

Australasian Integrative Medicine Association

The Australasian Integrative Medicine Association (AIMA) is an independent not-for-profit organisation of individual healthcare practitioners seeking to provide whole person medical care by integrating evidence-based complementary medicine into mainstream practice. AIMA is supported by its membership and governed by a Board of voluntary doctors and academic leaders in the field of Integrative Medicine.

Since its inception in 1992, AIMA has grown to be the leading voice for integrative practitioners. AIMA's membership and successful events, including the International Holistic Health Conference, have helped promote the growing body of research and provide education about complementary medicines and therapies.

AIMA has forged relationships with key organisations such as the The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) – through the AIMA/RACGP Joint Working Party and Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) as well as other professional bodies with an interest in integrative therapies. AIMA works collaboratively with associations such as the Australian College of Nutritional and Environmental Medicine (ACNEM) and the MINDD Foundation in a spirit of mutual support. AIMA continues to have meetings with the TGA and Health Ministers to progress the evolution of Integrative Medicine at an academic, industry and political level.

AIMA wishes to further expand its affiliations amongst like-minded associations such as the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd (AACMA) in order to improve communications and networking in the current integrative medical environment.

AIMA continues to focus on:

- Enhancing the profile of Integrative Medicine within the modern medical framework

- Lobbying for the continuation of complementary medicine education at a tertiary level
- Organising a collaboration of academic centres to forward research developments within complementary/integrative medicine
- Monitoring the currently proposed TGA regulatory changes in regard to complementary medicines
- Progressing the development of professional regulation within complementary medicine modalities in a manner that respects the current pragmatic realities of the complementary medicines industry
- Lobbying for an acceptance of complementary medicines approaches within Public (Medicare) and Private Health Insurance framework
- Developing practical approaches to multidisciplinary networking with medicine
- Increasing the public's awareness of the genuine value of complementary medicines when integrated with mainstream care.

Finally, AIMA seeks to ensure both practitioners and consumers have access to the best available knowledge about the benefits and risks of these complementary medicines so that optimal patient care and good health can be achieved and maintained.

AIMA provides its members with a quarterly journal, including the soon-to-be-launched international evidence-based peer-reviewed journal, *Advances in Integrative Medicine*, in association with Elsevier.

AIMA would therefore like to extend a warm welcome towards all those involved with complementary/integrative therapies and hope they will attend 'Bridging the Gap', our annual conference on August – September 2012 in Melbourne. We believe 'Bridging the Gap' will be a vital conference in extending the networking necessary for developing and progressing Integrative Medicine into the future.