

OAM Research Grant Awards

Herbert P. Weiss

Recently, the Office of Alternative Medicine (OAM), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), announced that it had awarded its first round of grants—30 at \$30,000—to mainstream research institutions to examine treatment outcomes of a variety of alternative medical practices including imagery, prayer, T'ai Chi, homeopathy, hypnosis, massage and macrobiotics. While OAM received more than 800 letters of intent requesting grant submission information, 452 formal grant applications were submitted, says John Spencer, Ph.D., OAM senior policy analyst. About 200 applications were not considered by NIH technical panels because "there was not enough scientific information included in these applications to show that a study could be done."

So far, many view OAM's efforts positively. "To see research studies funded to validate massage and therapeutic touch is exciting," says Bernie Siegle, MD, an OAM panel member and holistic author and surgeon. Today massage is not even considered a health profession in 2/3 of the states, he notes. "But if studies show results, massage and touch will move into a new area and become a science and a health profession instead of always being associated with massage parlors."

The Office for Alternative Medicine has awarded \$30,000 to these mainstream research institutes to examine treatment outcomes of a variety of alternative medical therapies.

- John J. Allen, Ph.D., University of Arizona, AZ. **Acupuncture/Unipolar Depression**
Thomas J. Birk, Ph.D., Morse Physical Health Research Center, OH. **Massage Therapy/HIV-1**
Chou Chung-Kwang, Ph.D., City of Hope National Medical Center, CA. **Electro-Chemical-DC Current/Tumors**
Helen J. Crawford, Ph.D., Virginia Polytechnic Institution and State University, VA. **Hypnosis/Chronic Pain**
Douglas E. Degood, Ph.D., University of Virginia, VA. **Massage Therapy/Post-Surgical Outcomes**
Paul J. Eslinger, Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University, College of Medicine, PA. **Music Therapy/Brain Injury**
Steven J. Fahron, PhD., Menninger Clinic, KS. **Energetic Therapy/Basal Cell Carcinoma**
Carol S. Ginandes, Ph.D., McLean Hospital, ME. **Hypnosis/Healing of Bone Fractures**
Michael S. Goldstein, Ph.D., University of California, CA. **Homeopathy/Health**
Sharon W. Goodill, M.CA, Hahnemann Univ., PA. **Dance Movement/Cystic Fibrosis**
Timothy C. Hain, M.D., Northwestern University, IL. **T'ai Chi/Balance Disorders**
James P. Halper, M.D., Lenox Hill Hospital, NY. **Guided Imagery/Asthma**
Mary B. Jasnoski, Ph.D., George Washington University, Washington, D.C. **Imagery and Immunity/Cancer & AIDS**
D. Blair Justice, Ph.D., University of Texas Health Science Center, TX. **Support Imagery/Breast Cancer**
Martin H. Krag, M.D., University of Vermont, VT. **Manual Palpitation of Intervertebral Motion**
Lawrence, H. Kushi, Sc.D., University of Minnesota, MN. **Macrobiotic/Cancer**
Bala V. Manyam, M.D., Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, IL. **Ayurvedic Drug/Parkinsonism**
Angele V. McGrady, Ph.D., Medical College of Ohio, OH. **Biofeedback/Diabetes**
Patricia F. Newton, M.D., Good Samaritan Hospital and Medical Center, OR. **Hypnosis and Imagery/Immune Response to Breast Cancer**
Melodie A. Olson, Ph.D., Medical University of South Carolina, SC. **Therapeutic Touch/Immune Response During Stress**
Kedarn Prasad, Ph.D., University of Colorado, Health Sciences Center, CO. **Antioxidants/Cancer**
Frank A. Scafio, Ph.D., University of Miami, FL. **Massage Effects/Development of HIV-Exposed Babies**
Howard Shaffer, Ph.D., North Charles Mental Health Research and Training Foundation, MA. **Yoga/Heroin Addiction**
David Shannahoff-Khalsa, B.S., Khalsa Foundation for Medical Science, CA. **Yoga/Obsessive Compulsive Disorder**
Richard A. Shepman, Ph.D., Fitzsimons-Army Medical Center, CO. **Biofeedback/Pain**
David B. Simon, M.D., Sharp Healthcare, CA. **Ayurvedic/Health**
Neil A. Sonenklar, M.D., Virginia Commonwealth University, VA. **Acupuncture/ADHD**
Denise M. Tope, Ph.D., Dartmouth College, NH. **Massage/Bone Marrow Transplants**
Scott R. Walker, M.D., University of New Mexico, NM. **Intercessory Prayer**
Wen-Hsien Wu, M.D., University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, NJ. **Qigong/Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy**

Source, Office for Alternative Medicine, 1993

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