

To: IAYT Board & Member Schools Committee

Dear Colleagues,

We write with a sense of urgency and collective responsibility, reflecting on the future of Yoga therapy education and our professional community. The recent approval and introduction of the Stanford University and IAYT-endorsed Yoga-X 300-hour QHP fast-track program, now recognized as IAYT-Q certification, compels us to seek a broader dialogue and reconsideration of this decision.

The initiative, launched without the expected inclusivity, due process, or transparency, challenges established professional standards and places an untenable burden on member schools. This situation threatens to destabilize the educational ecosystem we have nurtured, crucial for sustaining IAYT's foundational membership base—past, present, and future. Furthermore, it raises questions about the fiduciary responsibilities IAYT holds towards its member schools.

Our apprehension lies in the logistical and financial impracticalities of implementing parallel programs, the dilution of the holistic, integrative journey that defines Yoga therapy education, and the competitive disadvantage of schools that cannot adopt a QHP track. Moreover, the varied needs of health professionals across different fields call into question the efficacy of a standardized, one-size-fits-all, fast-track program.

As Program Directors, we are concerned about our students facing financial barriers and the shift in diversity amongst our student base. Segregating student populations between the QHP track and our traditional 800-hour programs presents significant logistical and financial challenges. The new financial burden reduces our ability to offer scholarships or maintain affordable tuition, compromising our commitment to equity and inclusivity. Moreover, segregation of our student body would diminish the richness of the learning environment for our students, who currently benefit greatly from diverse student backgrounds. We must consider these impacts carefully to ensure that IAYT's decisions support the schools' operational viability and the student's educational experience.

In addition, we must address the broader implications of the QHP fast track on the perception and integrity of Yoga therapy as a profession. By privileging a fast-track certification for conventional practitioners, there is an unintended message that Yoga therapy's comprehensive, holistic foundation can be condensed without compromise, standing in stark contrast to the values IAYT has championed: an immersive education that is essential for acquiring knowledge and fostering the personal growth and transformation at the heart of effective Yoga therapy. Such a shift challenges the unique position of Yoga therapy within the integrative health landscape and risks diminishing the aspects that define its value

and efficacy. We urge a reevaluation of this initiative to ensure our collective actions continue to reflect the depth and integrity that have long been the hallmarks of our path and profession.

Our introduction to the 'fast track' program and the manner in which it was approved raises significant concerns about the governance of IAYT. The approval process sidestepped vital member school consultation, presenting the program to the member schools through post-approval "information and Q&A sessions" that lacked clarity and transparency. Such an approach diverges from our shared values of inclusivity and equity, potentially violating the transparency requirements essential for ethical governance, and appears misaligned with the mission and objectives that guide our community as outlined in IAYT's 2021-2024 Strategic Plan that member schools endorse and use as a basis for the decision to re-accredit and pay their annual dues.

In light of these considerations, we urge a pause and comprehensive review of the IAYT-Q Fast Track program. This review should assess the program's alignment with our profession's standards and its impact on the viability of member schools, which are foundational to IAYT's future. An inclusive dialogue is essential, ensuring decisions reflect our shared values and the needs of all stakeholders. Let's reaffirm our commitment to the integrity of Yoga therapy education and foster a more equitable decision-making process for the benefit of our entire community. Our commitment to constructive engagement and dialogue stands firm; we can navigate this challenge by coming together.

Respectfully submitted,

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Others...waiting their approval to show their name.