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**Wikimedia Foundation  
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**Via email**

To the Board and Officers of the Wikimedia Foundation:

Hubris is excessive pride, vanity and vocal arrogance. A cabal is a faction that operates covertly and in secrecy. A conspiracy is the attempt by a group to cause harm either illegally or legally but by illegal means.

What do these three seemingly disparate terms have in common? Each applies to a small group editing on Wikipedia secretly and with absolute certainty in their self-righteous zeal to identify and discredit entire medical therapies and disparage the reputations of its practitioners.

Attached is an article showing each of these characteristics occurring simultaneously on Wikipedia by a network of organizations and groups who identify themselves as Skeptics. These individuals in turn rely upon the opinions of Drs. Stephen Barrett, Wallace Sampson and David Gorski as their "authorities" and as legitimate references to justify their propitious and in our opinion absurdly ignorant misunderstanding of acupuncture and other non-conventional medical systems.

In dozens of articles, we have deconstructed Barrett's credibility. He is not a legitimate source for citation in any area of Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM). In fact, Barrett has made his 40-year career to focus on destroying CAM and repeatedly revealing his extreme bias and prejudice towards these medical disciplines. By Wikipedia's own standards, he should never have been allowed to be used as a reliable source. Barrett and others in the Skeptic community have a right to their opinions. However, this does not give them the right to marginalize, victimize and wrongfully denounce innocent therapists' reputations.

Any responsible physician or scientist before attacking a therapy outside of their expertise or specialty would ask some reasonable and responsible questions. If all medical doctors, of whom there are tens of thousands now using or recommending a variety of CAM modalities, were

trained in high standards of orthodox medicine, then why would they have an interest in CAM practices unless it was scientifically shown and accepted to benefit patients? They have turned to these medical therapies because they have found them to be effective. The US government's Library of Medicine of peer-reviewed literature has many thousands of studies that provide a scientific rationale for their efficacy and safety data to support these practices. More important there are tens of millions of patient visits annually who attest to their benefits. Yet this evidence is completely denied and rejected by those who restrict all arguments to the contrary to an unsupported assumption that only orthodox medicine holds value. Everything else is pseudoscience and quackery that is promoted by those who Jimmy Wales calls "lunatic charlatans," -- a derogatory label that Skeptics frequently quote to show that Wales and Wikipedia speak with one voice. For those who have spent their careers becoming educated and practicing CAM, they are perplexed at this extreme animus and bias by Wales, Wikipedia and the Skeptics.

Therefore, read carefully the comments by the Wikipedia administrators and editors on the acupuncture talk page and notice their lack of knowledge about acupuncture and their premeditated decision to not accept the peer-reviewed literature that detracts and contradicts their personal ideologically motivated biases.

As of today, after sending the Foundation's Board many articles, we have observed no concerted effort to expunge the biographies of leading proponents of alternative medicine who have been unjustifiably assailed by Skeptic editors, despite many requests, nor corrections in glaring misinformation being disseminated by Wikipedia. It continues to be business as usual.

It is incumbent upon you as fiduciaries to understand that the Foundation is ultimately legally responsible for this modern day McCarthyism and it will not be tolerated.

Very truly yours,

Neal S. Greenfield