2016 Bravewell Distinguished Service Award

It is with great pleasure that the Consortium announces that David M. Eisenberg, MD has been selected as the 2016 Bravewell Distinguished Service Award recipient. Dr. Eisenberg will be given this award at the Celebratory Dinner on May 16, 2016, following the Consortium’s Member’s Meeting in Las Vegas. The Consortium’s Bravewell Distinguished Service Award is given to honor one of the Consortium members for their significant contribution to the Consortium’s mission. This Service Award recipient is chosen by a committee consisting of the current Chair, Vice-Chair, Immediate Past Chair, the previous year’s recipient and an At Large Executive Committee Member.

Many of you know David, but his biography is included in this announcement so that those of you who do not know him can become familiar with his work. This award will be presented at the Consortium Members Meeting dinner on Monday, May 16th in Las Vegas.

Please join us in wishing David congratulations on this award.

David M. Eisenberg, MD
Harvard University

David M. Eisenberg is currently the Director of Culinary Nutrition and Adjunct Associate Professor at the Harvard T H Chan School of Public Health. His landmark national surveys (New England Journal of Medicine, 1993 and JAMA, 1998) documented the remarkable extent to which the US population routinely uses and pays for complementary, alternative, integrative, and lifestyle related medical therapies. These data were referenced by the US Congress in its creation of the NIH Office of Alternative Medicine and, subsequently, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, recently renamed the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health. From 2000-2010 Dr. Eisenberg served as the founding Director of the Osher Research Center at Harvard Medical School and the founding Chief of the Harvard Division for Research and Education in Complementary and Integrative Medical Therapies. He simultaneously served as the Director of the
Program in Integrative Medicine at the Brigham & Women’s Hospital. In addition, Dr. Eisenberg was a founding member of the Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health and served as Chairman of the Scientific Review Committee for all of the Consortium’s prior research conferences.

From 2012 until 2015 he served as the Executive Vice President for Health Research and Education at the Samueli Institute, in Alexandria, Virginia.

His current educational and research interests include: (1) studies to assess the safety, clinical and cost effectiveness of complementary and integrative medical therapies; (2) the systematic evaluation of herbal medicines using state of the science technologies; and, (3) novel multi-disciplinary strategies to optimize lifestyle and self-care behaviors (e.g. diet, cooking, mindfulness, exercise, web based technologies and behavioral optimization) to prevent, treat and manage common medical conditions.

Related to this third area of focus, he is the founding director of the “Healthy Kitchens, Healthy Lives” continuing education conference, which has been offered twelve times and attended by more than 4000 health care professionals since 2006. Dr. Eisenberg is also currently the Co-Director of the newly launched Harvard T H Chan-Culinary Institute of America “Teaching Kitchen Collaborative”, a group consisting of 26 member organizations with novel teaching kitchens and related curricula, all of whom seek to develop “best practices” and participate in a research network whereby these emerging educational models can be evaluated for use by patients, corporate employees, students, retirees and various community based populations.

Dr. Eisenberg is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Medical School. He completed his fellowship training in general internal medicine and primary care and is Board Certified in Internal Medicine.

In 1979, under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, Dr. Eisenberg served as the first US medical exchange student to the People’s Republic of China. In 1993, he was the medical advisor to the Emmy Award winning PBS Series, “Healing and the Mind with Bill Moyers”.

Dr. Eisenberg has served as an advisor to the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration and the Federation of State Medical Boards with regard to complementary, alternative and integrative medicine research, education and policy. From 2003-2005 Dr. Eisenberg served on a National Academy of Sciences Committee responsible for the Institute of Medicine Report entitled, “The Use of Complementary and Alternative Medicine by the American Public.” He is currently a member of the US National Board of Medical Examiners Clinical Skills Committee. Dr. Eisenberg has authored more than 100 scientific articles involving complementary and integrative approaches to health care and continues to pursue research, educational and clinical programs relating to integrative and lifestyle medicine.

As a the son and grandson of professional bakers, Dr. Eisenberg aspires to bring together the culinary, medical, public health and business communities to enhance comprehensive health care for all.