

AACH President's Message
June, 2015

This President's Message, written in collaboration with Russell Rothman, our Vice President for Research, covers AACH's research oriented endeavors. We have made significant progress in expanding our research activities this past year.

This fall, we will be hosting the **2015 International Conference on Communication in Healthcare (ICCH)** meeting in New Orleans from October 25th- 28th (see [http://www.aachonline.org/dnn/Events/InternationalConference\(ICCH\).aspx](http://www.aachonline.org/dnn/Events/InternationalConference(ICCH).aspx)). We had a record-setting 600 submissions for the meeting, and are expecting a large turnout of colleagues from AACH, the European Association for Communication in Healthcare (EACH), and others. We have a line-up of keynote speakers, pre-courses, workshops, abstract sessions, meet the professor/leader sessions, and colleague pairings that should make it a great meeting for AACH members interested in research and education related to health communication. We have also added several sessions addressing the patient experience and patient engagement. Of note, the planning committee has been collaborating closely with EACH and we anticipate a large number of our international colleagues will be participating in the meeting. *We hope that many of you will be able to join us.*

In addition to the ICCH meeting, we have also begun planning the **2016 Research and Teaching Forum**. For the first time, we hope to pair this meeting with our annual ENRICH course to promote cross-cutting activities related to teaching and training in health communication and research.

This year, we are also re-establishing the **AACH Research Committee**. This Committee will provide leadership and input related to future AACH sponsored research meetings, promote collaborative research efforts of AACH members, and help to share relevant research findings and grant opportunities related to healthcare communication. In addition, the Research Committee will help to oversee our revived **Putnam Scholars Program**. This Program, funded in honor of AACH Co-Founder, Dr. Samuel Morse Putnam, will provide funding to support trainees and junior faculty to participate in trainings and mentorship to develop research related to health communication. The Research Committee is currently in development, under the leadership of Dr. Chris Koenig. We anticipate inviting additional members to become involved in the Research Committee in the coming year.

Please send us your ideas/suggestion or let us know if you are interested in volunteering by going to <http://www.aachonline.org/dnn/Membership/Volunteer.aspx> and completing the form. Our mission is to be *the* professional home for researchers, educators, practitioners, and patients committed to improving communication and relationships in healthcare ... to be a home that provides opportunities for collaboration, support, and personal and professional development.

We think you will experience that at ICCH, so please consider joining us in New Orleans in October for what promises to be a wonderful meeting.

Russell Rothman
Dave Kern

GOALS FOR 2015

- Maintain Financial Strength
 - Fiscal responsibility for core programs
 - Profit for external programs
 - Philanthropy
- Preserve/Strengthen Current Programs
 - Core Faculty Development: ENRICH, Winter Course, FIT Program
 - Research Meetings: ICCH/Forum
 - Putnam Scholars Program
 - DocCom, External Programs
 - Publications: Medical Encounter, Patient Education and Counseling
- Expand Membership
- Diversify Membership and Board
- Enhance Member Benefits and Engagement
- Increase Meaningful Input from Patients
- Increase Recognition/Publicity