

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

Complementary & Alternative Medicine Utilization Among Psoriasis Patients

Samuel Kunjukunju

Psoriasis is an autoimmune disorder that manifests as a dermatological disease, characterized by lesions and red patches of itchy dry skin. In addition to both physical irritation and discomfort, Psoriasis is also often associated with Psoriatic arthritis, Crohn's disease, Hyperlipidemia, cardiovascular diseases, among other complications.

Approximately 7.5 million Americans and 125 million individuals around the world have the disease. Currently, medical science has yet to find a cure.

Traditional biomedical approaches focus on **four standard treatment** options to reduce the physical expression of the disease: **ultraviolet light therapy, topical ointments, systemic drugs, and biologics.**

Prior research studies conducted throughout the past two decades suggest that a psychological facet to treatment is essential. Incorporating Complementary and Alternative Medicines (CAMs) into treatment regimens has been shown to improve symptoms.

This study is grounded in exploratory research and utilizes an online survey to determine treatment preferences among Psoriasis patients and to ascertain what CAMs, if any, are being used.

The insights from this study will help shed light on how Psoriasis patients are managing their condition, ultimately furthering medical research by providing valuable data for future Psoriasis treatment.

**Committee Chair:
Scott McIntosh, PhD**

**Committee Members:
Ann Dozier, PhD
Francisco Tausk, MD**

**Wednesday, February 24, 2010
12:30PM – 1:00 PM
Helen Wood Hall, Room 4W301**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME