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Involvement to Date in the Academic Consortium:

I have been active in Consortium for nearly a decade. As a regular participant and contributor to the annual meetings, a member of the Fellowship Committee and the Acupuncture Focus Group, and historically with the Policy Making Working Group (until recent scheduling conflicts), I have a deep appreciation for breadth and depth of the work done by our peers to advance integrative medicine. The passion of our volunteer colleagues is inspiring, and the Consortium provides me a rich and rewarding opportunity to contribute to vision.

Experience and Expertise:

As a practitioner who has created a successful model of IM services at the University of Washington, I have navigated first-hand the challenges in establishing a valued clinical service model that is also financially viable. As an educator involved with IM fellowship training, I am energized by the appetite of our learners to explore beyond traditional conventional boundaries. And as a researcher (and recent recipient of AAFP RapSDI award for IM research in a clinical setting) I understand the challenges of expanding integrative care models in conventional models.

Also, in my role as Chair of the National Certification Commission of AOM and my involvement with the ACIH Board, I am actively engaged with a wide range of constituents in national policy making as a part of our field's effort to bring IM services to the mainstream. As an example, currently I am working with CMS for better coverage of acupuncture services. I believe my experience with numerous national groups will be valuable to the Academic Consortium in developing collaborations and partnerships.

Vision for Integrative Medicine and Academic Consortium's Role in Achieving the Vision:

IM services should no longer reside in the outskirts of our health care system. Bodies like the Academic Consortium are shining a light of the merits of evidence-based Integrative Medicine and I believe we can help expand the skills of future generations of providers while improving patient choices and outcomes. I believe the moment is right to collectively make a shift in our health care systems, at the state and national levels. The Academic Consortium has proven to be the leading force in our field—the membership at the Academic Consortium, collectively, has the power to engage in policy making / lobbying and promoting IM education and services. I am pleased to see that the Academic Consortium has been more inclusive in the recent years, allowing foreign institutions to join us and empowering non-MDs in different activities. I believe that the Academic Consortium is the organization that will make the change in our health care model to happen.