

A Mission of Apitherapy

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Commission of Apitherapy of Apimondia

A Mission of Apitherapy

Four Goals

- Promote the power of Apitherapy in the world
- **Define Natural Medicine and map its relation to Western Medicine**
- **Map the limits of Apitherapy**
- **Cultivate patients' decision-making and responsibility.**

Promote the Power of Apitherapy

Expanding and reinforcing its structure by:

- **Establishment of Certification by setting criteria allowing the distinction of fake from legitimate products**
- **Further development of an Apipharmacopeia**
- **Defining Apimedicine i.e. medical conditions and their corresponding treatment with bee products**
- **Establishing relations with all Apitherapy Societies.**

Relationship to Western Medicine

Similarities: extracted products

- **In this Congress, 25 Apitherapy abstracts specified their approach**
- **72% of presentations worked with extracts**
- **Worldwide effort at standardization of bee products, more often with product-extracts than with whole products**

Relationship to Western Medicine

Differences

Concepts	Western Medicine	Natural Medicine
Active principle	Monomolecular	Synergies of molecules
Chemical	Synthesized	Natural
Research	Closed Systems	Open Systems
Uncontrolled variables	Exclusion as best possible	Inclusion
Utilizing and Knowing	Certainty	Uncertainty
Reproducibility	Necessary	Impossible

Map the limits of Apitherapy

in relation to:

- ● Western Medicine
- ● Acupuncture
- ● Herbal medicine
- ● Ancient practices

Cultivate Patients' responsibility

- To treat is to treat together
- **Importance of a committed relationship**
- **Therapist instructs, proposes, and patient decides**
- **Patients to become responsible for their treatment and, by extension, their health**
- **Major shift from Western Medicine, in the nature and balance of power between therapist and patient.**

Reproducibility

What is it and what does it do?

- It is represented by a specific molecule or arrangement of molecules always the same
- **Reproducible products that are aimed at targets provoke responses that depend on whether their administration is short or long term.**

Reproducibility

The “short term”

- **Essential in the simplified frame of Western Medicine for research, for establishing evidence**
- **Its acute use provokes responses from the target organism:**
 - **For antibiotics: efficacious elimination of pathogens**
 - **For alcohol, as medication in early use: vast indications**
 - **For anti-psychotics: rapid control of positive symptoms.**

Reproducibility

The “long term”

- **Its chronic use provokes responses from the organism:**
 - **For antibiotics: we created monsters; did we weaken the immune system’s defenses ?**
 - **For alcohol: Major impact: addiction and social estrangement**
 - **For anti-psychotics: Major impact on the long term outcome.**

Reproducibility

Anti-psychotics

64 young Schizophrenic patients followed up for 15 years *

Outcome	Acutely treated	Treated for >three years
Recovered	40 %	5 %
Fair	46 %	44 %
Uniformly poor	16 %	49 %

* M. Harrow 2007 Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases

Conclusion 1

- On the conceptual level the most important aspect of this proposal is the construction of a structure for Apitherapy as Natural Medicine
- **This aims at defining a legitimate place for this aspect of Apitherapy, on both dimensions: scientific and legal**

Conclusion 2

- **On the human level, the emphasis on health maintenance differs from illness as the center of medical attention. It also favors individuals taking responsibility for their treatments and their health**
- **Further the hypothesis is brought that repetitive identical interventions can change the original symptom picture.
This might decrease the original internal defenses and alienate the individual from social realities.**

Thank you !