

CASE REPORT INITIATIVE (CRI)

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A major challenge to performing high quality complementary and integrative health (CIH) research in non-neuromusculoskeletal conditions, and challenging musculoskeletal conditions, is the lack of high-quality case reports, case series, and n=1 studies in the CIH literature (Hawk 2000 J Neuromusculoskeletal System;7:150-5). Information and data from these types of studies are essential for developing appropriate hypotheses and for eventually informing clinical trials. The CRI is designed to make a significant positive impact on this gap in the literature. The NUHS Department of Research has developed materials and procedures to help NUHS faculty, and a small cadre of highly motivated students, write case reports on CIH approaches to patients they have treated. This initiative also includes the writing of educational descriptive reports by faculty whose primary role is teaching (e.g., faculty teaching in the fundamental/basic sciences). NUHS faculty have responded by publishing a significant number of case reports. Case reports, such as those being written by NUHS faculty, can lay the groundwork for clinical trials in musculoskeletal and non-neuromusculoskeletal conditions; and educational descriptive reports can lay the groundwork for larger educational research studies. In addition, the CRI can have an impact on the perception of complementary and integrative care by other professionals and the lay public.

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