



# NEWS

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## RAND CORP., SAMUELI INSTITUTE CREATE ENDOWMENT TO STUDY ALTERNATIVE, COMPLEMENTARY AND INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

The RAND Corporation and the Samueli Institute have created an endowment to support independent policy research on complementary, alternative and integrative medicine, organization officials announced today.

The Samueli Institute Fund for Policy Studies in Integrative Medicine at RAND will be established with a \$2 million gift from the Samueli Institute and \$1 million in funding from RAND. The Samueli Institute is a nonprofit scientific research organization based in Alexandria, Va., and RAND is a nonprofit public policy research organization based in Santa Monica, Calif.

"Many hospitals and other medical providers are looking to integrate complementary and alternative medical practices into their current treatment systems, but they often are unsure which ones have demonstrated value," said James A. Thomson, president and CEO of RAND. "This gift will make possible the type of high-quality research needed to answer those questions."

"Currently, patients are left on their own when attempting to integrate complementary and alternative practices with their conventional care," said Wayne B. Jonas, president and CEO of the Samueli Institute. "Proper integration requires good evidence and sound policies. This endowment and chair will provide the nation and patients with objective analysis and effective solutions for guiding the health care system and personal care, toward better integration."

Ian Coulter, a senior health policy analyst at RAND who has been named as the Samueli Institute Chair in Policy for Integrative Medicine at RAND, said alternative and complementary medicine can include approaches such as acupuncture, chiropractic, spirituality, naturopathy, herbal medicine, yoga and meditation. Integrative medicine refers to the combination of alternative approaches with traditional biomedicine.

"Millions of Americans are using some form of complementary or alternative medicine in addition to biomedical treatment, but very little research has been done to establish which treatments are most effective, for what conditions and under which circumstances," Coulter said. "In some cases, a particular kind of complementary or alternative medicine may work best as an adjunct therapy, such as using acupuncture to combat nausea from chemotherapy. In other cases, the alternative therapy may be the best treatment by itself."

( Continued )

Then there's the question of how to integrate complementary, alternative and integrative medicine into a mainstream medical practice, Coulter said. The research find, which will be managed by RAND Health, will address that question. The fund also will support:

- Rigorous research on complementary, alternative and integrative medicine, including descriptive studies that will identify what kinds of health care and healing are provided by these practices.
- The creation of innovative research methods for investigating complementary, alternative and integrative medicine.
- Develop the evaluation of health care systems performance, including regulation, quality of care, financing and costs in relation to the integration of complementary and alternative medicine with traditional biomedicine.

Based in Alexandria, Va., the Samuelli Institute is a nonprofit scientific research organization that investigates healing processes and their application in promoting health and wellness, preventing illness and treating disease. The Institute is one of an elite group of organizations in the nation with a track record in researching complementary and integrative medicine, healing relationships and military medical research.

RAND Health, a division of RAND, is the nation's largest independent health policy research program, with a broad research portfolio that focuses on health care quality, costs and delivery, among other topics.

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