



**Tai Sophia  
Institute**

**For Immediate Release**

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**TAI SOPHIA INSTITUTE  
REPRESENTATIVES TESTIFY AT SENATE HEALTH HEARING**

**LAUREL, MD (February 26, 2009)** – On **February 23, 2009**, Tai Sophia Institute added clear and visionary voices to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing entitled, “Principles of Integrative Health: A Path to Health Care Reform.”

Testifying were Tai Sophia co-founder and president, **Robert Duggan, MA, MAc (UK)**; practitioner and professor emeritus **Sister Charlotte R. Kerr, RSM, RN, BSN, MPH, MAc (UK)**, and Board of Overseers Member as well as President of the Samuelli Institute, **Wayne B. Jonas, MD**. Also participating in the hearing were Global Director of Health Services for Dow Chemical Company **Cathy Baase, MD**, Director for the Center of Mind Body Medicine **James S. Gordon, MD**, and Director of the University of Minnesota Center for Spirituality & Healing **Mary Jo Kreitzer, RN, PhD**. Additionally, Dr. Gordon served as the first chair of the National Institutes of Health Office of Alternative Medicine, Dr. Jonas served as Director of the same office from 1995 to 1999, and Sr. Kerr served as a member of the NIH Advisory Council for Alternative Medicine. All three served on the White House Commission for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy.

In addition to these witnesses, a number of other individuals constituted a resource group, contributing statements to the Committee record. Among these individuals was **Simon Mills, MA**, Project Lead for the United Kingdom Department of Health project, *Integrated Self Care in Family Practice* as well as founder, past program director, and a core faculty member of Tai Sophia’s Herbal Medicine master’s degree program.

**Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.)**, a senior member of the Senate Committee and chairwoman of its Subcommittee on Retirement and Aging, presided over the hearing and thanked each participant for their significant contributions to wellness, emphasizing that “each one of us makes a difference, and when we work together, we can make a change.” Each participant offered a three minute presentation summarizing a written testimony also submitted as part of the hearing record. A question and answer discussion followed the initial presentations.

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This senate hearing kicked off a week of Washington, D.C. events featuring national integrative medicine experts. The hearing also points to an openness of the new administration to a fresh and exciting discussion of national health and wellness possibilities for all Americans and identifies Tai Sophia Institute as a significant voice in this discussion.

To learn more about Tai Sophia Institute, its services, partnerships, and initiatives, please visit [www.tai.edu](http://www.tai.edu) or call 410-888-9048.

**ABOUT TAI SOPHIA INSTITUTE**

Tai Sophia Institute, a private, nonprofit organization based in Laurel, Maryland, is a center for wellness-based education, client care, and public policy discourse. Founded in 1975 as a small healing arts clinic, the Institute has evolved into a diverse resource providing graduate academic programs, continuing education, community wellness programs, and clinical services in acupuncture, nutrition, and herbal medicine. Its 12-acre main campus also houses a bookstore, herbal dispensary, library, and herb and meditation gardens. Tai Sophia is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and offers three graduate degrees in Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine, and Applied Healing Arts. The Master of Acupuncture program was the first in the United States to be accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. The Institute's faculty, staff, and students donate more than 15,000 community service hours to a variety of projects, and its practitioners provide more than 35,500 treatments and consultations yearly. The Institute empowers wellness leaders, business executives and communities to learn the art of caring for and serving one another.

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