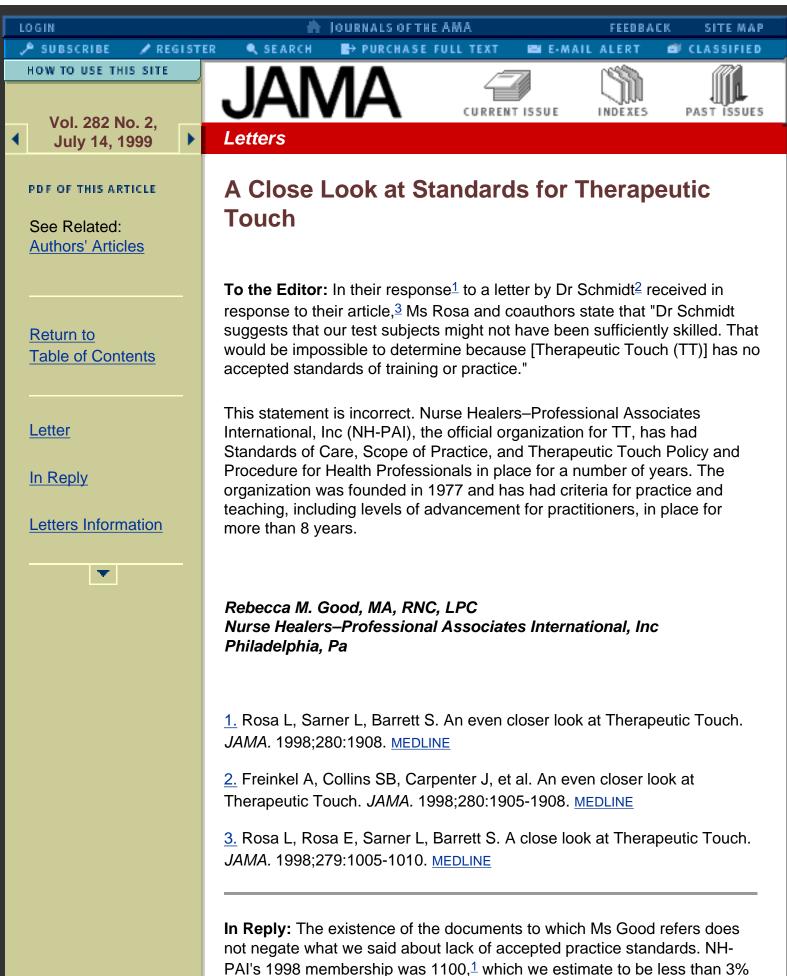
A Close Look at Standards for Therapeutic Touch



Letter

In Reply

Letters Information

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of TT practitioners. *Meaningful* standards require demonstrable ability to perform a procedure. What NH-PAI refers to as standards requires no such demonstration.

To perform TT, a practitioner must detect and manipulate a "human energy field." None of the 21 practitioners we tested was able to do so. The American Holistic Nurses Association requires no such ability for "certification" in Healing Touch (a TT variant), nor do workshops offered by NH-PAI, Healing Touch International, or the Theosophical Society of America involve any objective determination of ability to practice TT after the workshop has been completed. An NH-PAI Web site even stated that "Whereas . . . energy flow can not be currently measured" . . . NH-PAI opposes certification/credentialing of TT practitioners.<sup>2</sup>

States that accept continuing education credits for such TT nursing courses as those offered by the American Nurses' Association or published in the *American Journal of Nursing* also show no concern for a TT student's actual ability to deliver therapeutic benefit. One author advises: "After reading about therapeutic touch, you may want to experiment with this modality on friends and colleagues before trying it with your patients."<sup>3</sup> Can you imagine credentialing physicians in this way?

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<u>1.</u> Travers B. *Encyclopedia of Medical Organizations and Agencies*. 7th ed; Gale Research: Detroit, Mich: 1998; 205.

2. Nurse Healers–Professional Associates International Inc. Position statement on TT certification/credentialing. Available at: http://www.familyforum.com/nhpa/about.htm. Accessed March 25, 1999.

<u>3.</u> Mackey RB. Complementary modalities, part 1: discover the healing power of therapeutic touch. *Am J Nurs.* 1995;95:26-33. <u>MEDLINE</u>

## **Letters Information**

**Guidelines for Letters** 

