHF has obtained a list of the e-mail addresses for 69 U.S. Senators, the Senate's Democratic Policy Committee, the Republican Policy Committee, Small Business Committee, and the Special Committee on Aging. To obtain a copy, send a stamped, self-addressed to NCAHF.

OVER THERE

Several companies in the United Kingdom were prosecuted for violating trading standards. The products involved ring a familiar sound to the ears of quackbusters over here. Included were: (1) alleged "starchblockers." These contain phaseolamin which can block the effects of amylase in a test tube; (2) Chromium picolinate containing supplements alleged to significantly reduce body fat; (3) Evening Primrose Oil claiming to "have far-reaching benefits for those who use it for the relief of headaches, tension, insomnia, and depression"; and, (4) *Radical Defence*, an alleged antioxidant formulation. The companies pled guilty and paid fines running in the quarter million dollar range in U.S. funds. It seems that whatever happens here in the USA also happens in the UK. It is interesting to discover the different methods of consumer protection between here and there. In these instances, the companies "were applying a false trade description to several types of goods, contrary to section 1(1)(a) of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968. In addition, the company, when trading as Natural Herbal Research, was making medicinal claims for foods contrary to the Food Labelling Regulations 1984." These laws sound similar to those in the USA aimed at unfair competition, and unauthorized health claims for foods.

SQUIRRELLY PROBLEM OF CHIROPRACTIC SCOPE OF PRACTICE EXPLAINED

Dentists are limited to treating the oral cavity; podiatrists are limited to treating the feet; optometrists are limited to working with the vision; but, what about chiropractors? They are limited to analyzing and manipulating the back, right? Wrong! This is no limit at all if you accept the chiropractic paradigm which holds that nerve "energy" is a metaphysical entity that travels from out of the cosmos, into the mind, down through the spine, and out into every organ of the body; and, that chiropractors can detect interferences with that cosmic energy flow and restore full power through manipulation or other methods. Chiro's allege that any and all diseases are affected by their "adjustments." This means that chiropractors are not limited from treating any condition that may theoretically benefit from an improved flow of the cosmic energy which emanates either from the Throne of God, or the nucleus of the Big Bang—depending upon one's fundamental beliefs. Limiting the scope of practice of ideological, nonmedical providers is the key to a great deal of consumer protection, but the practical problems of doing so can be confusing. Attorney Michael Cohen tackles this problem in the March-April, 1996, *Alternative and Complementary Therapies*. He goes into quite a bit of detail concerning the legality of nutrition-related practices by chiro's in various jurisdictions.

WATCH OUT FOR NEWSWEEK'S NEW SCIENCE EDITOR

Sharon Begley has become the science editor at *Newsweek*. Begley has a disturbing history of promoting nonsense. Her article on fluoridation (*Newsweek*, 2/5/90) reported in a cover story that the anti-fluoridationist may have been right all along that fluoridation was unsafe. Her story was based upon preliminary data leaked from a National Toxicology Program (NTP) study ordered by the Congressional Committee on Intergovernmental Relations in 1977. Following hearings on claims by professional anti-fluoridationist John Yiamouyannis that fluoridation was causing cancer, the Committee asked the National Cancer Institute "to provide animal bioassay data concerning the potential carcinogenicity of sodium fluoride," and NTP was asked to conduct studies. The report wasn't to be out

in April, 1990, but a memo sent to the EPA that said bone cancer was greater in male rodents was leaked. One of 50 male rats on 45 ppm fluoride, and 4 of 80 male rats on 79 ppm showed osteosarcomas over a two-year period. Before any statistical analysis nor commentary by the researchers was available, the story was sensationalized. The NTP issued a press release on 1/12/90 stating that any news at this time was premature and speculative, and that conclusions must wait until the evaluation process is completed and peer reviewed by cancer experts, but this did not stop *Newsweek* from publishing Begley's scare story. Dr. Stephen Barrett called the story "the most irresponsible analysis of a public health topic ever published by a major national news outlet." In the end, the results were deemed to be meaningless. Begley also wrote a *Newsweek* cover story that gushed about the wonders of phytochemicals. Although *Newsweek* may like Begley's sensationalism, in our view, her work reflects a absence of scientific acumen, or even antisocialism.

Begley's style may reflect an "all in the family" scenario. Her husband, Ned Groth, is a writer at Consumers Union who has deviated drastically from the standards of conduct that made CU credible in the past. This deviance was well described by former CU correspondent Larry Katzenstein in "Consumer Union credibility—good but slipping" (*Wall Street Journal*, 8/8/94, p.A-10). Groth was instrumental in CU's wrong-headed anti-alar article ("Bad apples," 5/89). Other issues that CU has been on the wrong side of during Groth's time of service included BST ("Utter insanity," *CR*, 5/92), and attacks on ACSH in "Public interest pretenders," 5/94). Now we hear that *Newsweek* is planning a "wellness conference" in Las Vegas on June 17-19. Among the speakers will be none other than medical nihilist Julian Whitaker, MD. We can only speculate, but we fear that *Newsweek's* scientific quality may be subverted with Begley in such an influential position. We urge members to be on the alert. For information on attending the conference call 1-800-226-0323.

FALL-OUT FROM NIHOAM CONTINUES

NCAHF member Vaso Bovan wrote to the American Tinnitus Association on 3/29/96 complaining of the following wording which appears in the ATA patient brochure *Information About Tinnitus*:

Additionally, some patients have found help through hypnosis, acupuncture, myotherapy, chiropractic care, naturopathic treatments, and control of allergies.

Bovan pointed out that none of these modalities have any proven effect, and that some were patently absurd. He noted that use of the weasel phrase "some patients have found..." was irresponsible because it could be used to recommend any remedy based upon a testimonial. ATA's response to Bovan's complaint was incredible. In a letter dated April 5, 1996, ATA Executive Director Gloria E. Reich, PhD, stated:

These are not quack therapies, nor are they promoted by us. The National Institutes of Health has recognized alternative therapies, how can we do less?

The ATA response is evidence of the influence of the seemingly simply and benign act of formally establishing an NIHOAM. Its mere existence becomes "recognition" in the minds of those who are not fully informed. This *illusion of validity* the establishment of the NIH OAM has created for alternative medical practices is of greater value than all of the evidence that these therapies have value multiplied a thousand-fold. This has nearly erased the word "quackery" from the dictionary. NCAHF is committed to keeping the concept of quackery from fading from the public's mind.