





200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANON

65th Congress of the LMHI

A Homeopathic Odyssey: 200th Anniversary of the Organon

May 19-22, 2010, Redondo Beach, California, USA

**SOCIOLOGY OF HOMEOPATHY:
THE SOCIAL IDEA OF GROWTH IN HOMEOPATHY
& THE MACRO-STRUCTURED INFLUENCES
REPORT**

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**SOCIOLOGY OF
HOMEOPATHY?**

A cartoon illustration of a man with a large head and a question mark in a thought bubble, sitting at a desk. The man has a large, round head with dark hair, a large nose, and a wide-eyed expression. He is wearing a dark green jacket and blue pants. He is sitting at a wooden desk with a light-colored top. A thought bubble above his head contains a large blue question mark. The background is a light green gradient.

MY QUESTIONS

CONTEXT OF MY QUESTIONS





**SCIENTIFIC
KNOWLEDGE SHOWS
RESOURCES ARE
FINITE**

**PEOPLE AVOID
STARK REALITIES**

**WHEN GROWTH
FALTERS PEOPLE
PANIC**

**PEOPLE LACK EXPERIENCE ON LIMITS
AND CLING TO THE MYTH OF GROWTH**

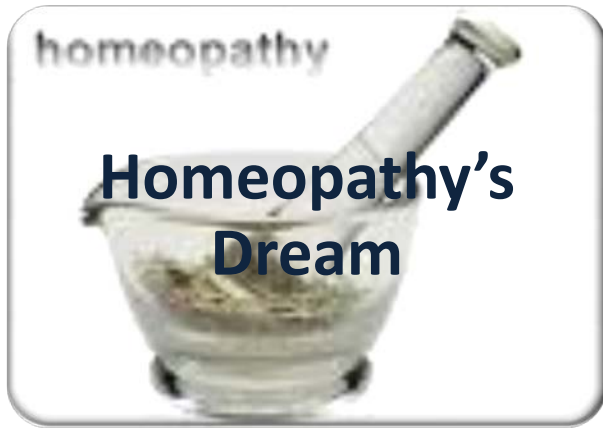


**IN A CONTEXT IN WHICH EXPERTS
EVINCE A DOCTORING DECLINE**

**- ARE THINGS PRETTY
DIFFERENT IN HOMEOPATHY?**



**Does homeopathy
keep growing
everywhere thanks to private schools
carrying on some new provings and
claiming clinical amazing effects?**



BELIEVE IN

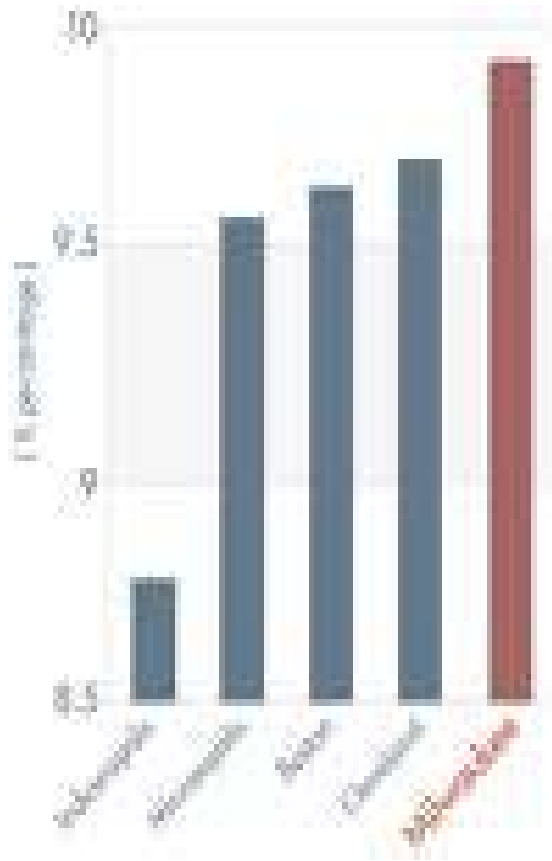
**POWER OF THE
INDIVIDUAL**



**CONTINUOUS
GROWTH**

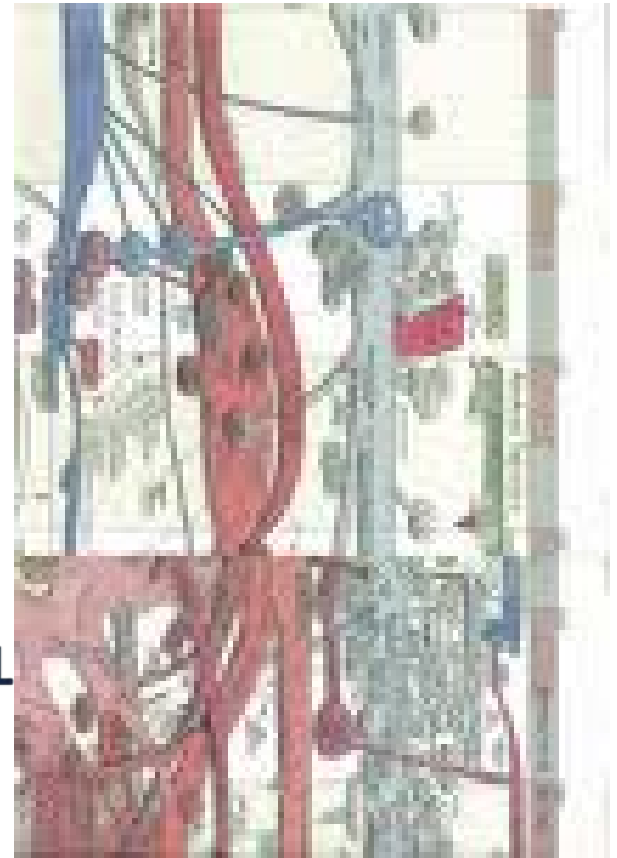


Vargas R.O. Sociology of homeopathy. 65th
LMHI Congress, 2010 USA



**WITH SO MANY FORCES
OUTSIDE PEOPLE'S CONTROL
SHAPING PEOPLE'S PROJECTS**

**IS PEOPLE'S OPTIMISM
ABOUT THE POWER OF THE INDIVIDUAL
SUSTAINABLE?**



**SINCE IT'S ALREADY COME TRUE KIDS ARE EARNING LESS THAN
PARENTS DID
AND THE DOWNWARD MOBILITY IS ALREADY A SOCIAL
PHENOMENON**

**IS THE IDEA OF CONTINUOUS GROWTH RIGHT
OR SUSTAINABLE?**



A hand is shown pouring a red liquid into a funnel. The funnel is positioned over a grid pattern, which is slightly blurred. The entire scene is framed within a large, dark oval border.

**FORCES SHAPING
PEOPLE'S
PROJECTS FATE**



**FORCES UNDERMINING PEOPLE'S PROJECTS
ARE LARGELY OUTSIDE PEOPLE'S CONTROL**

**DECLINE OF
IDEA OF
GROWTH**



**MACRO-
STRUCTURED
INFLUENCES**

**DECLINE OF
DOCTORING**

... and homeopathy, then?

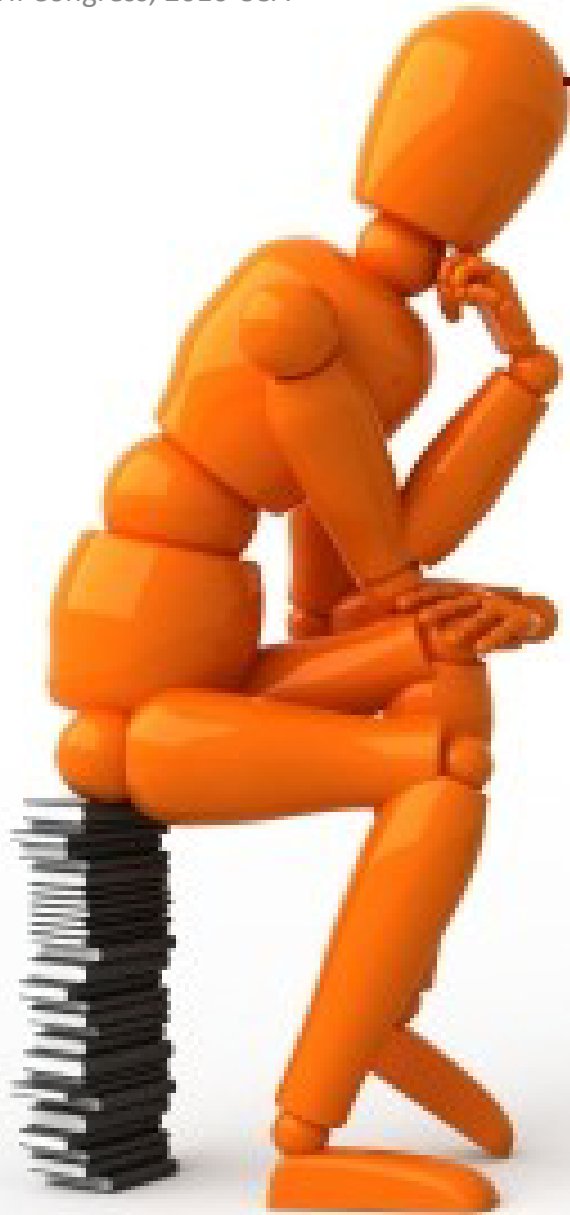
- Could be about to face

a severe test?





**HAVE HOMEOPATHY'S STAKEHOLDERS
A COMPREHENSIVE PERCEPTION
OF THE FORCES SHAPING
HOMEOPATHY'S NEAR FUTURE
AS A SOCIAL REALITY, E.I. AS
INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE & COMMODITY?**



**HOMEOPATHY'S FUTURE
CANNOT BE
UNDERSTOOD AS
ISOLATED FROM WHAT
IS HAPPENING IN
MEDICINE & SOCIETIES**

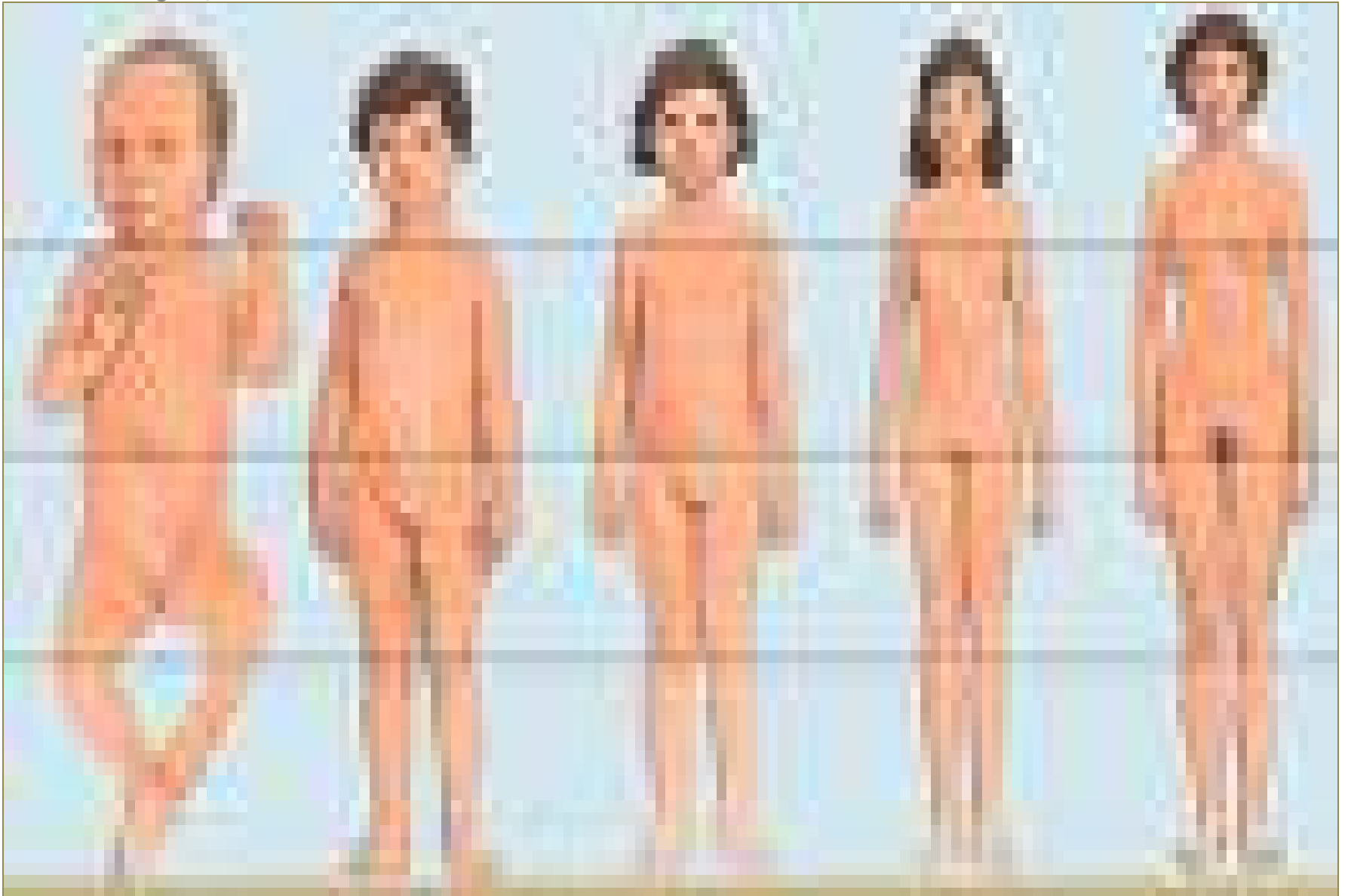


KEYS REGARDING THE BROADER CONTEXT IN WHICH HOMEOPATHY LIVES IN

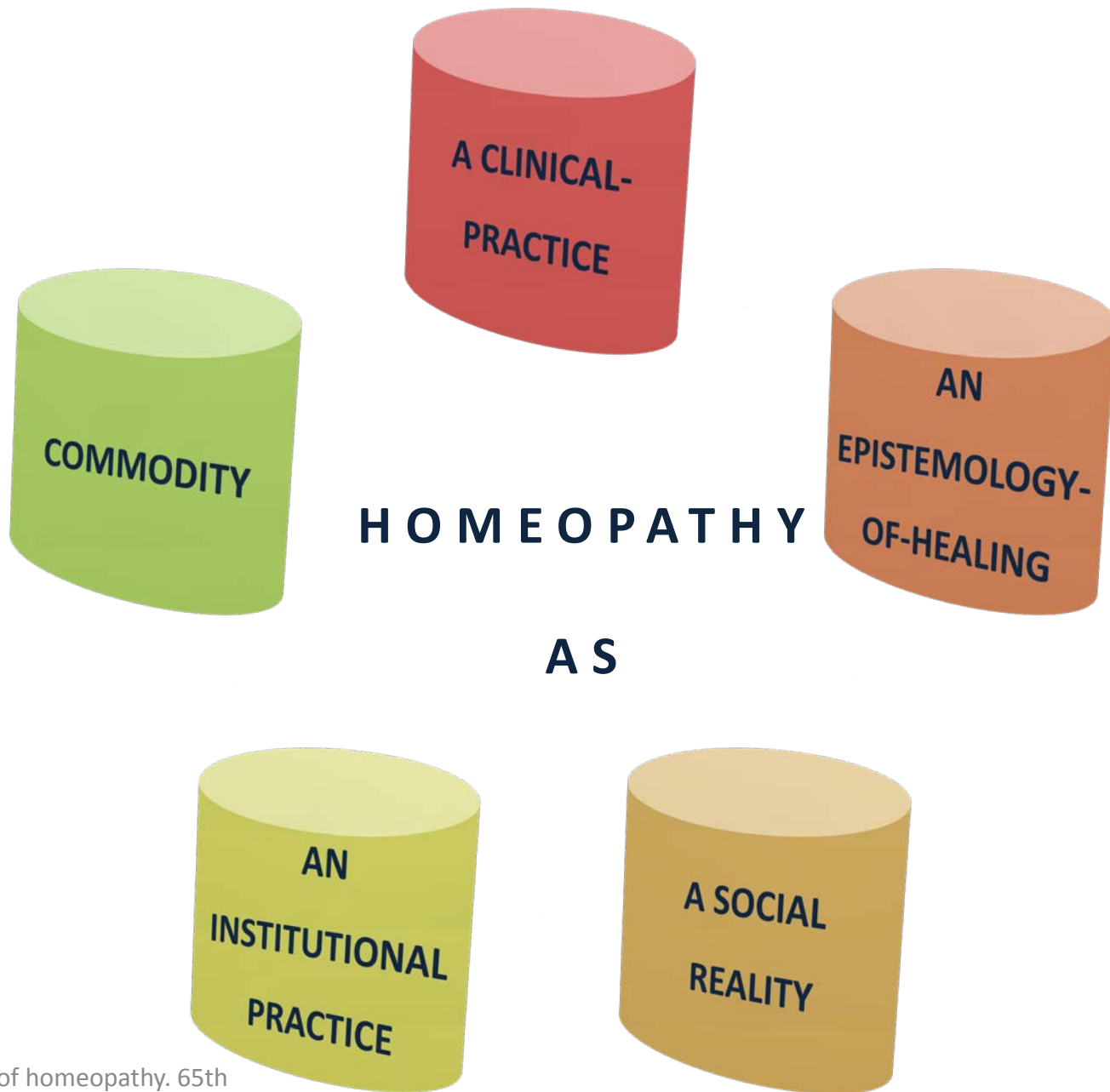




**PERVASIVE-MACRO-STRUCTURED-INFLUENCES
SHAPING
DOCTORING
UNDER CORPORATIZED HEALTH CARE**



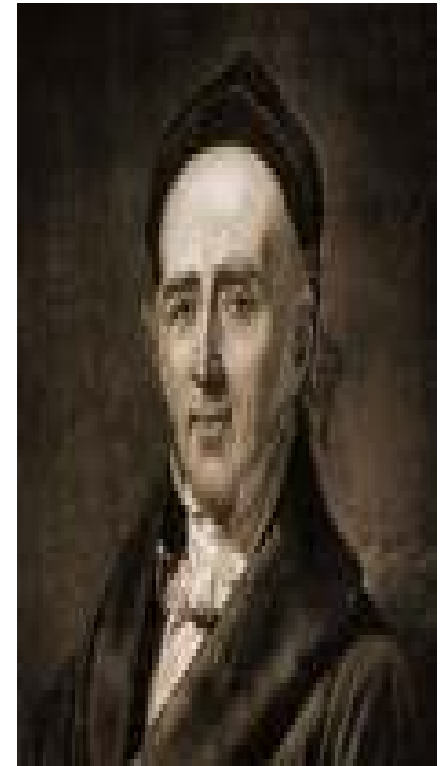
THE IDEA OF GROWTH IN HOMEOPATHY

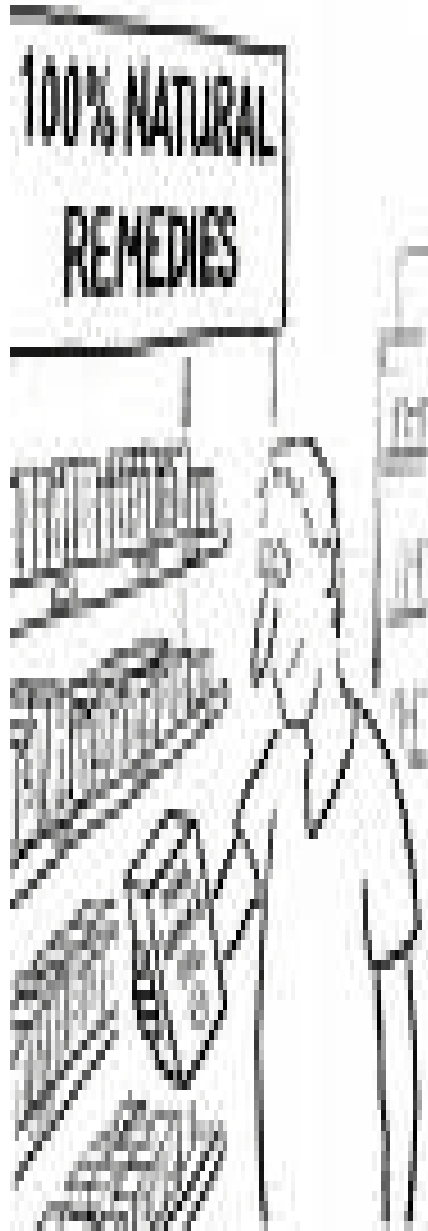




**STOP MISTAKING SALES-GROWTH OF
MARKETING-DENOMINATED
“HOMEOPATHIC-PRODUCTS”,
INCLUDING HERBALIST-PRODUCT,
MARKETED UNDER DENOMINATION
“HOMEOPATHIC”,**

**FOR THE GROWTH OF THE CLASSICAL
IDEA OF HEALING WITH A MORBIFIC
ARTIFICIAL SIMILAR
AND FOR ITS ACCREDITATION AS AN
INSTITUTIONAL PARADIGM IN
MEDICINE**





**THE FACT CLASSICAL HOMEOPATHY
PRACTISED BY PHYSICIANS IN SURGERY
PREMISES SEEMS TO BE DECLINING IN
EUROPE & USA, AFTER ITS REVIVAL
DURING
THE PROGRESSIVE-SEVENTIES,
IS A CLEAR INDICATOR THAT
GROWTH-IN-SALES OF-PRODUCTS
DENOMINATED
"HOMEOPATHIC"
DOES NOT MEAN, AUTOMATICALLY,
INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION
OF THE CLASSICAL MORBIFIC ARTIFICIAL
SIMILAR PARADIGM**





**HOMEOPATHY AS COMMODITY
IS NOT THE SAME THAT
HOMEOPATHY
AS PRINCIPLE & PRACTICE**



**SEEKING ASYLUM INTO ALTERNATIVE-
AND-TRADITIONAL MEDICINES FOR
MINOR-AILMENTS DOES ACTUALLY
MEAN THE DELUDED-CITIZENS REALLY
TRUST, ENDURABLY, IN HOMEOPATHY?**



CONSISTENT WITH HEALTH-CARE-
POLICIES AND CULTURAL-PATTERNS,
WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTH-MATTER-OF-
CONSEQUENCES, MOST PEOPLE GET BACK
INTO CONVENTIONAL-BIOMEDICAL-
TREATMENTS

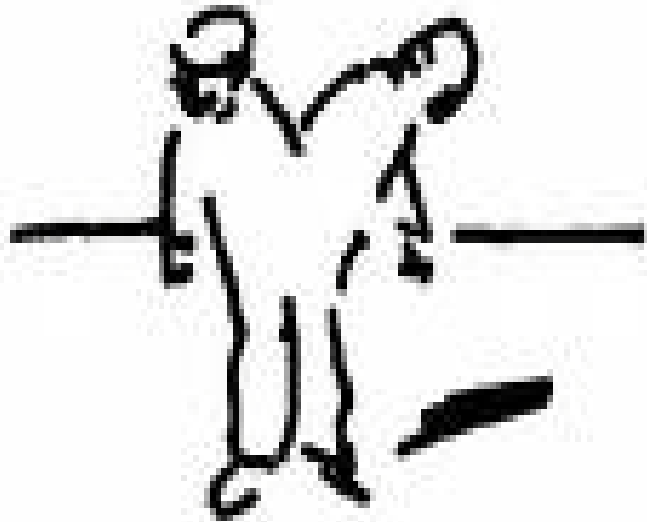


**WHAT SORT OF CONCEPTION OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS
DO PEOPLE ATTENDING HOMEOPATHS' CONSULTING ROOMS HAVE?**

**SCIENTIFIC-INCLINED?
NEW-AGE-FASHIONS FOLLOWERS?
TRADITIONAL-MEDICINE-ORIENTED ?
VITAL BALANCE/IMBALANCE-ORIENTED?**

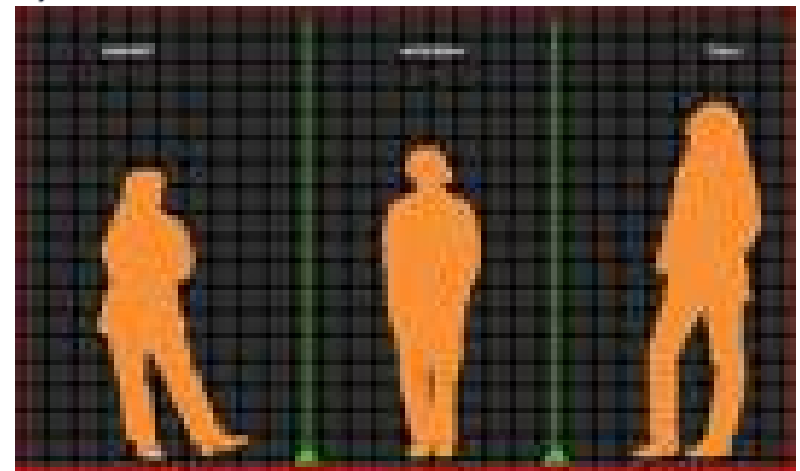


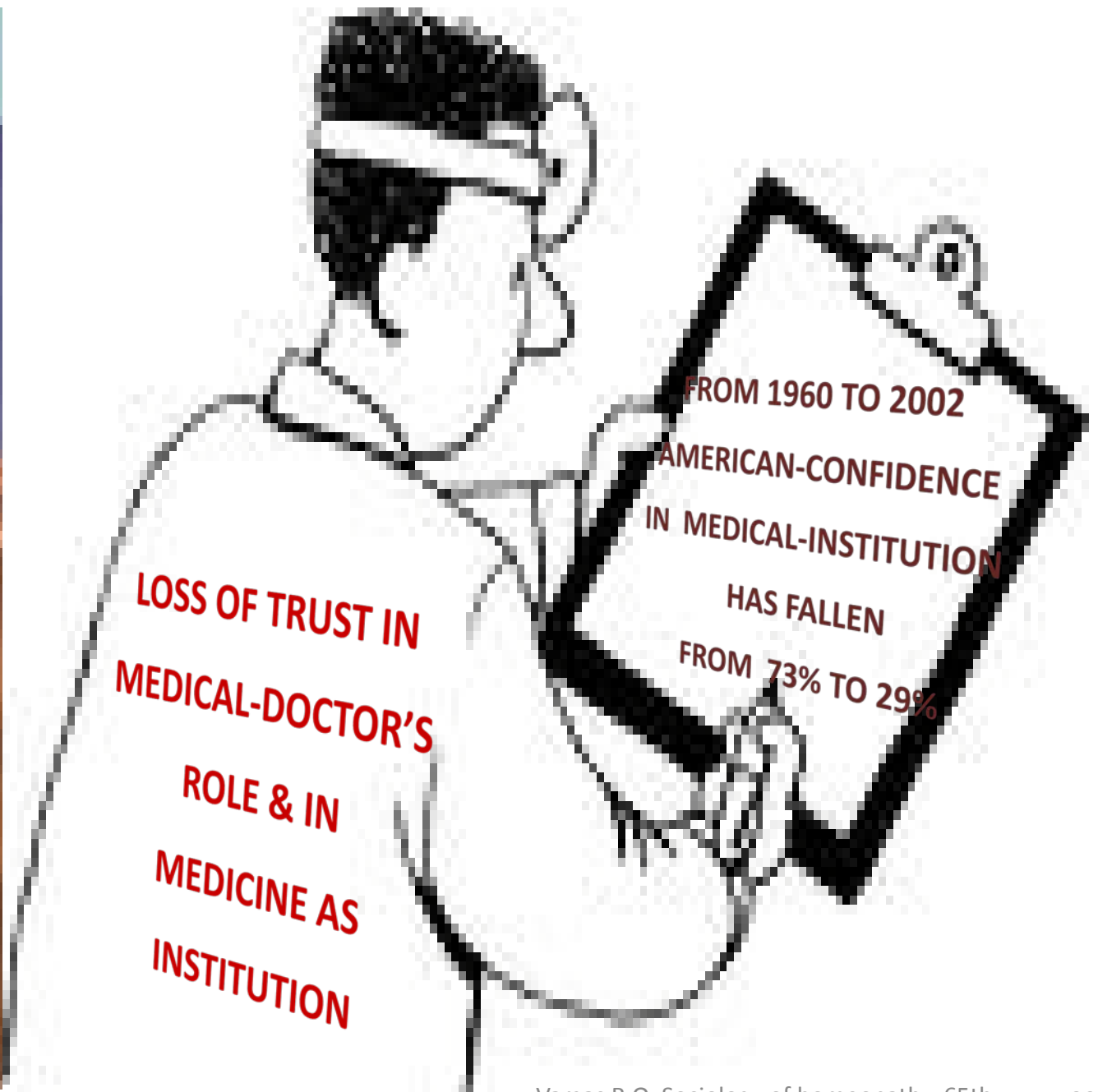
**TO INVESTIGATE BELIEFS, VALUES & MEANINGS PATIENTS
ATTRIBUTE TO HOMEOPATHY TO FORECAST SHAPE HOMEOPATHY TAKES**



**LIKE ANY SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION,
MEANINGS & PRACTICES OF HOMEOPATHY
FLUCTUATE ALONG WITH CONTEXTS**

**IT'S NECESSARY TO DISCERN WHICH CONCEPT OF HOMEOPATHY
IS GROWING AND, IN WHICH CULTURAL OR ANTHROPOLOGICAL
CONTEXT, DIFFERENTLY, IT IS DECLINING**







IN 1949
MEDICAL DOCTORS
TOPPED THE GALLUP LIST
OF WELL-KNOWN AND TRUSTED
PROFESSIONS

BY 2000
PHYSICIANS HAD FALLEN TO FOURTH
PLACING THEMSELVES BEHIND
NURSES, PHARMACISTS &
VETERINARIANS

LOSS OF TRUST IN MEDICAL-DOCTOR'S ROLE
& IN MEDICINE AS INSTITUTION

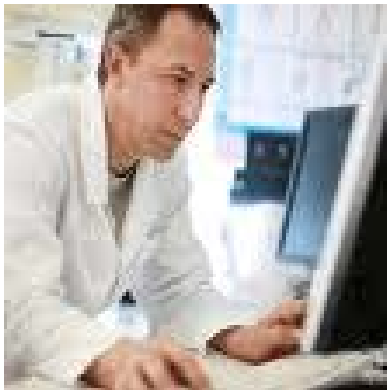




**HEALTH-CARE-CORPORATIZATION
UNDER ADVANCED-CAPITALISM**



**HAS TRANSFORMED U.S. HEALTH CARE
FROM MOSTLY FEE-FOR-SERVICE-SYSTEM
CONTROLLED BY PROFESSIONALISM
TO A CORPORATIZED-SYSTEM
DOMINATED BY
CONCENTRATED & GLOBALIZED
FINANCIAL & INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS**



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**"There's a slight glitch — our
diagnostic computer seems to
think that you're Jimmy Hoffa."**

CHANGING NATURE OF THE STATE & LOSS OF PARTISAN SUPPORT FOR DOCTORING



**RISE & DECLINE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALISM IS RELATED TO
THE SHIFTING ALLEGIANCE OF THE STATE**



**STATE SHIFTED ITS PRIMARY ALLEGIANCE FROM PROTECTING MEDICAL PROFESSION
INTERESTS TO ADVANCING THE INTERESTS OF THE FINANCIAL-&-INDUSTRIAL OWNERS
OF A CORPORATIZED U.S. HEALTH-CARE-SYSTEM**



CORPORATIZATION OF DOCTORING

IN SUCH A CONTEXT,
WHAT SORT OF
COMPLIMENTARY
HOMEOPATHY
COULD
BE PRACTICED?



**CHANGES IN THE NATURE OF PHYSICIAN EMPLOYMENT
FROM 1983 TO 1997: PROPORTION OF PHYSICIANS WORKING
AS SALARIED EMPLOYEES
(WITH NO-OWNERSHIP-INTEREST IN THEIR PRACTICE)
ROSE FROM 24 TO 43%**



CORPORATIZATION OF DOCTORING

- **DOCTORING HAS LOST MANY OF ITS INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORTS**
- **CHALLENGES IN NATURE & TERMS OF MEDICAL-WORK TAKE**

THE FORM OF DE-PROFESSIONALIZATION

- **DOCTORS ARE INCREASINGLY BEING SUBJECT TO EXTERNAL FORMS OF REGULATION**

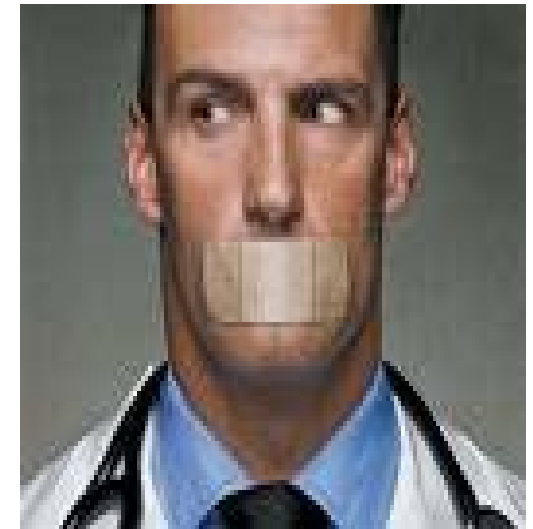
LOSING CONTROL OVER THE CONTENT OF THEIR WORK

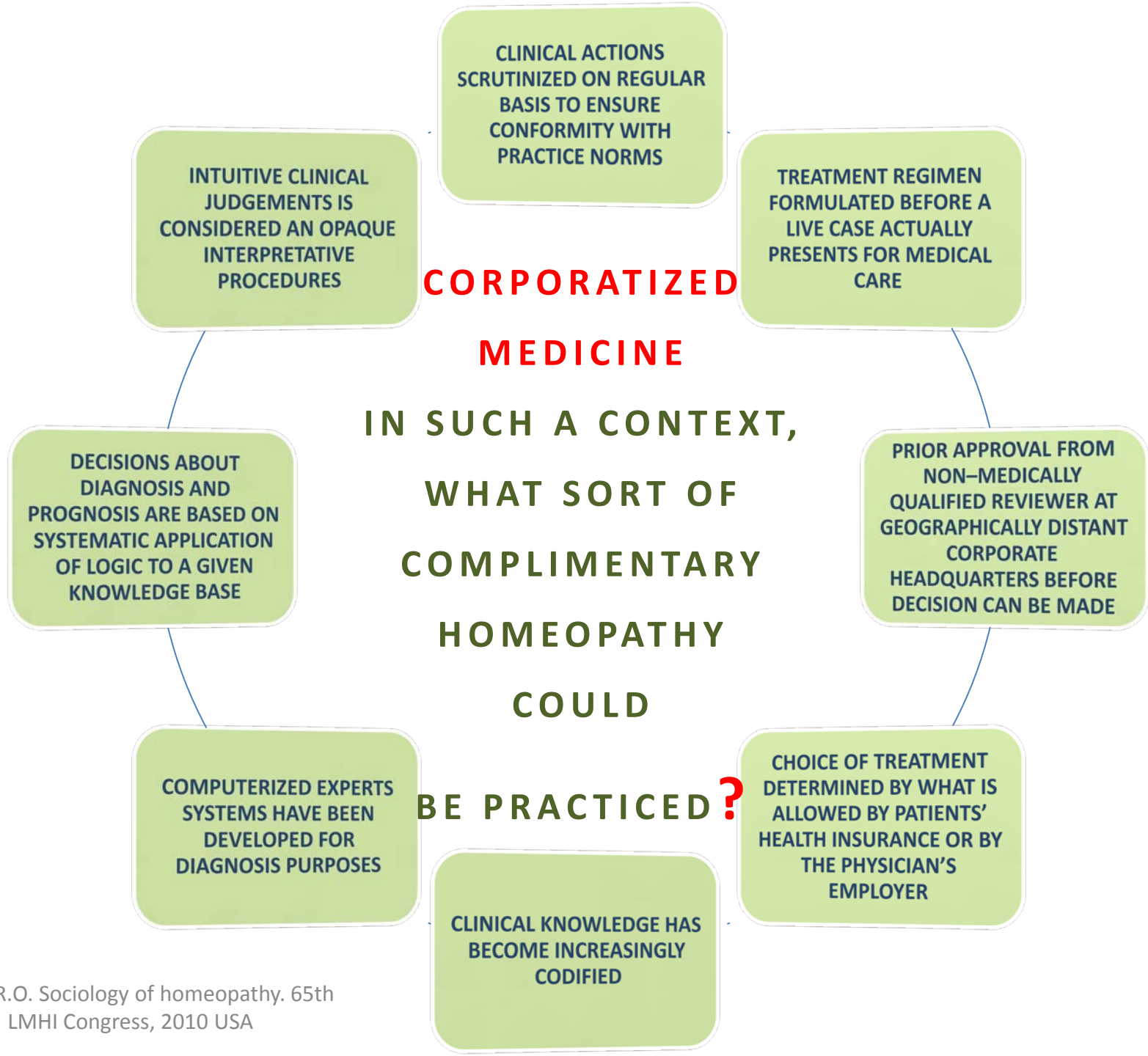
CORPORATIZATION OF DOCTORING



**CORPORATIZED
MEDICINE
MEANS LOSS OF
ADMINISTRATIVE,
ECONOMIC & CLINICAL
AUTONOMY**

**- HOW PHYSICIANS
SHOULD PRACTICE,
THE TECHNICAL
CONTENT OF CARE**







- PHYSICIANS HAD MEDICAL PLAYING-FIELD TO THEMSELVES
- ARRIVAL OF NON-PHYSICIAN-CLINICIANS THREATENS THE PHYSICIAN'S TRADITIONAL POSITION
- NPCS RESPONSIBLE FOR INCREASING AMOUNTS OF PRIMARY MEDICAL CARE PREVIOUSLY PROVIDED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY BY PHYSICIANS
- SHIFT OF TASKS RELATED TO EPIDEMIOLOGIC TRANSITION & CHANGES IN PUBLIC CONCEPTION OF BODY

COMPETITIVE THREAT FROM OTHER HEALTH

A photograph of a male doctor in a white lab coat sitting at a desk, looking intently at a computer monitor. The background shows a clinical or office environment with shelves and other equipment.

GLOBALIZATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- **ALTER MEDICAL-DOCTORS' SOCIAL-POSITION**
- **MODIFY EVERYDAY VALUE OF DOCTORING WORLDWIDE**
- **UNDERMINE KEY-ASPECTS OF PHYSICIAN-AUTHORITY**



GLOBALIZATION & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**WITH CORPORATIZATION IN PHYSICIAN EMPLOYMENT, MEDICAL-RECORDS
COMPUTERIZATION, ON-LINE AVAILABILITY DATA ON COMPARATIVE-
PERFORMANCE OF MEDICAL FACILITIES & PARTICULAR PRACTITIONERS,
EVERYDAY WORK-SITUATION OF DOCTORS CAN BE SCRUTINIZED**

**AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL INFORMATION TO ANYONE WITH INTERNET-
ACCESS INCREASES LEVELS OF PUBLIC'S MEDICAL-KNOWLEDGE,
CHANGING STRUCTURE & CONTENT OF THE DOCTOR-PATIENT
RELATIONSHIP**

EPIDEMIOLOGIC TRANSITION & CHANGING CONCEPTS OF THE BODY

CHANGES IN

- CONCEPT OF BODY
- PATTERNS OF DISEASE & DEATH
- ABILITY OF MEDICAL CARE PROVIDERS TO BENEFICIALLY ALTER THE COURSE OF ILLNESS

CHARACTERIZE AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL TRANSITION

EPIDEMIOLOGIC TRANSITION AND CHANGING CONCEPTS OF THE BODY

WITH THE RISE OF CHRONIC CONDITIONS & THE DECLINE IN CURABLE CONDITIONS

CURING IS BEING REPLACED BY CARING AND PALLIATIVE MEASURES

DOCTORING HAS SHIFTED TO MONITORING

OF PRESENTLY-INCURABLE-CONDITIONS & TO IMPROVING THE-QUALITY-OF-LIFE



**EPIDEMIOLOGIC TRANSITION
AND CHANGING CONCEPTS OF THE BODY**

**CURING IS COMMONLY THOUGHT
TO BE A MORE VALUED ACTIVITY THAN CARING
MORE APPROPRIATELY PERFORMED BY
OTHER PROVIDERS CONSIDERED PARTNERS WITH
PHYSICIANS ON THE HEALTH-CARE TEAM**

EPIDEMIOLOGIC TRANSITION AND CHANGING CONCEPTS OF THE BODY

- **INCREASED PUBLIC ACCESS TO MEDICAL-KNOWLEDGE HAS RESULTED IN SOME DEMYSTIFICATION OF THE BODY**
- **THE UNDERSTANDING OF ILLNESS & DISEASE HAS MOVED FROM THE METAPHYSICALLY INEXPLICABLE & BEEN POSITIONED AT BIO-PHYSIOLOGIC-FUNCTIONS LEVEL**

EPIDEMIOLOGIC TRANSITION AND CHANGING CONCEPTS OF THE BODY

**COMPUTER-ASSISTED-
DIAGNOSIS
PRESCRIPTIONS-FILLING
ARE NOW POSSIBLE VIA
INTERNET, RENDERING A FACE-
TO-FACE-ENCOUNTER WITH A
DOCTOR UNNECESSARY**





WITH THE GROWTH OF CORPORATIZED-MEDICAL-CARE
PROFESSIONAL-DOMINANCE HAS BEEN SUPPLANTED BY
CORPORATIZATION-DOMINANCE

WITH THE RESULTING APPEARANCE OF

▪ A CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR PHYSICIANS

&

▪ A TRANSFORMATION OF THE

DOCTOR – PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

INTO A PROVIDER – CLIENT ENCOUNTER

WITH THE EROSION OF PATIENTS' TRUST



FROM RELATIONSHIP TO ENCOUNTER - THE EROSION OF PATIENTS' TRUST



WEAKENING OF MARKET POSITION THROUGH OVERSUPPLY

NATIONAL DATA ON PHYSICIAN SUPPLY AND DEMAND

SUGGESTS SUPPLY MAY EXCEED DEMAND

BY UP TO 62,000 PHYSICIANS (8%) THROUGH 2010


EROSION OF LABOR MARKET POSITION IS EXACERBATED BY

TRENDS IN THE GROWTH OF OTHER HEALTH WORKERS

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WEAKENING OF MARKET POSITION THROUGH OVERSUPPLY

- **UNTIL RECENTLY A MEDICAL-DEGREE GUARANTEED FULL-EMPLOYMENT UPON-GRADUATION FROM A REPUTABLE-MEDICAL-SCHOOL**
- **PHYSICIAN UNEMPLOYMENT IS STILL RARE, BUT UNDER-EMPLOYMENT APPEARS TO BE COMMON**
- **IT'S REPORTED ONE-QUARTER OF NEWLY TRAINED PHYSICIANS EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTY FINDING APPROPRIATE EMPLOYMENT**



**INCREASE IN MEDICAL-SPECIALIZATION HAS UNDERMINED
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS UNITY
WITH SEPARATE ASSOCIATIONS BEING ESTABLISHED FOR
SURGEONS, GENERAL PRACTITIONERS, OBSTETRICIANS,
ONCOLOGISTS AND SO ON**

DOCTORS' UNION - DIVIDE AND CONQUER

DOCTORS' UNION - DIVIDE AND CONQUER



AMA
CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IS DECLINING AND AGING



**MEDICAL-CARE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED FROM A MAINLY
FEE-FOR-SERVICE-SYSTEM CONTROLLED BY DOMINANT
PROFESSIONALISM TO A CORPORATIZED-SYSTEM
DOMINATED BY INCREASINGLY CONCENTRATED AND
GLOBALIZED FINANCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS.**



**TO DEVELOP POLICIES TO SUPPORT THE ADVANCE OF HOMEOPATHY,
IT'S NECESSARY TO HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE PERCEPTION OF THE FORCES
SHAPING HOMEOPATHY'S FUTURE
I.E. OF THE PERVASIVE-MACRO-STRUCTURED-INFLUENCES SHAPING
THE ORGANIZATION AND CONTENT OF THE MEDICINE
UNDER THE CORPORATIZED CAPITALISM .
HOMEOPATHY DOES NOT LIVE IN A VACUUM
BUT IN SOCIETY**



CHANGES IN OWNERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION OF HEALTH CARE ERODING PROFESSIONALISM AND TRANSFORMING THE NATURE OF DOCTORING **HAVE NOT OCCURRED IN A VACUUM**

THEY REFLECT BROADER TRANSFORMATION IN WIDER SOCIETY, WHICH ARE OFTEN CHARACTERIZED IN THE LITERATURE AS SHIFTS FROM MODERNITY TO POST-MODERNITY






WHILE RECOGNIZING DEEP CHANGES

**COMING FROM OUTSIDE MEDICINE SURROUNDING & MACROECONOMIC
CIRCUMSTANCES**

**IT'S ALSO NECESSARY TO KEEP LOOKING INSIDE MEDICINE ITSELF
TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPETING PARADIGMS & THE CHANGING STATUS OF
DOCTORS & OF THE MEDICINE AS SOCIAL INSTITUTION**

A magnifying glass is positioned over a landscape featuring a sunset over a green field. The text is overlaid on the magnified area.

**IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE EFFORTS TO UNDERSTAND MORE FUNDAMENTAL
REASONS FOR THE HISTORICAL DECLINE OF DOCTORING
LIKE THE-SUNSET OF THE OLD-REPRESENTATIONS-OF-THE-WORLD
& THE NEW-KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE-HUMAN-LIFE-PHENOMENON
THE NEW CONCEPT OF THE BODY & THE EMERGING EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PHASE**

THE HEGEMONY OF THE MEDICAL-PROFESSION HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO
DEEP CHANGES IN BOTH THE INTERNAL ORGANIZATION OF
CONVENTIONAL-HEALTH-CARE AND THE RISE OF COMPETING
PARADIGMS OF HEALTH CARE.

THESE CHANGES AND DEVELOPMENTS HAVE NOT OCCURRED IN A
VACUUM.

THEY REFLECT BROADER TRANSFORMATION IN WIDER SOCIETY
OFTEN CHARACTERIZED IN SOCIOLOGICAL LITERATURE AS SHIFTS
FROM MODERNITY TO POST-MODERNITY.

THERE IS A RANGE OF FUTURES OF GROWTH AND DECLINE
FOR AN ARRAY OF HOMEOPATHIES



homeopathy



AS A MARKETING
DENOMINATION STANDS
A SIGNIFICANT CHANCE
OF GROWING IN POST-
MODERN SOCIETIES

