

Spring 2008

# INTEGRATIVE NEWS



## Letter from the Director, Elena Ladas, MS, RD:

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with great pleasure that I announce The Integrative Therapies Program for Children with Cancer's (ITPCC) **10 year anniversary**. As we celebrate this exceptional milestone, the program, together with the Division of Pediatric Oncology, Columbia University, mark the viability of providing integrative medicine to children with cancer.

Over the past ten years, we have been pioneers at the forefront on how to effectively combine and fuse traditional medical therapies within the conventional model. ITPCC is proud to have merged these two disciplines together at no cost to patients. Despite difficult economic times, skepticism, and increasingly demanding medical care, ITPCC has maintained a full range of clinical services and has evolved as a reputable source on how to effectively integrate complementary/ alternative medicine (CAM) into conventional treatment for childhood cancer. ITPCC has been innovative in both development and implementation. Examples of the program's exceptional novelty include our unique acupuncture service and Cancer Dancers program. ITPCC has also embraced modern medicine's provision of personalized, health plans, offering patients and survivors with an integrative medicine health plan during and after conventional cancer treatment, thereby empowering them with therapeutic tools that are relevant personally and culturally in achieving optimal health.

Since ITPCC was created, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM), the federal government's lead agency for scientific research on CAM was developed, and linguistics around unconventional practices have moved away from terms like CAM and towards terms like integrative medicine. In the coming years, ITPCC would not only like to continue to expand on the program's clinical expertise in the field of integrative medicine, but to also develop a network of consortiums on a national and international basis. As chairs and advisory members of some of the most prestigious groups, the ITPCC team feels confident in achieving our upcoming endeavors.

From all of us at ITPCC, thank you for all of your support over the years.

### Staff

**Kara Kelly, MD**

*Medical Director*

**Elena J. Ladas, MS, RD**

*Director*

**Deborah Hughes, MPH**

*Program Manager*

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*Exercise Physiologist /*

*Yoga & Movement Therapist*

**Kathy Taromina, MS, LAc**

*Licensed Acupuncturist /*

*Reiki Practitioner*

**Diane Rooney, MS, LAc, LMT**

*Licensed Acupuncturist /*

*Licensed Massage Therapist*

**Evelyn Li, MS, LAc, LMT**

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*Licensed Massage Therapist*

**Alexa Weitzman, MS, LAc**

*Licensed Acupuncturist /*

*Research Coordinator / Chef*



## 2008 Marks the 10th Anniversary of The Integrative Therapies Program for Children with Cancer

On November 6, 2008, the Hope and Heroes Children's Cancer Fund will be hosting their Seventh Annual Dinner and will honor Dr. Kara Kelly and ITPCC, for ten years of service at the forefront of the field of integrative medicine and pediatric oncology, and Noel Wax of WCBS Sports Radio, for his commitment to survivors. The dinner will be held at 6:30pm at the Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park. Please contact Jeremy Shatan, Special Events Coordinator, at 212.305.1419 or js2807@columbia.edu for more information. Please come support Dr. Kelly and ITPCC!

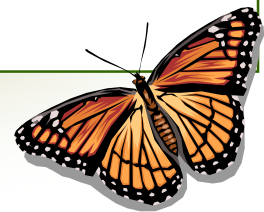


ITPCC team at The Columbia Club



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## ITPCC Launches New Website

As the field of CAM has evolved over the past ten years, ITPCC felt it was necessary to revitalize the program's website to provide a more modern, interactive medium to serve as a central, educational and research resource on children with cancer and integrative medicine. As our website attracts local, national, and international users and both health care providers and patients and their families, ITPCC has made a significant effort to provide a superior navigation system to account for the wide range of user knowledge on CAM and children with cancer.

On the homepage, respective portals for health care providers and patients and their families have been added, and a CAM wellness corner, which in the near future will provide an online health promotion program for children on and off cancer treatment, is featured. Additionally, the Information and Resource section is now categorized according to the NCCAM's breakdown of the five disciplines of CAM practices: biologically based practices, manipulative and body based practices, energy medicine, mind-body medicine, and whole-medical systems. This categorical breakdown provides ease and continuity of information between different organizations providing information on CAM. Another hallmark of our new website is our research section which provides education on evaluating CAM and a resource listing of clinical studies of CAM in the pediatric oncology population. We hope this section continues to be a valuable resource for patients and health care providers.

Our new website's URL address can be located at: <http://www.integrativetherapies.columbia.edu>

We look forward to hearing from you with any comments, feedback, or suggestions.