

News and Notices

Complementary Medicine in the NHS

The NHS Confederation has recently published a research paper with the above title. It is an in depth study on the level and scope of complementary medicine (CM) being practised in a typical location and highlights the key management issues which need to be addressed if CM's use within the NHS is to develop in a rational and systematic way. It is based on questionnaire surveys and interviews with a wide range of health professionals and managers. The paper calls for a government funded national initiative in the field to ensure that such issues as effectiveness, training, qualifications, competence and funding are addressed. Enquiries about copies should be addressed to Matt Hageney at the NHS Confederation Birmingham Office, Birmingham Research Park, Vincent Drive, Birmingham B15 2SQ. Tel: 0121 471 4444. <http://www.nhsconfed.net/>

Foundation for Integrated Medicine

The Foundation for Integrated Medicine (FIM) was established under the personal initiative of the Prince of Wales. Its purpose is to work with Health Care institutions and professionals in order to achieve the Prince's vision of integrated Health Care in the 21st century. We published his speech at the launch of the document in the last issue. Since then FIM has held a major conference and is actively promoting its ideas within the National Health Service. FIM is active in four areas: research and development, education and training, regulation of complementary medical practices and the delivery of integrated health care. Further information can be obtained from: Suite 201, 16-16a Baldwin Gardens, London EC1N 7RJ, UK. E-mail: FIMed@compuserve.com

The Janki Foundation for Global Health Care

This Foundation has been set up on the initiative of Dadi Janki of the Brahma Kumaris. It aims to enhance the work of the Global Hospital and Research Centre on Mount Abu, Rajasthan an 80 bed hospital with staff trained to create an environment of peace through meditation, positive thinking, and deep spiritual awareness. The hospital's work is based on the philosophy that lasting solutions to health problems require healing of both mind and body. Further details: 11 St. Gabriels Road, Cricklewood, London NW2 4DS, UK. E-mail: jankifound@compuserve.com

The Yoga Therapy Centre

A new initiative from the Yoga Biomedical Trust and based at The Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital. Yoga therapy is defined as the application of yoga techniques to help people with specific health problems. The trust has carried out surveys on health benefits of yoga, and controlled trials for diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis. Its current project is completing a controlled trial of yoga therapy for asthma. Enquiries to 60 Great Ormond Street, London WC1N 3HR, UK. Tel: 0171 419 7195

Medical Action for Global Security

MEDACT is the only NGO of health professionals influencing policy-makers and the public about the impact on health of poverty, violent conflict and environmental change. They produce an informative quarterly newsletter. Current projects include a pilot study on lifestyle changes in relation to carbon-dioxide emissions, a campaign to cancel third world

debt and a study on how social wellbeing affects health. Details: 601 Holloway Road, London N19 4DJ, UK. E-mail: medact@gn.apc.org

American Threat to Organic Food

We have recently received some information about a 600 page USDA document setting out its standards for organic agriculture in the US. It appears that large genetic and agro-chemical companies have pressurised the department into classifying the following practices as organic!

- A) The use of genetically engineered crops
- B) The practice of intensive animal farming
- C) The routine use of antibiotics and other animal drugs
- D) The irradiation of organic food
- E) The use of many chemicals on crops which are currently considered unacceptable
- F) A more liberal use of non-organic ingredients in processed organic foods.

Furthermore, the USDA is proposing to make the costs of organic registration so high that only the largest of growers will be able to afford them. Astonishingly the USDA will make it illegal for any independent organic certifying agency to propose a higher set of standards than those of the USDA. I understand that that many protests have been received and that the consultation period ended on 18 March. A copy of the USDA proposal along with public responses can be found on their Web site:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>

Attention All GPs

Dr. Yvonneke Roe writes: The Grosvenor Group has produced a disk to be sent to all GP's in the UK in July containing information about complementary and alternative therapies. It will contain updated information about the diagnosis and treatment of Gut Dysbiosis as well. PLEASE DO NOT THROW IT IN THE BIN! Please do encourage your colleagues to look at it as well sceptical and otherwise- as it sounds a good way to spread useful information and data about alternative approaches to healthcare. Address: 72 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9DD, UK

St. Columba Hotel, Iona

The hotel has recently been bought by a consortium of people who are keen to develop spiritual courses on the Island. Iona has been a centre for pilgrimage for centuries and the hotel lies right next to the Abbey. It has accommodation for up to 46 people. Further information: St. Columba Hotel, Isle of Iona, Argyll PA76 6SL, Scotland. Tel: (01681) 700304 Fax: (01681) 700688.

Network for Integral Orientation

A new group forming in the Bristol area to study the ideas of Ken Wilber and other transpersonal thinkers. It will consider their transformative impact on psychology, spirituality, anthropology, philosophy, ecology and gender studies. The Network believes that only a fundamental re-visioning of ourselves and culture will empower us to address the problems of the post-modern crisis and move from rationality to a higher level of functioning what Wilber calls vision-logic. Further information from: (0117) 924 7248

Beshara School of Intensive Esoteric Education

This school is based at Chisholme House in the Scottish borders and has been running courses since 1975. They vary in length from a weekend to 6 months. All are based upon study, work, meditation and practice. It is 'an education towards the knowledge of the self and the knowledge of the One, the purpose of which is conscious reunion with the Essence of existence'. Details: The Secretary, The Bashara School, Chisholme House, Robertson, Hawick, TD9 7PH, Scotland. Fax: 01450 880204.

Mental Health, Religion and Culture

A new journal providing a forum for the growing number of professionals and academics working in the field of mental health and religion. The journal publishes empirically-based work exploring the relationships between mental health and religion and culture and discussing conceptual and philosophical aspects. Contributions are encouraged from a range of disciplines: psychiatry, psychology, sociology, philosophy, religious studies, social and pastoral work. Contents include clinical and other case material, observational and interview material, questionnaires and quantified data. Details: Carfax Publishing Limited, P.O.Box 25, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3OE, UK. Web site: <http://www.carfax.co.uk>

M.Sc. in Consciousness and Transpersonal Psychology

A new course being pioneered by members Brian Lancaster and Michael Daniels, designed for those who wish to pursue an intellectually challenging programme of study in the areas of consciousness research and transpersonal psychology. Includes approaches to consciousness, emergence of self, research methods and the psychology of spiritual practice. Further information: Centre for Applied Psychology School of Human Sciences, Liverpool John Moores University, Trueman Building, 15-21 Webster Street, Liverpool L3 2ET, UK. Tel: 051-231 4036.

E-mail: b.l.lancaster@livjm.ac.uk

News from Spiritual Science Institute

The newly formed Spiritual Science Institute, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, has recently completed preliminary testing to measure gamma radiation in a patient's energy field before and during alternative healing sessions involving Polarity therapists. The main objective of the research was to identify the cosmic energy claimed to be manipulated during these therapies. Comparison data was also collected using both scam practitioners and 'standing only' observers. Equipment and expertise for the project was provided by The Ohio State University's (OSU) Nuclear Reactor Laboratory.

The analysis completed by OSU's Biostatistics Program revealed that there were highly statistically significant differences between the amount of gamma radiation absorbed during actual Polarity treatments versus either scam or standing controls. The tests performed revealed that, although three of the four sites were significant beyond $p > .001$, the lower the site on the body the higher the degree of significance ranging from the pelvis region up to the crown area. Further research is being planned to isolate the exact energy level of the gamma's being manipulated which will assist the researchers in determining the dosage of energy actually present during the treatments. The team plans to submit the research results for publication in the Fall.

Further information can be obtained from M. Sue Benford, R.N., M.A., Principal Investigator at email MSBENFORD@aol.com.

