

SCIENCE, EXPERIENTIAL WISDOM, DEPTH OF HEART: GIFTS FROM THE 2009 ISSSEEM CONFERENCE

by Debra Alford, Guest Editor

If you were fortunate enough to be present at the nineteenth annual ISSSEEM conference, you know what an extraordinary variety of speakers contributed their knowledge and insights to the theme *Sacred Synthesis: Science with Heart*. The outstanding community session speakers included Steve Levin, Rustum Roy, Puran and Susanna Bair, Karl Maret, Lynne McTaggart, James Oschman, Mae-Wan Ho, Claude Swanson, Richard Bartlett, and Deepak Chopra.

Even more striking than the diversity, however, was the interconnected and overlapping nature of the ideas these people presented. Every speaker (no matter their topic, discipline, or research emphasis) called attention to the interrelatedness of all life, the intricate dance of creation and intercommunication within our cells, and the mounting evidence that demonstrates the profound intelligence of organisms at the cellular level. Microcosmic and macrocosmic similarities were observed; the flexibility of time and space and the intricacies of subatomic realities were explored; speculation on the nature of reality and consciousness was offered, and standard scientific paradigms were transcended.

Speakers often referenced concepts that other speakers had explored; the conference was a kaleidoscopic immersion in fascinating ideas seen from many different perspectives that interacted with and informed each other. A sense of aliveness, appreciation and camaraderie characterized the atmosphere of the gathering.

People who attend ISSSEEM conferences represent a wide range of experience and expertise, including meditators, mystics, energy medicine practitioners and advocates, and research scientists. Many participants are all of these things. The three authors whose articles appear in this issue of the Journal are distinguished scientists who possess a strong connection to beauty and mystery, as well as a burning desire to contribute to the true well being of humanity.

As I worked with Karl Maret, Mae-Wan Ho and Jim Oschman to translate their conference presentations into articles, I was immersed in the depth of their awareness and the gift of their clarity. Even when some of the scientific terminology and concepts go over my head (since I'm on the "meditator and mystic" end of the continuum), I am inspired by the energy and essence of what these scientists communicate. They offer us deep yet practical insights about water, the wonders of the human heart, electromagnetic radiation, sustainable agriculture, the earth's electrical field, quantum physics, the infinite subtlety of our biology, healing with sound and light . . . the fascinating list goes on and on.

So as my fellow non-scientists read this issue of the Journal, I encourage you to slow down and savor the knowledge and perspective these articles offer. You'll find that they validate what you know in your mystic's soul while they also stir your latent scientific curiosity.

If reading these articles piques your interest, you may be interested in the audio recordings and DVDs of the conference presentations available at www.issseem.org. And always, the references and bibliographies offer a wealth of resources to guide your further inquiry.

Here's a quote from Mae-Wan Ho that hints at the depth and intensity of these presentations, and echoes the energy of the conference:

The coherent organism is the unity of brain and body, heart and mind, an undivided bundle of intellect and passion, flesh, blood, and sinew that lives life to the full, freely and spontaneously, attuned not just to the immediate environment, but the universe at large.

My hope is that these articles will help you recognize and realize your own coherence, brilliance, and passion.

