

Survey of U.S. Ayurvedic Medicine Professionals Regarding Helping People with Cancer.

Dear Ayurvedic Professional,

We are contacting you to ask you to consider participating in a research study sponsored by the Office of Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine (OCCAM) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The purpose of the survey study is to explore attitudes of Ayurvedic professionals and gain a greater understanding of how Ayurvedic practice is incorporated in the management of patients with cancer in the United States (U.S.).

OCCAM supports research on issues related to traditional, alternative, and complementary medicine. In the past 7 years we have developed a collaboration with the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) of the Ministry of AYUSH in India. OCCAM and CCRAS established a webinar series to share and discuss some of the research conducted in India and the U.S on Ayurveda and other traditional medical systems and cancer. More information about these sessions, including links to the video recordings is available at [https://cam.cancer.gov/international\\_affairs/indian.htm](https://cam.cancer.gov/international_affairs/indian.htm).

A team of collaborators has worked on this survey project over the past year, including:

Dr. Anupama Kizhakkeveetil (Southern California University of Health Sciences)

Dr. Bhaswati Bhattacharya (Weill Cornell Medical College)

Dr. Anand Dhruva (University of California, San Francisco)

Dr. Gabriel Lopez (MD Anderson Cancer Center)

Dr. Frank Ninivaggi (Yale University)

Dr. Manohar Gundeti (CCRAS)

As well as three other staff and volunteers here at NCI:

Dr. Oluwadamilola Olaku

Dr. Julia Arnold

Dr. Benmei Liu

The CCRAS is also planning a survey of Ayurvedic practitioners in India that will cover many of the same topics as in this U.S. survey, and likely will even use some of the same questions. This will help us identify high priority projects for future collaboration between India and the U.S.

One of the goals of our team is to encourage greater dialog and understanding between Western biomedical practitioners/researchers and practitioners/researchers who work with Ayurveda. This is in hopes of facilitating collaborative research, the results of which will provide the basis for evidence-based integrative practice.

This survey research study is a critical step in that direction. Information gathered from this study will be reported in medical journal articles which will undoubtedly increase the awareness in the biomedical community of Ayurvedic practice. We plan to follow-up on this increased awareness by creating or working with existing platforms for dialog between Ayurvedic professionals and biomedical professionals that could lead to collaborations. Also, the results of the survey will be of great use to the U.S. Ayurvedic

provider and educator communities by providing them with quality data about the practices and interests of a large group of Ayurvedic professionals on clinical and research-related issues.

This online survey has 110 potential questions (though no one will see all of them) and takes about 40 minutes to complete. You may skip any question that you would prefer not to answer.

This is an anonymous survey. We will not be requesting the submission of personal identifiable information with your survey responses, nor will we be able to link your responses with your name or e-mail address.

Your choice to participate in this research by completing the survey is completely up to you. There is no consequence for not participating in this survey. Compensation will not be provided for your participation in this study.

#### Contact Information

If you have any questions about the study or your participation, please contact the Study Research Coordinator, Dr. Oluwadamilola Olaku (phone: 240-276-6148, email: [olakuo@mail.nih.gov](mailto:olakuo@mail.nih.gov)).

By agreeing to participate you certify:

- Your participation is voluntary.
- You are 18 years of age or older.
- You are a Ayurvedic medicine professional (i.e., completed a formal program of training in Ayurveda from a degree granting institution, or one that confers a diploma or certification on graduates)
- You are practicing on patients/clients in the United States. (i.e., using your formal training in Ayurveda to give advice to patients/clients about improving their health, as well as the prescription or administration of therapies)

If you agree to participate in this study, click on the following link

<https://forms.office.com/g/qPyxj0TG6X>.

or scan the QR code.



I hope you will consider participating in this survey.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. White, M.D.

Associate Director

Office of Cancer Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, NCI, NIH