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**Executive Director's Message**

Richard S. Weiner, PhD

AND NOW A GRADUATE DEGREE

"There are those who now look back in complacency and indifference, who accept the fruits of the long journey but ignore the cost of liberation and it's lessons in tenacity and endurance. They are the strangers and the road passes them by. There are others who look back with gratitude and humility, who remember that few present blessings have been won without the sacrifices of the past, who continually re-evaluate the spiritual and cultural treasures which the travail of the journey have produced. These are the true heirs of the generations, and for them the long and agonizing journey has been worth while" (Sachar, 1958) .

Today, many clinicians are new to the field of pain management and know little of the isolation and uncertain status that the early pain management community commonly experienced. Yet, the truth is that multidisciplinary pain management professionals were not "strangers" in the usual sense of the word. Modern pain management did not spring forth out of a blank cosmos, nor was it cut into its present form from a non-existent fabric. The rise of multidisciplinary pain management was a unique synthesis, tracking it's historical roots to religion, philosophy and to empiricism. Because multidisciplinary pain management did not belong to any one discipline, professionals were suspicious of this eclectic force, thus there were few early advocates. The division of clinical societies into separate autonomous training programs and licenses, where each group owned its carefully delimited rights and sovereignty over truth was the product of an industrial-scientific paradigm. These factors had far-reaching consequences, both for positive scientific advancement but also for the creation of fragmentation which diminished integration of services. The absence of an integrated clinical philosophy, training and corporate social identity "quarantined" early pain management and often led to a second class status for the pain practitioners.

But, there were tentative indicators that better times were on their way. Anomalies within existing treatment eventually led to the early modern era of multidisciplinary pain management. Classical clinical training did provide for many scientific advancements. The application of such knowledge generated an improvement in public health and contributed to better standards of care. Acute injuries, illness and syndromes witnessed quantum beneficial strides. Yet still many unanswered questions remained. Patients with chronic conditions were not understood and had difficulty getting treatment. Chronic conditions did not lend themselves to educational, scientific inquiry. A growing awareness was kindled, pointing to a need for integrating knowledge.

Enlightenment

The period of foundation-development was long and often tortuous. But, the failure to resolve pain and suffering for countless patients combined with the intense, energetic personality of caring pain management clinicians led to the emergence of a new multidisciplinary movement. From this historical melange emerged a new struggle - an allegorical struggle between knowledge and ignorance, between integration and fragmentation. Wisdom, truth and reason combined to challenge ignorance, separatism and superstition. This has led to an age of reform, giving birth to a new era that anticipates change. The confluence of an existing paradigm crisis, global economic shift, spirit of reform and a rising new social pragmatism is leading to a new view of modernity.

As times have changed and the need to blend and integrate knowledge from different clinical paradigms has surfaced, a new approach for educating clinicians has emerged. Integrated health care builds upon the basic training and credentialing inherent within each discipline and expands awareness to meet new challenges. Clinicians who already hold a license to practice have a legitimate reason to acquire new skills. The emerging model of integrated health care can assist the traditionally trained practitioner to be more effective, especially when working with patients with chronic conditions. Through such studies, clinicians may better understand a fuller context for chronic disease management and thus become part of a new vanguard.

University of Integrated Studies

The seeds of this new revival, which must include practical social and economic improvements, is based upon the infinite possibilities which exist through integrating sources of knowledge. Those separate facts which have been the hallmark of individual disciplines must now be entered into the crucible. Practical solutions require an integration of knowledge and action.

On July 1, 2000, the American Academy of Pain Management received the initial temporary approval from the California Bureau of Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education to operate a graduate degree granting university. The University of Integrated Studies now provides graduate training through a distance learning format that allows the student to pursue a graduate degree on a self-paced basis without leaving home!

Purpose of The University of Integrated Studies

The purpose of the University is to bring together professionals from different disciplines and help them understand integrated general systems theory. Program graduates can then serve as social change agents. Consequently, the vision entails graduate degree-level instruction consisting of a core area of four courses: general systems theory, health ethics, organizational theory, and the sociology of change. Upon completion of the four core courses, the student may select an area of concentration: Pain Studies, Anti-Aging, or Mind-Body-Spirit.

As a result of this program graduates will: 1) gain an understanding of systems and organizational theory; 2) be able to think creatively about social-health policy; 3) meet challenges faced by individuals and organizations in today's complex society, and; 4) have an enhanced knowledge about newly emerging clinical trends.

This graduate program will provide clinicians and administrators with knowledge that will assist in creating an excellent background for new areas of clinical practice and will assist in upward career mobility as well. Individuals with healthcare policy responsibility, or desiring promotional opportunities, will find the University of Integrated Studies Graduate Program provides an excellent opportunity to acquire the skills necessary for becoming an integral part of an organization's management or treatment team. Clinicians will gain a working knowledge in areas of healthcare to enhance their practice, meet consumer demand, remain viable and increase credibility.

The sense of insecurity which many clinicians feel, can be overcome. The University of Integrated Studies provides a new topsoil in which the seeds of personal and social change can be nurtured. The norm for change remains: continue to be meaningful through a liberating education.

To learn more about the University of Integrated Studies and how you can earn an approved graduate degree, call (209) 533-9744 and request a University Catalog. Also, consult the University website at www.univintegratedstudies.edu

The American Academy of Pain Management is your partner for ". . . a continual bringing forth a world through the process of living" (Maturana & Varela, 1987).

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 Sachar, H. (1958). *The course of modern jewish history*. New York: A Delta Book.



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