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## Westreich Foundation Grants \$100,000 To Academic Consortium for Complementary And Alternative Health Care (ACCAHC) To Advance Integrative Health Care

*Grant breaks “glass ceiling” for philanthropic support  
for integrative health collaboration led by non-MDs*

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The Academic Consortium for Complementary and Alternative Health Care (ACCAHC) announced today that the Westreich Foundation has made a \$100,000 grant to support the consortium's work to advance integrative health care.

Specifically, the grant will assist ACCAHC in creating linkages and relationships that enhance patient care through increasing understanding and respect among the disciplines.

ACCAHC chair Elizabeth A. (Liza) Goldblatt, PhD, MPA/HA, expressed the gratitude of the consortium of 15 national organizations: “The Westreich Foundation grant is a historic, powerful and empowering contribution that comes at an extraordinary time for ACCAHC and for health care.”

ACCAHC is a leadership organization run by top educators, certification and testing professionals and accreditation officials from the licensed integrative healthcare professions with US Department of Education-recognized accreditation agencies.

Goldblatt explains: “As our teams collaborated in recent years to clarify a shared priorities for advancing health care, we increasingly realized that each of us must be more than leaders of our own disciplines. We are stepping up to team with others in leading this transformation of our medical system toward one focused on health and wellness. This wonderful grant from the Westreich Foundation is empowering us to take this next step for whole person, patient-centered care.”

(more)

In a letter to ACCAHC executive director John Weeks that accompanied the grant, Westreich Foundation president Ruth Westreich shares that her decision followed “getting to know you and your ACCAHC organization and the bridging and collaboration you are striving to accomplish across all fields of quality care.” Westreich joined 90 ACCAHC leaders for a 2011 Biennial Meeting.

Westreich adds: “I believe that you have played, and are continuing to play, a significant role in breaking down the dreaded silos of individual groups and are able to envision the greater, larger picture of a preferred patient centered care model.” Finally: “I am hoping that this grant will allow you even more time to create even more collaborations between CAM [complementary and alternative medicine], integrative and palliative medicine.”

### **A break in the glass ceiling to help empower over 250,000 licensed professionals**

Weeks, the ACCAHC executive director, underscores the historic importance of the \$100,000 grant: “The ACCAHC disciplines often operate in a Catch-22. They may seek organized participation in health care but rarely have access to necessary resources. A kind of ‘glass ceiling’ has kept organizations like ACCAHC that are not led by MDs out of the sights of most foundations and even leading philanthropists in integrative medicine and health. This grant from the Westreich Foundation is a timely break in that glass ceiling that we hope will change that cultural pattern.”

The \$100,000 grant will be paid over 3 years, 2012-2014 with the priority use to provide support staff for ACCAHC’s initiatives.

**\*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’s 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). Some traditional world medicines and emerging professions engaged in self-regulatory activity are also members. ACCAHC’s leading projects include: 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 research; providing collaboratively-developed perspectives on key policy issues; integrating representative into key national health dialogues (including two past nominees to Institute of Medicine projects); educating leaders in health-focused care; and developing a Center for Optimal Integration web portal. [www.accahc.org](http://www.accahc.org); [www.optimalintegration.org](http://www.optimalintegration.org)

**About the Westreich Foundation:** A leading interest of the Westreich Foundation is helping to create a paradigm shift in the way medical care is delivered in this country. Transforming healthcare means moving the boundaries of the existing field of medicine to include the wisdom inherent in healing the “whole person”—mind, body and spirit. It means educating practitioners and their teams to make use of all appropriate therapeutic approaches, health professionals and disciplines in the care of their patients and shifting the focus of the healthcare system to include prevention, health maintenance and early intervention. The Foundation supports an integrative and palliative approach to health and wellbeing. Read more about Integrative Medicine and Palliative Medicine. We also believe that the creative arts can be a very powerful healing component by itself or when used in conjunction with other healing disciplines to alleviate pain and also a humanistic component in death and dying. [www.thewestreichfoundation.org](http://www.thewestreichfoundation.org)

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