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BACKTALK

The Future of Natural Medicine

A new organization is trying to bring alternative and conventional medicine closer together. What should its priorities be?

CHANCES ARE THAT your conventional doctor still doesn't talk to you about herbs and your health insurer still isn't paying for your natural therapies. Andrew Weil, M.D., who teaches M.D.s about natural therapies at the University of Arizona in Tucson, wants to remedy this situation. Last September he founded the National Integrative Medicine Council (NIMC), a nonprofit networking organization for

alternative and conventional practitioners.

Weil believes that the isolation of individual branches of alternative medicine has hindered its integration with mainstream medicine. He hopes the NIMC will provide a



forum for these branches to work more closely together and with conventional doctors. The group will also try to get Congress to fund more integrative medicine programs at conventional medical schools. And it plans to work with corporations to design business models for integrative wellness programs.

—Stephen Camelio

Could massage become a conventional therapy?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you feel are the best ways to promote the integration of alternative and conventional medicine? Can the two work together? Let us know via fax (617-457-0979) or email (naturalhealth@weiderpub.com). We'll publish your suggestions in a future issue.

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