

with a whole firm and the abundant resources that it represents. AMG will charge a flat management fee to cover all staff costs, rent and other overhead, equipment, supplies, etc. AANP will have 4 full-time experienced staff dedicated only to AANP—an Executive Director, Public Affairs (Legislative) Director, Member Benefits Specialist, and Administrative Assistant. It will also have partial shared staff for finance and business management, information technology, communications, and access to AMG's senior management. AANP will be managed in a way that makes the association

management company a seamless background partner—members and other callers will still see AANP as an distinct identity. The management fee proposed by AMG is a significant fraction less than the actual AANP budget for the same services this year in Seattle.

Many thanks again to Ms. Fidler, the Search Committee and also the generous candidates, who taught us much that is so valuable to know about ourselves. For additional information all are invited check AMG's website at www.amg-inc.com.

UPDATE ON INTEGRATED MEDICINE AT NORTH HAWAII COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Michael Traub, ND

As reported in *The Journal of Naturopathic Medicine* 1997, volume 7(2), North Hawaii Community Hospital opened in May 1996 with a medical staff that included a naturopathic physician, chiropractor, acupuncturist, and massage therapist. This is believed to be the only hospital in the U.S. with such breadth of complementary health care providers. During the first three years of operation, however, utilization of these practitioners has been low. The conventional physicians on staff concerned themselves more with working out their own policies and procedures and the administration implemented some "soft" complementary therapies such as healing touch, aromatherapy, soothing background music, and a nutritious food service.

The complementary practitioners are members of the medical staff in the consulting category. This means that they, as well as MDs/DOs with this same type of membership, consult on cases when the attending physician or the patient requests this, but cannot admit or discharge patients themselves. As of this report, the naturopathic physician on staff (this writer) has had 20 consults, the chiropractor five, the acupuncturist 15, and the massage therapist 40.

Obstacles to greater integration include a lack of real commitment to the integrated model by some physicians, a conservative and cautious manner, which leads those who are committed to move slowly, lack of insurance reimbursement, lack of familiarity with what complementary practitioners have to offer, and lack of a conventionally-trained physician who actually practices complementary modalities and could be more of an advocate to his or her colleagues.

In an effort to stimulate the integrated model of health care that the hospital espouses, another naturopathic physician was selected to be a resident under the auspices of the National College of Naturopathic Medicine and the Hawaii Center for Integral Healing (a 501c3 not-for-profit organization based in Kamuela where the hospital is also located). Michelle Suber, ND, began her residency program in September 1998. Dr. Suber is supervised by this writer, and sees patients in his office one or two days per week. She also does rounds and sees patients in the clinics of four medical doctors who are on the hospital staff, one day per week each. These physicians include an obstetrician/gynecologist (ob/gyn), an internist, a cardiologist, and a

pediatrician. She attends births, surgeries, and other procedures such as sigmoidoscopies, stress electrocardiograms, and thallium scans.

Dr. Suber is a member of the hospital's Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee and has brought new energy into the expansion of the natural medicine formulary at the hospital, which now includes a dozen botanical medicines and nutritional supplements, as well as 250 homeopathic medicines. Dr. Suber and this writer have held several in-services for hospital staff discussing the use of the formulary items, and have participated in multi-disciplinary grand rounds to explain how natural medicine has been or could be employed in selected cases.

Funding for the residency program has been obtained through tax-deductible contributions made to the Hawaii Center for Integral Healing (HCIH). Patients seen by Dr. Suber in the offices of the ob/gyn and the naturopathic physician make payments to the HCIH account. Patients seen in the hospital by Dr. Suber are treated at no cost.

Dr. Suber has been well-received by the hospital staff. A certain amount of confidence, commitment, tenacity, and willingness to be scrutinized is required in order for a naturopathic physician to function in a hospital setting. It is a tribute to Dr. Suber's strength of character and pleasant disposition that she has succeeded in this regard. Other individuals will in the near future take on this challenge and work in similar institutional settings. The pioneering work done at North Hawaii Community Hospital should hopefully serve to make their way easier. Dr. Suber and this writer are happy to respond to inquiries from interested persons, and can both be reached at the contact information listed.

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