

Academic Collaborative for Integrative Health (ACIH)
NAM Commitment Statement
April 15, 2019

The opioid epidemic continues to decimate the population, with recent statistics showing that deaths attributed to overdose have exceeded those of car accidents and suicide in the US. The Academic Collaborative for Integrative Health (ACIH) has been actively engaged in addressing this public health crisis on multiple fronts and will continue to do so. ACIH is a 501c3 national educational organization that represents the Complementary and Integrative Health professions, including the licensed professions of acupuncture, naturopathic medicine, chiropractic, massage therapy and direct-entry midwifery. ACIH is in support of the message and promise of including the non-pharmacological treatment of pain as part of the solution to the opioid crisis.

ACIH's membership for the past seven years in the National Academies of Medicine, Sciences and Engineering's Global Forum for Innovations in Health Professional Education has provided an interactive platform to interface with many conventional/mainstream health professions and to provide education about these licensed professions of complementary and integrative health, including our active involvement with the December 2018 workshop held in Washington DC on the 'nonpharmacological approaches to the treatment of chronic pain' that the Global Forum co-sponsored. ACIH was also a partner in a widely distributed infographic about alternatives to pharmaceuticals for pain that was developed in collaboration with other leading national consortia, and which is targeted for use by legislators, insurers and policy makers. Additionally, ACIH has been an active participant in 2017 and 2018 of a widely-attended national Integrative Pain Policy Congress with representatives from the VA, DOD, NIH, NCCIH, HHS, CMS, insurers, payors, providers, allied organizations and consortia, which also has several working groups focusing on this area.

As a member of the NAM Action Collaborative, ACIH looks forward to contributing to the collective action that must be taken in order to successfully stem the opioid crisis and restore public health and safety.