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ACCAHC Represents Complementary and Alternative Disciplines as Founding Sponsor of the IOM Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education

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Testing and Certification

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National Board of Chiropractic Examiners
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Consortium of Licensed CAM Academic Organizations will Urge Whole Person, Integrative, Health and Wellness-focused Explorations

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The Academic Consortium for Complementary and Alternative Health Care (ACCAHC) announced today that the organization is a proud founding sponsor of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) [Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education](#).

The IOM Global Forum was established to help operationalize recommendations from two significant reports produced in the centennial year of the Flexner Report that both revolutionized and polarized health professional education after its publication in 1910. The Lancet Commission's *Educating Health Professionals for a New Century* (2010) and the IOM/Robert Wood Johnson Report on *The Future of Nursing* (2010) each stressed inter-professionalism, team care and the importance of educating professionals for leadership and change agency. The Lancet Commission also focused on the globalization of healthcare and the need to better integrate health professional education with primary care, healthcare delivery and community and public health.

"ACCAHC is excited to bring our core values of whole person, wellness-focused, patient-centered, integrative practices to this Global Forum with our academic colleagues from other disciplines and other nations" states Elizabeth A. (Liza) Goldblatt, PhD, MPA/HA, ACCAHC chair.

Goldblatt adds: "The ACCAHC Board has determined that, among the many themes from which we expect to learn in this IOM process, the most significant as we enter this next century is to educate professionals to empower people and communities toward health. Our legacy must be that have engaged the associated challenges as profoundly as Flexner's legacy advanced tertiary care and the understanding of disease."

ACCAHC is an interprofessional collaboration, the core membership of which includes most of the councils of colleges and accreditation

agencies for the 5 licensed complementary and alternative healthcare disciplines: chiropractic, acupuncture and Oriental medicine, massage therapy, naturopathic medicine and direct-entry midwifery. Members also include organizations representing Traditional World Medicine and emerging professions including Ayurvedic Medicine, Yoga therapy and homeopathic medicine.

Goldblatt will team with ACCAHC executive director John Weeks to represent ACCAHC on the IOM Global Forum committee. Weeks notes that another value ACCAHC bring to this table is the affirmative connection of many ACCAHC disciplines with healing traditions from around the world: “A critical component of optimal healthcare throughout the globe will be the intersection of biomedicine with the indigenous and local practices of diverse populations. Core ACCAHC values include respect for the traditional systems and their optimal integration with biomedicine.” He adds that in the United States, this is often framed around the integration of human use of complementary and alternative therapies, practitioners and disciplines with the dominant practice of medicine.

ACCAHC will join the American Association of Medical Colleges, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Colleges of Public Health and over two dozen other organizations representing other disciplines as sponsors of the 3-year IOM forum. The forum’s central work product will be collaborative developments of themes and speakers for a total of six, two-day public forums during 2012-2014. In addition, the Global Forum will be shaped by the discoveries and challenges in four innovative, international pilot projects in Uganda, South Africa, India and Canada. The forum is supported by a significant grant from the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation.

This is the third Institute of Medicine project with which ACCAHC has been involved. Goldblatt was a member of the IOM committee that created the 2009 IOM Summit on Integrative Medicine and the Health of the Public. ACCAHC nominee Rick Marinelli, ND, LAc subsequently served on the IOM committee that produced the IOM report [Relieving Pain in America](#) (2011) that recommended an integrative, team strategy.

Goldblatt adds: “We are extremely excited to learn from colleagues from other fields and share our learning to all our member organizations. We anticipate significant mentoring, via all of the richness of the themes under discussion, in our work to help transition our participants from seeing themselves as leaders of their disciplines to being leaders in healthcare.” ACCAHC’s participation in the Forum is made possible through member dues and a \$30,000 philanthropic grant.

***About the Academic Consortium for Complementary and Alternative Health Care (ACCAHC):** ACCAHC is a 501c3 organization the mission of which is to enhance patient care through fostering mutual respect and understanding among diverse healthcare professionals and disciplines. ACCAHC is a leadership organization, the core membership consists of the councils of colleges, accrediting agencies and certification and testing organizations from the 5 complementary healthcare professions with a US Department of Education-recognized accrediting body (chiropractic, naturopathic medicine, acupuncture and Oriental medicine, massage therapy, direct-entry midwifery – together representing over 250,000 licensed practitioners). ACCAHC’s leading projects include: publication of the *Clinicians’ and Educators’ Desk Reference on the Licensed Complementary and Alternative Health Care Professions*; assisting educators and clinicians in developing and enhancing *Competencies for Optimal Practice in Integrated Environments*; expanding evidence-informed education in ACCAHC schools; engaging the North American interprofessional education/care movement; promoting a real world, patient-centered approach to research; providing collaboratively-developed perspectives on key policy issues; integrating representatives of patient interest in whole person care into key national health dialogues; educating leaders in health-focused care; and developing a Center for Optimal Integration web portal. www.accahc.org; www.optimalintegration.org