SECOND AFTERNOON SESSIONS (6 days) SUNDAY, April 22nd – FRIDAY, April 27th
(Debus)

CME: 7.5 CME Credits. (The total time for the above 6 sessions is a maximum of 540 minutes. Based on content review by the CME provider, a total of 450 minutes has been designated for CME credit)

TIMES and DATES: 4:00 – 5:30 pm, SUN 4.22 to FRI 4.27, 2018

COURSE LEADER: Marion Debus MD

TITLE: Integrative Tools in Cancer Care—Emerging Immunologic and Salutogenic Approaches in Anthroposophic Oncology

DESCRIPTION:
The field of integrative medicine works to bring together multiple therapeutic perspectives in order to create more comprehensive views of illness. This may mean incorporating elements of different medical traditions (such as Ayurvedic or Traditional Chinese medicine) alongside modern, allopathic practice. It may also mean working to elaborate a multi-layered approach within one medical system, which is commonly done in Anthroposophic medicine. The goal is then to develop a framework for conscious consideration of how physical, functional, psycho-social, and spiritual aspects all play a role in the patient’s experience of the illness and in the patient’s healing process. This workshop will explore how such integrative approaches can be incorporated into the care of oncology patients.

Recent advances in cancer therapy offer exciting possibilities for the development of broader integrative treatment models. Newer treatments, in particular, focus on the role of the immune system and are providing more detailed understanding of how the immune system can be guided and stimulated to seek out and destroy tumor cells. These treatments provide options that move beyond more traditional treatment with surgery, chemotherapy and radiation. The vital role of the immune system in cancer therapy is not completely new, however, as it stands as a central element of anthroposophic medical treatments.

This workshop will explore anthroposophic perspectives on cancer therapy and look at how the process of recognizing “self” and “not-self” plays out on multiple levels. The course will present different possibilities for understanding cancer from various points of view. The understanding of cancer in its different dimensions (cellular, immunologic, physiologic, psycho-social and spiritual) will be deepened.

Objectives:
- Introduce the concept of cancer as a process, as a “being” with unique immunologic, physiologic, and epidemiologic qualities.
• Explore how new insights in cancer biology and cancer immunology can help us begin to think in this “process” way
• Explore how the spiritual dimension of this oncologic illness can be approached in the light of specific physiology insights
• Discuss integrative treatments in the context of modern immunotherapies, including a comparison of the similarities and differences in their respective effects on the immune system
• Explore the different dimensions of warmth and fever as they relate to the immune system
• Discuss how supporting warmth, on many different levels, can aid in the treatment of cancer patients
• Through a series of case histories, explore unique aspects of integrative therapies
• Describe the polarity of lymphoma and carcinoma
• Discuss the treatment of hematologic malignancies (leukemias, lymphomas), including bone marrow transplantation – and explore the different ways that anthroposophic medicines can relate to these clinical situations.
• Relate general integrative and anthroposophic approaches to whole-person support for:
  o Chemotherapy, particularly new ways to address specific chemotherapy side effects (such as peripheral polyneuropathy, bone marrow suppression, fatigue)
  o Radiotherapy: perspectives on both general and organ-specific support
  o Tumor complications: such as symptoms related to brain metastases, lung-, liver- and bone metastases, ascites, pain treatment, nausea and vomiting
• Explore salutogenic (health-promoting) approaches for cancer and precancerous conditions, including:
  o Integrative approaches for cancer fatigue, esp. sleep and cancer
  o Nutritional aspects
• New discoveries and horizons: present an overview of research from the last five years

References:


13. Network Oncology (NO)--a clinical cancer register for health services research and the evaluation of integrative therapeutic interventions in anthroposophic medicine. Schad F, Axtner J, Hapke A, Breitkreuz T, Paxino C, Gutsch J, Matthes