

DISCOVERY

Steven L. Fahrion, Ph.D.

It is well to observe the force and effect and consequences of discoveries. These are to be seen nowhere more conspicuously than in those three which were unknown to the ancients. . . . namely, printing, gunpowder and the magnet. For these three have changed the whole face and state of things throughout the world. . . . no empire, no sect, no star seems to have exerted greater power and influence in human affairs than these changes.

--Sir Francis Bacon, *Novum Organum*, 1620

Bacon championed the value of empiricism and the role of discovery in science, maintaining that prejudice and preconception (“idols”) must be abandoned in favor of accurate observation and experimentation. The discoveries he noted changed literature, warfare and navigation, thereby literally changing the face of the world as we know it. In each case, whether as information or energy, these discoveries served human needs and solved human problems (while sometimes creating others). In this issue we use the discoveries of the past, our printed maps, our navigator’s charts, to lead us, through mind-fields—though hopefully not mined-fields—as our journey of discovery continues.

It is said that science was largely a solitary endeavor for the Renaissance scientist. In contrast, it is striking that in the articles presented in this issue there is a strong theme of teamwork and group effort in the discovery process. Perhaps this would be as true in any other current scientific activity as it is in our own field, but there is something about our work that by its very nature allows discoveries to most easily emerge in a womb woven by group communication.

Remote Influence of Human Physiology by a Ritual Healing Technique, presented by a research team comprised of Jannine Rebman, Rens Wezelman, Dean Radin, Paul Stevens, Russell Hapke and Kelly Gaughan from the Consciousness Research Laboratory of the University of Nevada, represents an experimental investigation of mechanisms of healing “magic” (ritual healing). Here we see the exciting potential of scientific “clinical analog” studies of healing rituals, and of a team approach in which each member of the team alternately takes the role of experimenter, healer and patient. Creative follow-through in analytic technique also characterizes work emerging from this lab; for example, additional comparison data on the effects of massage was collected in the second phase of this research to provide clarification of basic results, and to stimulate further investigation of healing mechanisms.

In Craniosacral Therapy: Part II: As It Is Today, John Upledger continues with the second installment of a three-part perspective on this now widely used form of energy medicine treatment. The broad range of apparently effective applications of the technique, political aspects of the development of energy medicine therapeutic techniques, and hints concerning works in progress are addressed. Again a theme of importance of teamwork in the discovery and treatment process is emphasized. Teamwork gives birth to new concepts, and also stabilizes and grounds the therapeutic process in a relatively egalitarian web. Integrity and honesty remain hallmarks of good science as well as good communication.

Finally, Norman Shealy and Caroline Myss present *The Ring of Fire and DHEA: A Theory for Energetic Restoration of Adrenal Reserves*. While this work, as a pilot study, is in a very early phase of *scientific* investigation, it is based on several years of careful observation and clinical work, including rich communication between a medical scientist and intuitive diagnostician. In a field where so much is new to scientific perspective and procedure, it is important to provide a forum for work at all stages of investigation, from randomized controlled study to pilot study. This work is presented in the spirit of clinical hypothesis-seeking, in process toward hypothesis-testing.

Notice is taken that one of our own, Elmer Green, was awarded the prestigious Hans Selye Award at the Eighth International Montreux Congress on Stress in Montreux, Switzerland. Exemplifying widespread interest in our field and

in honor of Elmer, the focus of the Plenary Session of the conference was “subtle energy medicine.” The award itself recognized decades of accomplishment, but again a theme of teamwork was prominent, as his lifetime work of discovery has been a product of deeply shared communication and effort with his late wife, Alyce Green.

Each of these pieces helps us to define the meaning and process of “discovery” in our new scientific field. Is discovery the “uncovery” of mechanisms underlying fundamental processes such as one human influencing the physiology of another at a distance through “focused intention?” Is our form of discovery the development of new, effective therapies of broad application through scientific experiment and clinical intuition? Is discovery the design and implementation of pilot studies on electromagnetic stimulation of ubiquitous but until recently mysterious health-related hormones? Is discovery in energy medicine *all* of these? Ultimately each of us will have to define for ourselves what to include, what level of evidence is necessary for accepting a given finding. Yet one fact seems undeniable. We can already see that discoveries within our field of interest are certain to change our concept of human possibilities and our “known world” as much as those of interest to Bacon almost 400 years ago. It also seems like these changes will emerge, not in solitary pursuits in ivory towers of ego, but rather in open, creative communication with each other.

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