

SECOND AFTERNOON SESSION: Is our Goal Formation or Dissolution? —Exploring the pharmacologic principles that underlie stimulatory and suppressive treatments in both chronic and acute illness

TIMES and DATES: 4:00 – 5:30 pm, SUN 4.28 to FRI 5.3, 2019

COURSE LEADER: Albert Schmidli, PharmD

DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce a model for recognizing how both pharmacologic and physiologic processes fall into the general categories of “forming” activities—characterized by processes of salt formation and stabilization of cellular activity, versus “dissolving” activities—those which are part of many immune-mediated and digestive processes. The architecture these kind of contrasting physiologic gestures is in fact very common and well-known in many different kinds of traditional healing streams (with names like “yin” and “yang” in Chinese medicine, or the categorization of “warm” and “cool” foods in Ayurvedic medicine). Within anthroposophic medicine they find expression in a threefold differentiation of “sal,” “sulfur” and “mercury” (the process of mediation between two extremes). These principles prove helpful for recognizing multi-system patterns of disease (such as seeking common etiologic factors in metabolic syndrome). They also find new clinical validation—such as the recent developments with oncologic immunotherapies for lung cancers and melanoma, which in fact present a warming, “dissolving” treatment for tumors, which are recognized in many healing traditions as “cool” diseases.

Through pharmacologic demonstration and group discussion, these polar processes of forming and dissolving will be explored, as they relate to: chemical reactions; to various forms of both mineral and metal compounds; to differentiated growth processes (formative vs expansive) in plants; and to specific examples of both normal physiologic and pathophysiologic processes in animal and human biology. Consideration will then be given to: how these principles relate to the application and efficacy of conventional, allopathic treatments; how these viewpoints can be found in many traditional medical streams, and are being incorporated into modern integrative medical approaches; and then to compare and contrast the application of these principles in both allopathic and integrative/anthroposophic pharmacologic research.

OBJECTIVES:

- Review the opposing dynamics of salt formation and salt dissolution as a basic chemical process found in all natural processes
- Demonstrate the process, in real time, of salt (crystal) formation, and have participants observe the associated phenomena
- Demonstrate the process of dissolution, or combustion, of chemical compounds and have participants observe the associated phenomena
- Discuss additional examples of forming and hardening, and loosening and dissolving, in normal human physiology (such as the contrasting activities of skeletal calcification vs.

the dynamics of bone marrow activity, or the interacting chemical messengers and enzymes in the clotting cascade).

- Explore how these principles can be applied to the work of identifying plants and mineral compounds which might have medicinal properties
- Explore examples of displaced forming or dissolving activity (such as rickets, as excessive softening of what skeletal tissue, or atherosclerotic disease, a pathologic deposition in the vasculature)
- Relate these principles to the application and efficacy of conventional, allopathic treatments.
- Relate these principles to the more traditional medical streams, as well as to modern integrative medical approaches.
- Compare and contrast the application of these principles in both allopathic and integrative/anthroposophic pharmacologic research.

References:

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