

EDITORIAL

Science and Healing: From Bioelectromagnetics to the Medicine of Light

Special Issue of *JACM*—Call for Papers

It is said that in the Orient there is an ancient curse that runs like this: "May you live in interesting times." It can safely be said that, right now, we live in interesting times; indeed they are perhaps extraordinary times. In medicine; in the biologic, chemical, and physical sciences; in agriculture; in social science; in education; in communications; and in human relations and religious evolution, there are changes and developments afoot that are influencing paradigm, practice, and policy in all arenas worldwide in ways that will profoundly affect us for generations to come. The curse concerns those who are not only asleep with regard to the changes occurring but are also not willing to awaken, explore, and learn from what they might have to offer. These are the times of the reawakening to the phenomenal effectiveness of prayer and intention, both locally person-to-person and at distances of thousands of miles. These are the times of the exploration of complexity and chaos as manifestations of the implicate order that unifies all things that appear so diverse. These are the times where the cutting edges of physics and the physical sciences go beyond time and space to address the origins of energy.

One of the most significant of these many changes in clinical and therapeutic arenas concerns the development of so-called energy medicine modalities and disciplines. The rapprochements between Oriental and Occidental paradigms, cosmologies, and philosophies are being made manifest through these scientific diagnostic, prognostic, and therapeutic technologies. Some of these devices are ancient in form

and function, relying solely on the inner practices and physiologic developments of individuals and utilizing the devices of the body alone. Such are *qigong* and *t'ai chi*. Others have evolved using electrical, electromagnetic, and magnetic resonance technologies that enable not only therapeutic intervention but also diagnostic potential as well as the facility to visualize energy fields in real time, before, during, and after any kind of physical, psychologic, or other intervention. Examples of therapeutic devices are the Russian Scenar technologies, which were a direct result of developments in the Russian space program, and the Essaidi magnetic resonance cabins in Holland, which were a direct result of the brilliant developments in magnetic resonance imaging of recent years. Diagnostic and visualization modalities include Kirlian photography, polycontrast interference photography, and gas discharge visualization among many others. In addition to such devices, there is a profusion of electromagnetic "energy" devices, some of the proponents of which claim to be able to diagnose, detect, and treat any condition not only of this lifetime but even of others, from infestations with organisms to those of spirits, from malignancy to toxicity, from hematologic to etheric. Little, if any, work has been done to evaluate these bioresonance devices systematically in recognizable medical and clinical settings but that has not stopped people from using them and building theories, followings, clinics, and courses around them. There are anecdotes and testimonials purporting great benefit but it would be nice now to have some evidence that could cross the para-

digmatic and linguistic boundaries that separate the new age from the old one.

As a result of all these developments, the editorial board and staff of *The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine: Research on Paradigm, Practice, and Policy* would like to announce the preparation of a special issue in December of 2003 that will focus on the many therapeutic modalities that are currently loosely grouped under the heading of Energy Medicine. The working title of this special issue: "Science and Healing: From Bioelectromagnetics to the Medicine of Light."

This issue is to be a "blue skies" edition but also one with its feet firmly grounded in rigorous thought and experiment. We, therefore, invite submission of pertinent manuscripts concerning this broad field: papers that may be paradigm or perspectives pieces, case studies or pilot studies, clinical trials, philosophy of science, theoretical science, methodological pieces, education and information resources papers, and more. We are looking for your best frontier work, whether it be poetic or scholarly.

The deadline for submissions is July 15th, 2003. All authors should meticulously follow the guidelines in the Instructions for Authors section printed in the *Journal* and on our Web site

(www.liebertpub.com/acm). Please mail your submissions to the San Francisco address in the Instructions, including a notation to Bruce D. Curtis, M.A., M.Div., our guest editor for this edition, that your paper is a submission for the Energy Medicine issue.

A brief note to potential reviewers: We will need maximum cooperation in refereeing these papers for this issue, both in terms of content, as well as in timing because it is hoped to publish this as the last issue for 2003 or the first of 2004. The final result promises to be a defining reference edition that will serve as a guide for evolving therapeutic practice in the global holistic human endeavor.

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