

Bill Branch, MD
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Our Forum has grown consistently, especially since we began combining every other year with the EACH (European Association for Communication in Healthcare) into the ICCH (International Conference on Communication in Healthcare). We thank Greg Makoul at the Center for Communication and Medicine at Northwestern University for facilitating this exciting partnership beginning at the Forum/ICCH in Chicago in 2005. We also need to thank Shak Rehman for his irrepressibly enthusiastic and excellent organizational efforts at the 2006 Atlanta Forum and now the upcoming 2007 ICCH in Charleston. We have 387 total submissions for the Charleston ICCH (245 oral abstracts, 69 posters, 11 interest groups and 72 workshop submissions). This certainly promises to be the best Forum ever, with enormously creative and innovative presentations, as well as three outstanding keynote speakers: Carolyn Clancy, Richard Selzer and Theo Schofield.

There are some unique features of the Forum/ICCH. I think we offer the only major meeting focusing entirely on relationship-centered care and patient-communication. We also differ from other organizations in that our meeting is multidisciplinary. We welcome presentations (and membership) by Nurses, Social Workers, Doctoral-level and Masters-level Educators, Patient Advocates and Educators, Pharmacists, Physician Assistants and Physicians from all disciplines including Family Medicine and Pediatrics among others, in addition to Internal Medicine (plus some patients). To present at the Forum/ICCH means your audience will include only those folks interested in our kind of work and will include all of the disciplines that contribute to our work. Furthermore, at Forum/ICCH, you will present to and get to know colleagues from across the world. Surely, we are on the way to being preeminent in research and education related to relationship-centered care. Come to the Charleston Forum/ICCH and enjoy these exciting times.

With warm regards, Bill Branch, President, AACH