

# **NIH Comprehensive Strategic Plan and Budget to Reduce and Eliminate Health Disparities**

## **National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine**

### **NCCAM MISSION**

The National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) is dedicated to exploring complementary and alternative healing practices in the context of rigorous science; training complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) researchers; and disseminating authoritative information.

### **OVERVIEW OF NCCAM's STRATEGY FOR ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES**

CAM practices can be described as those not presently considered an integral part of conventional medicine. Recent national surveys document substantial and growing use of CAM in the United States, with most people using CAM in addition to, rather than instead of, conventional care. However, little is known about CAM use in racial and ethnic minority populations. To the degree that minority populations are using CAM as an alternative to, rather than complementing conventional care, increased integration of CAM modalities and systems with the conventional health care system may help overcome some of the barriers to use of conventional medical services for minority populations, potentially enhancing access for minority populations to proven therapies. NCCAM's research additionally has the potential for contributing to the elimination of health disparities by supporting research into the health behaviors of racial and ethnic minority populations, thereby supporting culturally competent health care. To this end, NCCAM's activities and research initiatives will focus on identifying and understanding the gaps in knowledge regarding CAM use in minority populations.

This plan is organized in priority order by area of emphasis, and within areas of emphasis by objective and by initiative. The areas of emphasis have been chosen to coincide with those in the NCCAM Five-Year Strategic Plan. Investing in Research is the primary area of emphasis, with initiatives addressing population based research on CAM use as well as research on disease-specific CAM approaches. The second area of emphasis, Training CAM Researchers, will target initiatives to diversify the CAM research community. Expanding Outreach is the third area of emphasis, highlighting the importance of developing effective communication with professional and lay communities in order to make the research findings relevant to minority populations.

This plan represents NCCAM's initial effort to articulate its commitment to the NIH goal of eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. The plan is a work in progress and will be modified periodically as NCCAM identifies new opportunities and expands its role in supporting the NIH strategic plan and the DHHS Initiative. Public comment was solicited on the substance of the current draft of the plan which has been modified to address those comments.

NCCAM, one of the newest Centers at NIH, is committed to supporting the accomplishment of the goals of this important initiative. This plan represents the Center's best effort, in spite of numerous uncertainties, at identifying the funding necessary to establish a foundation for NCCAM's health disparities activities. Part of NCCAM's undertaking will require identifying

investigators and institutions with which to carry out the proposed activities, as well as their capacities for undertaking CAM research. Another challenge NCCAM faces in projecting its future involvement is the absence of a funding history on which to base determinations of appropriate commitments for these important programs. Consequently, outyear funding for programs in this plan cannot be determined to the same degree of certainty as funding for proximate years. As the Center matures, its ability to forecast funding levels will increase and its financial commitment to maintaining commensurate levels of funding will be evident. Resource constraints in FY 2002 mitigated against NCCAM's completion of activities planned for that fiscal year. Accordingly, the plan has been modified in the short run to reflect current expectations regarding those initiatives and activities that NCCAM realistically can accomplish.

### **Area of Emphasis 1. Investing in Research**

In the broadest context, CAM systems and practices focus not only on treating diseases, but also on promoting overall health and wellness. Although it is challenging enough to study "wellness", it is even more difficult to test the effectiveness of highly complex, multi-modal therapies. CAM approaches to therapeutic interventions frequently are individualized to a patient's circumstance and may not be as standardized as conventional medical regimens. Moreover, the research methods used to investigate CAM need to be appropriate to the variations in culture and the dimensions of the CAM systems to be studied. While the ultimate goal of NCCAM research is to identify safe and effective CAM systems and practices, quantitative research questions may require antecedent descriptive or qualitative research to understand health behaviors and the meaning of a given approach in the context of a particular culture.

Investing in research is the primary area of emphasis for this plan. With racial and ethnic minority populations representing an increasingly large proportion of the American population, the urgent need to address health disparities can only be met with concerted attention to closing the knowledge gaps regarding differences in morbidity and mortality for different populations.

#### **Objective 1.A: Support research to address health disparities among women, minorities, children, and other underrepresented populations**

The demographics, prevalence, and patterns of use of CAM in the United States have been described for the general population in published surveys, but information regarding CAM use in minority populations is lacking. Because of the lack of research on reasons for, variations in, and outcomes of CAM use in minority populations, studies are needed to understand the extent of CAM use by different populations and the conditions for which CAM is used. Through working with ongoing surveys and undertaking new initiatives, NCCAM will broaden the knowledge base on CAM use by minority populations and provide a more comprehensive view of CAM use by the entire U.S. population.

## Action Plan

The Action Plan for this objective includes general initiatives to increase understanding regarding the use of CAM by minority populations, as well as disease specific initiatives intended to determine the effectiveness of CAM modalities in treating conditions associated with health disparities.

### a. Population-Based Initiatives

#### 1. Epidemiologic Studies of CAM in Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations

This initiative will 1) advance the understanding of CAM use by racial and ethnic minority populations, and 2) help NCCAM clarify its participation in NIH's Strategic Plan and DHHS' Initiative regarding the elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities. Findings from projects within this initiative will inform the CAM research agenda with respect to minority populations. Through collaboration with the National Center for Health Statistics, CAM survey experts, and minority community consultants, NCCAM has developed a supplemental module on CAM to be fielded with the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) in calendar year 2002. Because the NHIS oversamples African Americans and Hispanic Americans, it will contribute especially well to understanding CAM use in these minority populations. Since additional studies will be needed for in-depth understanding of specific minority populations and subpopulations, this initiative will solicit applications for surveys of CAM use in minority populations to understand further the cultural variations in health behaviors. Investigators will be encouraged to collect and analyze data on demographics, health and social characteristics, race/ethnicity, pre-existing illnesses, and CAM utilization among minority populations in order to support statistically reliable estimates of CAM patterns of use. In conjunction with NCCAM's international initiatives, this information may permit comparative studies of CAM use by immigrant minority populations versus its use in their countries of origin, and may help to discern the impact of environmental and psychosocial factors on the use and effectiveness of CAM. This combination of projects will permit NCCAM to collect nationwide information on CAM use by minority populations as well as targeted information on use by specific minority subgroups.

#### Timeline:

FY 2002 - 2003 Continue funding the Intra-Agency Agreement

FY 2003 - 2004 Publish Program Announcements

FY 2003 - 2006 Encourage submission of grant applications

FY 2003 - 2006 Receive and review applications

FY 2003 - 2006 Fund grants related to this activity

#### 2. Research Methods for the Study of CAM Use in Minority Populations

NCCAM will hold a workshop to identify 1) the challenges of conducting research on CAM use in culturally diverse populations, 2) gaps in our knowledge base, and 3) appropriate research methods for closing the gaps. Because many issues are expected to be similar across the range of minority populations, the workshop will include breakout groups to address unique aspects of research in various minority populations. The

discussion will go beyond ethnographic studies and cultural determinants of disease in minority populations. NCCAM anticipates publication of an executive summary from this workshop in an appropriate peer-reviewed journal. The summary may be used as the basis for a subsequent program announcement. By facilitating the understanding of concepts of health, wellness, and disease in various cultures, this initiative may help us understand health behaviors in minority populations and thereby contribute to eliminating health disparities.

Timeline

FY 2002 - 2003 Plan for a workshop in 2002; Hold the workshop in 2003

FY 2004 Publish a Program Announcement

FY 2004 - 2006 Encourage submission of grant applications

FY 2004 - 2006 Receive and review applications

FY 2004 - 2006 Fund grants related to this activity

3. New Initiative: Recruitment of Minority Subjects for CAM Research

This initiative endeavors to establish effective partnerships between investigators, health care facilities, and community based organizations in order to enhance minority accrual in CAM research studies in a culturally sensitive manner. As needed, NCCAM staff will consult with investigators about recruiting strategies targeting minority participants and in extraordinary circumstances may consider supplemental funding for outreach where routine efforts are unsuccessful. One project is NCCAM's current collaboration with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to explore developing linkages between Community Health Centers and Migrant Health Centers, which are funded by HRSA and serve large numbers of minority patients, and the NCCAM Research Centers.

Timeline:

FY 2002 - 2006 Encourage and facilitate inclusion of minority subjects in NCCAM-funded research

4. New Initiative: Outcomes Research on CAM in Minority Populations

This initiative will support outcomes research on CAM practices that may contribute to the Healthy People 2010 goal of eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. The National Health Interview Survey noted above and the in-depth projects funded through the same initiative will collect information on CAM use by minority populations and will assist in securing accurate determinations of types of CAM and extent of CAM use in minority populations. This information will provide the basis for outcomes studies that will identify appropriate roles for CAM in the ongoing NIH and DHHS Initiatives to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities. For example, studies might compare outcomes for a group of patients receiving conventional care for a condition to outcomes for a group of patients receiving a CAM treatment for the same condition in order to gain insight into potential benefits of a CAM modality.

Timeline:

FY 2004 Publish a Program Announcement  
FY 2004 - 2006 Encourage submission of grant applications  
FY 2004 - 2006 Receive and review applications  
FY 2004 - 2006 Fund grant related to this activity

b. Disease-Specific Initiatives

The prospect of utilizing CAM to contribute to the elimination of health disparities will require identification of specific conditions for which CAM systems and modalities are effective. Ongoing research and planned initiatives target selected conditions for which minority populations experience excess morbidity and mortality. Through existing research projects and new initiatives, NCCAM will study the use of CAM to treat cardiovascular disease, prostate cancer, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS – four of the six priority conditions from the DHHS Initiative.

1. Cardiovascular Disease: Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death and a leading cause of disability in the United States. In 1998, the death rates for African Americans due to CVD on the average were 43% higher than the rates for whites. CVD accounts for between one-fourth and one-third of deaths in all minority populations.

Ongoing Research Project: Vedic Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease (CVD)

NCCAM currently provides funding to the Center for Natural Medicine and Prevention at the Maharishi University of Management. This Center focuses on the use of Vedic Medicine, a form of traditional Indian medicine that incorporates herbal formulations and meditation, in older African American populations. Three minority-specific research projects are associated with the Center: *Basic Mechanisms of Meditation and CVD in Older Blacks*, a project that attempts to identify the pathophysiologic mechanisms of action by which Transcendental Meditation (TM) might reduce hypertension; *Clinical Trial of Meditation for CVD in Older Black Women*, a study of the effects of TM on hypertension and carotid artery thickness; and, *Effects of Herbal Antioxidants on CVD in Older Blacks*, a placebo controlled trial evaluating the effects of a traditional Vedic herbal preparation on pathophysiologic markers of CVD in high risk older African Americans.

Timeline:

FY 2002 - 2003 Fund the center and its projects  
(This center grant sundowns in FY 2003.)

2. Prostate Cancer: Prostate cancer is more prevalent in African-American men than in any other population worldwide. The mortality rate for African-American men is twice as high as that for white men. Clinical treatments for prostate cancer are limited to surgery, radiation, and hormonal and cytotoxic chemotherapies. The need for testing novel approaches and compounds in the fight against prostate cancer is acknowledged.

Ongoing Research Project: PC-SPES for Treatment of Prostate Cancer

NCCAM currently supports the Center for Cancer Complementary Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. The research goals of this center are directed at gender specific cancers, such as breast and prostate cancer. Currently, the center is supporting a phase II randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial evaluating the safety and efficacy of PC-SPES, a Chinese herbal preparation, versus estradiol alone in Caucasian and African-American men with hormone-refractory prostate cancer. The project includes a subset of Chinese men at Johns Hopkins Singapore.

Timeline:

FY 2002 - 2004 Fund the center and its projects  
(The center grant sundowns in FY 2004.)

Ongoing Research Funding: Selenium and Vitamin E Cancer Prevention Trial

NCCAM is collaborating with the National Cancer Institute in a multicenter randomized clinical trial on the use of selenium and vitamin E, alone and in combination, in preventing prostate cancer. Secondary findings from different clinical trials suggest that selenium and vitamin E may have independent, as well as synergistic chemopreventive effects. This is a 12 year trial that will seek to enroll 20% African-American men – equal to their proportion of prostate cancer cases among the U.S. population. Information from this trial will inform the delivery of care for men with prostate cancer and contribute to the elimination of health disparities.

Timeline:

FY 2002 - 2006 Continue to co-fund this project

3. Breast Cancer: The stress of breast cancer may alter natural neuroendocrine-mediated immunoprotective mechanisms and increase the likelihood of tumor recurrence. African-American women have a poorer prognosis at every stage of breast cancer diagnosis and are more vulnerable to the stress associated with the attendant diagnosis and treatment.

Ongoing Research Project: Prayer in Black Women with Breast Cancer

This study will test the impact of personal and group prayer intervention on neuroendocrine and immune response in African-American women 1-2 months post-surgery and radiation. The prayer intervention will be compared to a randomly assigned wait-listed control group with measurement of changes in neuroendocrine markers of stress, immune response, perceived stress, psychosocial functioning, and quality of life. The cohort will be followed long-term for tumor surveillance and compared with a race, age, and stage matched reference group. Findings from this study will assist clinicians in reducing the disparities in health status for Black women with breast cancer.

Timeline:

FY 2002 - 2004 Continue funding for this center and its projects  
(The center grant sundowns in FY 2004.)

4. Diabetes: Twenty-five percent of all type II diabetic patients in the United States are from minority populations. African Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans have rates of disease that are significantly greater than the rates for non-Hispanic whites. Complications such as retinopathy and end-stage renal disease are 2-4 times more prevalent in minority populations than in non-Hispanic whites.

New Initiative: Chromium to Treat Diabetes

There is accumulating evidence suggesting that chromium supplementation can alleviate symptoms associated with type II diabetes and reduce the need for exogenous insulin. The Office of Dietary Supplements, NCCAM, and the National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases, have issued a Program Announcement for studies on product formulation, dosing, and study population requirements. While not exclusively targeting minority populations, this initiative will generate information on the role of chromium in the treatment of diabetes, and may contribute to the elimination of health disparities in minority populations.

Timeline:

FY 2002 Publish a Program Announcement

FY 2002 - 2004 Receive and review grant applications

FY 2002 - 2004 Fund grants related to this condition

5. HIV/AIDS: The devastation of this epidemic increasingly is focusing on minority communities. In 1999 among the U.S. population, Black adults had AIDS rates which were more than 2.4 times the rates for Hispanic adults, over 7 times the rates for American Indians and Alaska Natives, and more than 9 times the rates for non-Hispanic whites. In 1999, minority women accounted for 82% of reported HIV cases in women, and by 2000, minority children had accounted for 78% of all reported pediatric HIV cases. Many HIV-infected people of color utilize CAM approaches either in association with, or instead of conventional medical therapy. The range of treatments is as varied as the cultures from which the people come. Studies on the range of CAM modalities may contribute to understanding the cultural nuances of health behaviors and potentially identify useful integrative approaches to treating HIV.

New Initiative: CAM and HIV in Minority Populations

This initiative will support a workshop on the CAM treatments used by racial and ethnic minority populations in treating HIV/AIDS. In addition to presenting treatments in widespread use and cataloging therapeutic regimens, data will permit development of a research agenda on CAM use by minority populations for the treatment of HIV. Additionally, the inclusion of minority participants in other NCCAM HIV/AIDS grants will provide supplemental information regarding the use of CAM to treat HIV/AIDS that will inform the research agenda. A program announcement will support research investments into the issues identified through the workshop.

Timeline:

FY 2004 Hold a workshop  
FY 2005 Publish a Program Announcement  
FY 2005 - 2006 Receive and review applications  
FY 2005 - 2006 Fund grants related to this condition

**Objective 1.B: Establish programs of research on traditional and indigenous health practices in the United States.**

Action Plan

Ongoing Initiative: Traditional, Indigenous Systems of Medicine

The purpose of this initiative is to support developmental studies to establish the methodological feasibility and strengthen the scientific rationale for proceeding to large randomized clinical trials on the use of traditional, indigenous systems of medicine as practiced in the United States. These studies, which should emphasize the development of appropriate study designs to investigate safety and efficacy, have the potential to identify and address difficult methodological and design issues characteristic of complex medical interventions, as well as to support the development of culturally sensitive research into aspects of care more closely mirroring practices in the United States. By understanding traditional systems of medicine, this research may generate information on health behaviors of minority populations. This information can be used to improve the cultural competence of the conventional health care delivery system and thereby contribute to the elimination of health disparities.

Timeline:

FY 2002 Encourage applications for this Program Announcement  
FY 2002 - 2003 Receive and review applications  
FY 2002 - 2003 Fund grants related to this Program Announcement

Performance Measures:

Number of grant (PA and RFA) and contract (RFP) solicitations published  
Number of applications received  
Number of grants funded  
Additional measures to be determined

Outcome Measures:

Number of presentations given based on funded grants  
Number of research papers published from the funded grants  
Extent of minority subject participation in NCCAM-funded research projects.  
Additional measures to be determined

Future steps for evaluating the impact of the action plan will be subject to availability of funds and may include additional research initiatives based on the findings from the initiatives



currently planned, e.g., new research on changes in use of CAM therapies for the conditions specified.

### **Area of Emphasis 2. Training CAM Investigators**

Studies document the underrepresentation of racial and ethnic minority investigators in biomedical research and the lack of research funding at minority institutions. Building a diverse CAM research community requires not only support of programs to increase the number of minority researchers in general, but also investments in minority institutions which continue to train a large share of minority researchers.

Although several NIH programs focus on training opportunities for minority students at various educational levels, no program targets directly the development of a diverse CAM research community. In view of the broad cultural diversity of the American population and the various CAM traditions, NCCAM's ongoing research and planned initiatives target investments to increase the number of minority investigators in the CAM research community and build research infrastructure at minority and minority-serving institutions.

### **Objective 2: Increase the number, quality, and diversity of CAM investigators**

Several factors contribute to the limited opportunities for individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups to receive training in CAM research. A lack of CAM research resources at their home institutions, a lack of opportunities to develop the research skills necessary to investigate CAM, and a lack of interactions with CAM research scientists all contribute to varying degrees at various times to the dearth of minority CAM scientists. In addition, increasing the number of minority students preparing for careers in research – at majority as well as minority institutions – is necessary to support enhanced diversity of the CAM research community. NCCAM will target minority student programs and new extramural funding to address these issues in building a diverse CAM research community. In addition, the initiation of intramural research at NCCAM will facilitate considerably the opportunities to train minority investigators independently and collaboratively with other NIH programs.

### **Action Plan**

1. **CAM Institutional Research Training for Minority Researchers**  
This initiative will help to develop a cohort of minority scientists investigating CAM and enhance the ability of minority institutions and minority-serving institutions to support CAM research. The NCCAM Institutional Research Training Program for Minority Researchers is a National Research Service Award (NRSA) Program (T32) intended to support pre- and post-doctoral trainees and short-term research training for health professions students at minority and minority-serving institutions having the potential to develop meritorious training programs in CAM research. It is designed to attract students in their developmental stages, to increase their awareness of CAM research, and to encourage them to pursue research career opportunities in this area. The initiative funds

training for individuals, selected by the grantee institutions, in specified areas of biomedical and behavioral research related to CAM. In addition, the inclusion of short- term summer training opportunities for health professions students will assist in developing the pipeline of minority students interested in pursuing research careers in CAM related fields. Applications for this initiative were limited to minority institutions and minority-serving institutions (e.g., Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools) -- institutions that have demonstrated a commitment to the education and training of racial and ethnic minority individuals.

Timeline:

FY 2002 - 2005 Continuation funding of grantee institutions

2. Minority Research Supplements

NCCAM participates in the NIH program, Research Supplements for Under-represented Minorities, which supports training of minority students through supplements to selected research grants. Through this program, NCCAM supports minority students from high-school to pre-doctoral levels, as well as post-doctoral and junior faculty minority investigators. NCCAM is developing procedures to assure that its funded investigators are notified of the availability of minority supplement funding. Ongoing collaboration with other NIH Institutes and Centers will enhance the Center's participation in NIH-wide activities to help NCCAM investigators identify eligible minority trainees.

Timeline:

FY 2002 Continuation funding of ongoing research supplements

FY 2002 - 2006 Encourage applications for research supplements

FY 2002 - 2006 Receive and review minority supplement applications

FY 2002 - 2006 Fund grant supplements

3. New Initiative: Academic Partnerships

This initiative, to begin in FY 2003, will seek to facilitate collaborative interactions between investigators at minority and minority-serving institutions, CAM research centers, botanical research centers, and NCCAM-funded investigators. In addition, the initiative will help minority researchers establish productive collaborations necessary to compete successfully for peer-reviewed research support. The program will support improved access to NCCAM resources, such as CAM and botanical research centers, so that research can be focused on issues that affect minority populations. These NCCAM resources will be used for promoting training opportunities, include mini-sabbaticals, for minority researchers and students, and enhancing awareness and utilization of training opportunities.

Timeline:

FY 2003 - 2006 Encourage and facilitate institutional and investigator collaboration

FY 2003 - 2006 Review requests for assistance with research collaborations

FY 2003 - 2006 Fund academic partnerships related to this activity

4. Minority Summer Internships

NCCAM will provide funding to support intramural and extramural summer internships for minority students interested in careers in CAM. Several minority student organizations have long-standing programs to identify undergraduate and graduate students interested in exploring research and policy careers in health. The range of opportunities available through NCCAM's facilities will offer selected students a rich experience and exposure to the forefront of CAM activities.

Timeline:

FY 2002 - 2006 Provide financial support for minority summer internship programs

FY 2002 - 2006 Encourage participation in minority summer internship programs

5. Minority Youth Initiatives for High School Students

Building the community of minority investigators requires informing minority youth of the career opportunities available to them in CAM research. To this end, NCCAM will participate in ongoing DHHS summer programs for African-American, Hispanic-American, and Native-American high-school students to expose youth to the possibility of research careers including CAM.

Timeline:

FY 2002 - 2006 Provide annual support for high-school summer youth initiatives

Performance Measures:

Number of students and trainees participating in NCCAM-funded programs

Number of minority supplement awards

Number of academic partnerships created

Additional measures to be determined

Outcome Measures:

Number of papers presented or published from NCCAM-funded activities

Number of students and trainees pursuing CAM research careers

Additional measures to be determined

Future steps for evaluating the impact of these activities will be subject to the availability of funds and may include continued tracking of student and trainee career paths.

**Area of Emphasis 3. Expanding Outreach**

The expansion of electronic media has enhanced opportunities for communication with professional colleagues and dissemination of health information to consumers. However, the digital divide and the lack of access to modern electronic hardware continue to pose

challenges for many minority institutions and communities. NCCAM seeks the widest distribution of CAM information possible. This requires that it not only maximize its use of electronic formats to expand communications networks with cutting edge institutions, but also target print communications in order to optimize dissemination of information to minority communities, organizations, and researchers regarding CAM.

**Objective 3: Develop and disseminate reliable scientific information that is culturally sensitive. Seek input from academic, scientific, and practice communities, and advocacy groups.**

#### Action Plan

1. Professional Information Dissemination and Outreach

NCCAM will expand its participation in and linkages with minority health professions organizations and minority components of research organizations. This initiative has several purposes: to increase the participation of minority investigators in CAM research; to educate health professionals about the widespread use of CAM and the need to interact with patients in an open, non-judgmental manner; and, to facilitate communication between the conventional medical community and the CAM community. The development of integrative systems of health care delivery can lead to improved health outcomes for patients as well as fostering collaborative opportunities for CAM research.

Timeline:

FY 2002 - 2006 Educational outreach to health professions organizations

FY 2002 - 2006 Encourage health professionals to become knowledgeable and interact with their patients regarding CAM

2. Lay Information Dissemination and Outreach

Many CAM practices are widely used even though they have not been shown in clinical studies to be effective. NCCAM supports research on a range of CAM practices and is building the knowledge base regarding effective CAM practices, those which remain unproven or are shown to be ineffective, and potentially dangerous CAM practices. This scientific information needs to be disseminated broadly to minority communities in culturally appropriate ways. The NCCAM Office of Communications will work with community organizations and institutions to encourage the appropriate use of CAM and integration of CAM with the conventional health care delivery system.

Timeline:

FY 2002 - 2006 Information outreach to the lay public

FY 2002 - 2006 Encourage people to become knowledgeable about the risks and benefits of CAM including scientific evidence and drug interactions

3. Community-Based Participatory Research

NCCAM is part of a NIH workgroup that is coordinated by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and is identifying relevant steps regarding community-based participatory research. Through involvement in this workgroup, NCCAM anticipates greater input by racial and ethnic minority populations into its planning processes and research activities, as well as greater dissemination of its research information and findings.

Timeline:

FY 2002 Formation of community-based participatory research workgroup

FY 2002 - 2006 Explore ways to adapt recommendations of the work group to address the use of CAM in racial and ethnic minority populations.

FY 2002 - 2006 Identify and implement appropriate means for increasing community-based participatory research on CAM regarding health disparities.

Performance Measures:

Educational and scientific presentations at community and professional meetings

Staffing of exhibits at professional meetings

Number of “hits” on the NCCAM website

Pamphlets targeting minority community and health professions groups on health disparities issues

Outcome Measures:

Increased professional and public input into NCCAM initiatives and activities

Increased lay and professional interaction with NCCAM

Additional measures to be determined

NCCAM’s component of the NIH Comprehensive Strategic Plan and Budget to Reduce and Eliminate Health Disparities represents the Center’s initial efforts to articulate its commitment to the NIH goal of eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. Although resource constraints, the limitations of science in a developing field such as complementary and alternative medicine, and the kinds of applications NCCAM receives may limit its ability to attain results as scheduled, NCCAM remains committed to accomplishing the ambitious goals and objectives of this plan. This is a work in progress and will be modified periodically as NCCAM identifies new opportunities and expands its role in supporting the NIH strategic plan and the DHHS Initiative.

NCCAM  
(Dollars in Millions)

Institute / Center	FY 2002			FY 2003		
	Research	Infrastructure	Outreach	Research	Infrastructure	Outreach
NCCAM	\$13.10	\$0.70	\$0.00	\$13.70	\$0.80	\$0.00