

ACADEMIC COLLABORATIVE FOR INTEGRATIVE HEALTH

The Collaborative

The Academic Collaborative for Integrative Health (ACIH) is involved in and supports a wide range of activities and projects in the areas of education, clinical care, research and policy that contribute to transforming our health care system to be one that emphasizes the importance of creating health and well-being. We represent 18 national integrative health and medicine organizations, many universities, colleges and programs and have a wide variety of supporters and volunteers. ACIH strengthens understanding and cooperation among educators, researchers, and clinicians from distinct healthcare disciplines. We believe that quality patient care requires that we shift our disease-based, fractionalized system to one that is team-based, collaborative and patient centered as well as to one that focuses significantly more on creating health and well-being.

We have been members of the NAM Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education since 2011. There are almost 60 national health professional organizations that are members of the Global Forum and ACIH is the only organization representing the integrative health and medicine disciplines. We focus on the importance of prevention, health and well-being. Our goals are threefold:

- Represent ACIH and our disciplines to educate the other health professions at the Global Forum;
- Educate ACIH members to topics prioritized by other health profession educational leaders; and
- Advocate for creating a health professional workforce that focuses more on prevention, health professional self-care, and on health and well-being.

We had leading roles in planning and participating in the Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education April 26-27, 2018 workshop titled, "A Systems-Approach to Alleviating Work-Induced Stress and Improving Health, Well-Being, and Resilience of Health Professionals Within and Beyond Education", and in the December 4-5, 2018 workshop titled, "The Role of Nonpharmacological Approaches to Pain Management".

The Academic Collaborative for Integrative Health initially created a document entitled "Competencies for Optimal Practices in Integrated Environments" in September 2010 ([available here](#)). ACIH's work was occurring concurrently with the work the Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC), which was published in February 2011. IPEC's document was entitled "The Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice" ([available here](#)). ACIH's work was a collaboration of academics and practitioners from five disciplines (acupuncture and East Asian medicine, chiropractic, direct-entry midwifery, massage therapy, and naturopathic medicine). The IPEC collaboration includes six disciplines (medicine (MD), nursing, osteopathy, pharmacy, dentistry, public health). ACIH reviewed the IPEC competencies and adopted them; and added in two more competency fields specific to the disciplines that we represent. We also added in a sub-competency specifically addressing practitioner well-being: VE11. "Demonstrate personal behaviors and self-care practices that reflect optimal health and wellness". IPEC updated its four competencies in 2017 ([available here](#)); and ACIH updated the two competencies it specifically developed for the disciplines that ACIH represent in 2018.

"ACIH envisions a healthcare system that is multidisciplinary and enhances competence, mutual respect and collaboration across all healthcare disciplines. This system will deliver effective care that is patient centered, focused on health and well-being, and readily accessible to all populations."