



WHY YOU HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE PRAXIS PARTNERS CONSORTIUM

Congratulations! A Founding Member of the [Praxis Partners Consortium](#) has nominated you for Charter Membership in our newly-formed organization and marketplace. You may want to ask your colleague specifically why they selected you. In general, though, like attracts like. The Founders are choosing people whom they admire and respect, and whose walk matches their talk. When you formally apply to join us, we will ask you to tell us more about who you are. We predict you will be happier and even more successful among us.

The Praxis Partners Consortium is a rallying point, gathering place, resource center and marketplace for vetted professionals in many parts of society who see some common problems and have a shared goal.

- Our goal is to improve what happens when health events imperil a working age person's ability to function at home, at work, and in the community – in other words, to fulfill their human potential.
- We observe remarkable variability from person to person in the impact that any particular health problem has on their lives. This applies to common everyday health problems like back pain and depression. It also applies to devastating conditions like schizophrenia and spinal cord injuries.
- All of us human beings, when faced with predicaments such as health problems, make choices that reflect our view of our global circumstances. Thus, we think that the biopsychosocioeconomic (BPSE) model of human sickness and disability is the most accurate way to explain that variability.
- Poor health status, bad medical outcomes, needless work disability, and excessive costs are too common in today's healthcare, workers' compensation, and disability benefits programs.
- These systems now create incentives for individuals to give up their independence, and for professionals to do ineffective, inadequate, excessive, or even harmful things -- despite ever-growing evidence in several disciplines about ways to improve outcomes while reducing total cost. Those who do the right thing often find themselves at an economic disadvantage.
- Improving outcomes requires a team approach with collaboration among stakeholders and disciplines. A multi-dimensional approach is required to manage complex situations due to their BPSE nature. Doing this means new services, methods, business processes, and economic models.
- Change is hard in big systems, and not everyone is open to new ideas and innovation. Those who want to improve things are often isolated and frustrated by others' satisfaction with the status quo and resistance to change -- as well as the lack of access to practical examples of collaboration across boundaries between professions, silos, organizations, and sectors.
- We view the Praxis Partners Consortium as a way to bring together a critical mass of accomplished professionals to create a unified voice; gain visibility and traction; experiment with better ways of doing things; and find more opportunities than we could on our own.

Why join us? Professionals join the Praxis Partners Consortium in order to:

- Learn from one another to deepen understanding and build mastery.
- Network, build relationships, share experiences, discoveries, knowledge, and best practices.
- Find like-minded collaborators, suppliers, or buyers of services with whom to do business.
- Design new ways of doing things, participate in research, demonstration, or pilot projects to test ideas in the real world.

Who started the Praxis Partners Consortium? A list of our Founders is on the Praxis Partners website at www.webility.md/praxis/founding-members.htm. They liked the idea of banding together, cross-fertilizing, collaborating, and doing business with people whose views and approach are compatible with their own. They serve as the Advisory Board for the Consortium.

Many of the Founders have been finding better ways of working together across silos or organizational boundaries. Some have been designing, developing, testing, and then putting into place new evidence-based methods of managing cases, claims, or programs. Others are getting best practice services and products that improve outcomes into everyday commercial use so they are widely available and financially viable. Several are researchers. A few joined us because they support what we are doing and want to help inform and educate their marketplaces about it.

What else are we up to? A major goal of the Consortium is help all types of professionals thrive and prosper whose behavior reflects a demonstrated commitment to efficiently producing better overall outcomes of health-related life and work disruptions.

Praxis Place, the consortium's on-line portal, will feature a marketplace where members as well as the general public can find vetted Praxis Partners with whom to do business: healthcare providers to care for patients, vendors to deliver specialty services or help manage cases with insurance or benefits claims, customers who are open to new ideas and services consistent with our mission and vision, etc.

Who runs Praxis Partners? Dr. Jennifer Christian conceived of this idea and leads Praxis Partners with input from the Advisory Group. Her goal is to create a structure to support a grass-roots do-it-yourself approach to system change, or as she says: "provide a safe place for us little furry mammals to thrive and multiply until the coming Ice Age kills off the dinosaurs." She is president of Webility Corporation, a for profit company that houses the Consortium. She has run the free Work Fitness & Disability Roundtable on Yahoo Groups since 2001. She has also chaired the Work Fitness & Disability Section of the American College of Occupational & Environmental Medicine for more than a decade. In 2006, she founded the non-profit multi-stakeholder 60 Summits Project for which she received 4 awards.

Dues for Charter Members Because Charter Member dues will help this newborn organization develop and expand its capabilities, your dues will always be the lowest among all categories of dues-paying members. Since our membership is so diverse, the annual dues amount for individuals slides with personal income.

- \$120 dues – \$75,000 US or less in annual personal income
- \$190 dues – Between \$75,000 and \$125,000
- \$265 dues – Between \$126,000 and \$175,000
- \$350 dues – \$175,000 or more
- \$750 dues – Flat rate team membership (up to 3 qualifying individuals from same entity).

Next steps If you have decided to accept this nomination, please formally apply to join us. For instructions and an application form, go to <http://www.webility.md/praxis/join-us.htm>

To learn more before making a decision, go to www.webility.md/praxis. Read the sections entitled "About Us" to see if this really is a good fit for you. Ask the Founder who nominated you why they joined. We look forward to welcoming you as a Charter Member. Hope to hear from you soon!

Membership Committee
Praxis Partners Consortium