

**Bill Branch, MD**  
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Membership is the life blood of AACH. We currently have more than 500 active members. We could easily increase to 600 while strengthening the organization. Recently, Dennis Cope, Professor of Medicine at UCLA, accepted the position of Vice President for Membership. As many of you know, Dennis truly loves AACH and he is loved by literally hundreds of those whom he taught or supported over the years. He has been an AACH facilitator since the beginning. In his VP role he is dedicated to enhancing member diversity in every way. We would like to expand our membership to include more members in the allied health sectors, but doesn't mean we will slack off in our efforts to enhance AACH in the physician community. This includes members from outside the United States. For example, very good work on patient relationships is being done in Canada. AACH certainly needs to maintain regional, gender and ethnic diversity. I believe no one is more likely to accomplish this mission than Dennis. He is currently seeking volunteers for the Membership Committee that should correspond in every way to the goals for membership diversity by attracting those who teach or do research on relationship centered care. Anyone interested in helping Dennis with Membership should contact him at [dcope@ladhs.org](mailto:dcope@ladhs.org).

With best wishes,  
Bill Branch, President, AACH