



**Continuum** Health Partners, Inc.

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**Continuum Center for Health and Healing Launches New  
National Institutes of Health (NIH)-Funded Web Site**

New York, NY (November 17, 2009) Many patients living with chronic diseases are searching for more in-depth information and new therapeutic approaches to help them live fully with their disease. To address this issue, The Continuum Center for Health and Healing (CHH) at Beth Israel Medical Center - the largest comprehensive integrative medicine facility in the United States - recently launched a multimedia consumer education Web site on integrative approaches to three chronic diseases: heart disease; diabetes and chronic pain. Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), written by experts in the field and entirely evidence-based, the site is presented in text, audio slides and Flash animation, making its information accessible to a wide variety of users.

Through patient focus groups conducted prior to designing the site, the site developers learned a great deal about the struggles, needs and life issues of patients living with chronic disease. "People expressed feelings of isolation and a sense of being on their own in terms of the ongoing management and multiple biopsychosocial issues that arise," says Marsha Handel, MLS, Director of Informatics and Online Education at CHH, who developed the grant proposal and oversaw all aspects of the Web site's production. "We hope people will visit the site and recommend it to colleagues as well as friends, family and patients seeking multidisciplinary approaches and self-care strategies that reinforce a positive, empowered approach to managing chronic disease."

The site is in English and Spanish and was funded by a grant from the National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. The Web site can be accessed directly at: [www.healingchronicdisease.org](http://www.healingchronicdisease.org) or through the Continuum Center for Health and Healing at: [www.healthandhealingny.org](http://www.healthandhealingny.org)

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