The Passing of the Baton

by Neal Speight, MD and Allen “Buddy” Green, MD

It’s with great pleasure that I turn the reins of ACAM over to our incoming president Allen “Buddy” Green. Buddy has been a devoted member of ACAM for more than 25 years and has served in the capacity of Program Chair, CFO, and Vice President. With a busy practice of his own and extensive involvement in all aspects of Integrative Medicine, I am confident he will very capably lead ACAM into the future as we continue to build our organization.

Over the last two years ACAM has faced many challenges. As president, along with the board I have worked hard to help us overcome them. From the resignation of our executive director Rachel Weaver and the move of our physical offices, to streamlining the budget and dealing with the details of several joint conferences, to the plans for online education and maintaining our ACCME accreditation, ACAM has had many “fires to put out”. With the help of our new executive director Michael Boutot, we have done our best to keep your organization “yours” and hope that you will work with Dr. Green and Michael to help ACAM maintain her solidarity long into the future.

Remember ACAM is here because you come. It is here because there is a critical need to teach ALL that medicine has to offer, particularly the advances in nutrition, genetics, and environmental influences on illness. To those of you who’ve given of your time and/or finances during these last few years; my greatest thanks goes to you. It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity with all of you and I hope you will join me in welcoming Dr. Green to his new post as ACAM’s president. I look forward to many more good years with him at the helm.

Warm regards,

Neal Speight, MD

(continued below)
Dear ACAM Members,

As incoming president I would first like to thank Dr. Neal Speight, our immediate past president, for his tireless contributions and years of service to ACAM not only as president but his prior work on the executive committee and as the program chair for many of our past conferences. His shoes will be hard to fill but his leadership has left me with a stronger organization with a firm foundation, better prepared to move into the future.

As I move into this new position I am privileged with the challenges that ACAM has at this unique time in our history. Many of you know the founders of ACAM over 40 years ago were a group of physicians who were the original face of chelation medicine. They were the first to properly teach and certify practitioners of chelation therapies, making sure they administered chelation safely and effectively for a variety of health conditions. Those pioneers were way ahead of their time. In spite of clinical evidence that chelation therapy improved heart disease it would be four decades and an uphill battle to convince its critics that this therapy had merit.

Well we have finally come full circle! The results of the recently published TACT Trial, which ACAM doctors helped design and implement, proved that chelation therapy clearly works at preventing recurrent heart attacks. The TACT trial was a prospective double blind, randomized, placebo controlled study looking at the effects of EDTA chelation and nutritional therapy on post-MI patients, proving ACAM physicians were right all along and now the world knows! There are plans under way for follow-up studies of the TACT trial where you may become investigators too so keep your ears open. Now is the time for ACAM to seize this unique moment and re-assert itself as the leader of chelation medicine.

ACAM’s educational offerings now go well beyond chelation medicine but it was the merit of this treatment that helped us to branch out and teach many other safe and natural cutting edge therapies that help us all treat the complex diseases of our modern world. Such therapies include oxidative medicine, nutrition, hormone therapies, detoxification and environmental medicine, among others. It is my hope and goal as president to see chelation therapy and indeed the entire spectrum of therapies we teach go far beyond the borders of our current membership and into conventional fields of medicine as well. Let us further have the goal of leading the way to expand our educational offerings in other countries and help those healthcare practitioners learn how to better care for their patients.
In the spirit of these goals ACAM’s new initiatives include expanding and developing more on-line education such as a series of preparatory webinars and courses that could be completed in advance of our hands-on, in-person workshops, here and abroad. In addition we plan to offer real-time online coverage of our future workshops and conferences. It is also that time again to update our standardized chelation therapy exam (we are the only group who meets the high standards for EDTA education and certification with an applied measurement professionals exam).

Please continue to give us your feedback, as this is your organization. You should be receiving a series of on-line surveys shortly asking for your opinions of what you want from ACAM. We ask you to take the time to respond and help ACAM evolve and grow to meet your needs. We encourage you to consider volunteering to serve as a board member, as a mentor to new members, or as an active participant in one of several committees. If you have unique skills that you believe would benefit ACAM we want to know about it. Please continue attending our conferences and telling your colleagues about us as well. Visit the exhibitors when you come to conferences. They support a substantial amount of your educational experience and they need to know you care. I can’t emphasize that enough.

With the help of our executive director Michael Boutot and all of the ACAM staff, I look forward to the next two years as your president and ask that you continue to support our important organization. If you would like to know more about me, my biography has also been included in this newsletter. I hope to see you all at the spring conference in April and wish you all a joy filled holiday season.

Allen Green, M.D.