



The Brave New World of Alternative Medicine

An Interview with Ferdinando Pisani Massamormile

By Joan Parisi Wilcox

What's going on in the world of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM)? Ferdinando is paid to know. He is an International Research Consultant for the private Foundation for Alternative and Integrative Medicine, whose mission is to search the world for the most promising medical therapies, technologies and theories. If something of interest is happening in the world of CAM, then someone from the US-based FAIM will be there to evaluate the claims and report on them. In this issue of *Quantum Health*, Ferdinando tells us about some of the therapies FAIM has investigated and discusses the state of CAM in its wider scope.

Q Tell us briefly about the mission of the Foundation for Alternative and Integrative Medicine and about your role in the organisation.

FPM: The Foundation for Alternative and Integrative Medicine (FAIM) was created by former US Congressman Berkley Bedell. He ventured into alternative medicine because of personal circumstances. He was very sick with Lyme's disease and nobody could cure him. Eventually a veterinarian cured him with colostrum therapy, which in one of its versions consists of injecting the patient's blood into the udder of a pregnant cow. When the cow gives birth, the colostrums, which is full of immunological factors, is given to the patient. Although Berkley completely recovered in a very short time, the veterinarian ended up in jail. Berkley testified on his behalf and he eventually was released. Berkley then went to his fellow congressmen, telling them, 'You know, this is very unfair—that someone who actually has something very important to contribute to society has been penalized in this way.' So Berkley convinced the US Congress to create the National



Photo by: Daniela Flores

Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine [NCCAM, which is part of the US government's National Institutes of Health] to study natural and complementary medicine. However, after being on the Board for two years, he saw that the American government was not really interested in alternative medicine, so he created his own foundation with his own money. Berkley is a very fine person. He is brilliant—an incredible man and visionary. He has a sixth sense and he can feel where things are going. He always asks really interesting questions that make people think. I am really happy to work with him. He is one of my major role models.

Basically, what Berkley wants us to do is to look outside the box. Many people who are working in the mainstream and investigating alternative

medicine do so by using the typical one-at-a-time steps of trying to broaden the field of science. Whereas what we try to do is investigate whenever we hear of some 'miraculous cure' or follow the lead of someone who has heard of something that has some effect in a country, like Romania or India. Many times it's a flop; it's just someone with an idea. But sometimes we actually discover a whole new field or even a rekindling of old knowledge that when medicine became more technical sort of faded away because, for example, it wasn't a patentable technology or because of [conflict with] the current scientific paradigm, like with homeopathy. We are a small organization and we would like to do much more, but one of our limitations is finances. But what we try to do is connect with all the major people who are doing really interesting stuff.



Q *What kinds of modalities or treatments are you and the organisation evaluating currently?*

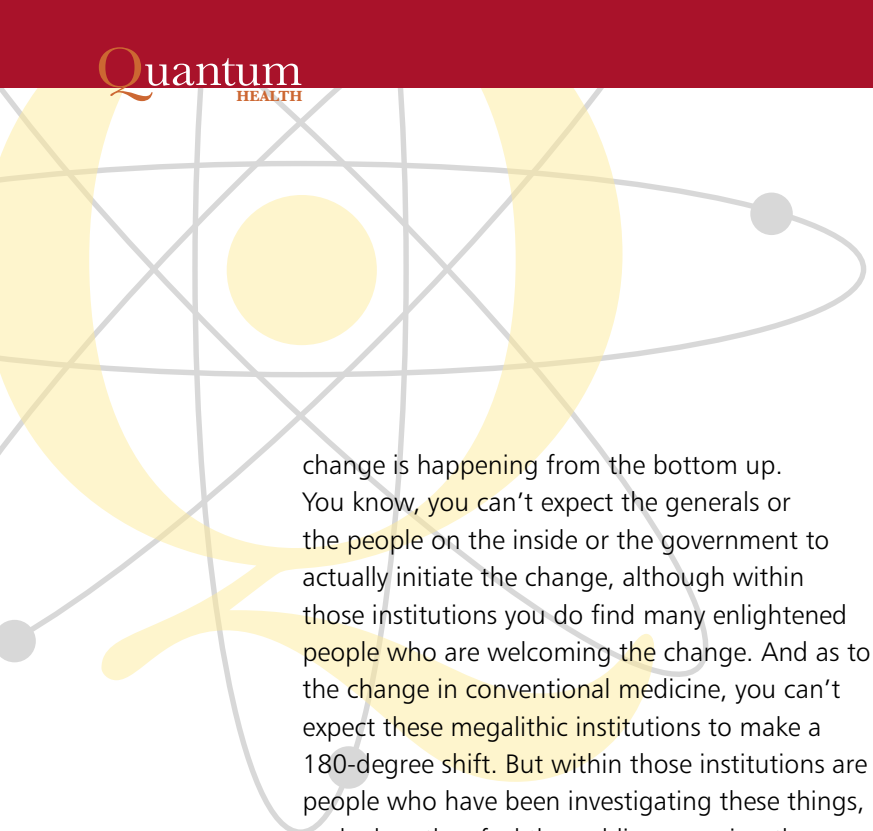
FPM: We basically look at everything. For example, Berkley is very interested in autologous stem cell therapy, which is legal almost everywhere in the world except the United States. This therapy uses your own stem cells, which are harvested from you, then selected and expanded in vitro in the lab, and then put back into your body to help regenerate specific organ systems. Now this therapy is used all over the world, and Americans should be able to fully take advantage of this therapy, but they have to travel abroad to get it. We have been reviewing many sites around the world, and all the literature, and talking to many scientists, and we feel that the fears the

FDA [US Federal Drug Administration] has are not legitimate and that this therapy should be introduced into general practice in the United States. So this is one major interest we have, where we are trying to fully understand this technology and also to inform the general public about it.

We are looking at another major field, which is energy medicine, which as you well know has to do with old technologies, like the Rife technology, and new ones that have been developed all over the world, such as technologies the Russians developed for their space programme and that now their scientists have privatised and spun off to create their own companies. So there's a really exciting world out there that deals with cutting-edge physics that we have only been starting to understand in the past few years.

Q *It's a fertile time in complementary and alternative medicine, with more and more scientists willing to devote careers to exploring some of the underlying premises, such as information and energy fields and their effect on the body, quantum processes in nature and the body, and so on. You are right out there on the frontier, so what's your sense of this overall paradigm shift?*

FPM: When we as a Foundation talk about a paradigm shift, we are talking about a shift toward a non-toxic kind of medicine. Until now we [as a culture] have had this very violent approach to dealing with health problems. You know, chemotherapy, antibiotics and so on. So there is certainly out there a whole brave new world. What we call 'alternative medicine' doesn't really do it justice, but we can call it 'alternative' in the sense that it isn't mainstream and conventional in terms of what is taught in major medical schools. The way I see it is that this paradigm shift is already occurring, and it's a bit like what happened in Tunisia or Egypt—the



change is happening from the bottom up. You know, you can't expect the generals or the people on the inside or the government to actually initiate the change, although within those institutions you do find many enlightened people who are welcoming the change. And as to the change in conventional medicine, you can't expect these megalithic institutions to make a 180-degree shift. But within those institutions are people who have been investigating these things, and when they feel the public pressuring them on this they do change.

Now more specifically, for these technologies that have to do with quantum processes, I think that most people would agree that medicine until now has been based in Newtonian physics—it's been a very nuts-and-bolts kind of thing—and now we realise that the human body and the mind in general have an energetic element to them. It has a system of information, which is almost digital. More and more people are realising this, so the paradigm shift is a reality—it's happening now.

Q There are a lot of diverse opinions among the researchers FAIM has looked into. For example, with cancer, some think cancer is caused primarily by a fungus, others a depressed immune response, others genetics and lifestyle. Perhaps they are all correct in some way or another. What's your feeling about how an organisation like FAIM can help people sort through all the opinions and make informed health decisions?

FPM: This is very important, because the accepted etiology of a disease is being called into question by many alternative practitioners or scientists. We have had one hundred years of investigation into cancer [by conventional researchers] and we have had some improvement [in knowledge], but not a radical improvement. We can compare that to what's happened in information technology or computers or many

other fields [where knowledge has quickly advanced]. I think you made the point exactly—one of the greatest challenges for a person is to follow one body of theory or another. The consequences are huge. Whether or not you choose radiotherapy or chemotherapy depends on whether you see the cancer as a friend, compared to thinking of it as the enemy, like the Taliban, that you have to bombard with very powerful chemicals. Let me try to briefly explain this: cancer is conventionally seen as a renegade cell that has an aberrant genetic mutation and now is developing uncontrollably and eventually will be the demise of the whole organism. But what if this mutation is an intelligent and natural reaction to an extreme or aberrant situation, such as an infection, toxins, or even mental stress? You can make an analogy in a human population where an aberrant situation can cause a reaction that although local to start with can later bring down a whole society or even a civilisation. For example, one can imagine that one person buying a gun to defend against a possible threatening neighbour can spur a whole neighbourhood to do the same. In a moment of economic depression with some perceived external threat, a lack of unified government and a lax police force can lead to a disastrous scenario. So, an original reaction that was spurred in an attempt to survive or defend oneself can bring the whole system down. Similarly, the cells of our body are a symbiotic community: if the system is collapsing there must be some conditions that are terribly wrong. Too much emphasis is put in destroying these cells, like napalming a whole country, than in trying to understand and reverse these conditions.

We are trying as a Foundation to sort out that kind of alternative information and bring it to the public. One small example, which doesn't have as harsh a consequence as cancer, is diabetes. For mainstream society, diabetes is a disease with an unknown etiology and is incurable. Well, what we are discovering is that there are many people who have found a new life by finding therapies—and

this would be preposterous to conventional medicine—that have cured their diabetes. Talking about diabetes, we can also say it's an epidemic, both diabetes type 1 and type 2. We can see this disease as human beings who are basically malfunctioning, but what if, in contrast, we see it as a healthy way of reacting to an unhealthy world? So, when we talk about medicine, we have to talk about the wider arena of factors and influences, which are environmental, social, emotional and especially nutritional. I think that conventional medicine has made a huge jump in this sense: doctors of the old generation got maybe two hours of nutritional training in their whole medical school career and now it is an important subject. I think that, for example, when you were talking about quantum processes—now it's admissible to talk about electromagnetic pollution whereas before it was thought it did not have any effect upon solid biology.

Q *I'm curious about your saying that you have actually seen people cure their diabetes. Are you talking about type 1 or 2?*

FPM: There is a very good documentary film by Dr. Gabriel Cousens where he took ten people with diabetes and put them on a raw diet and thirty days later they were cured. It's called *Simply Raw: Reversing Diabetes in 30 Days*. Some of the people actually had diabetes type 1 and were able to get rid of all their medication. This is one approach. In our investigations, we have discovered some theories that consider diabetes as a sort of a dirty-blood syndrome. The cellular membrane gets so clogged up with the junk we have ingested and metabolized that the insulin cannot get in. You know, that's what insulin resistance is—it can't get into the cell. So you have the body trying to compensate for that and the result is the symptoms of diabetes. We are seeing people who have followed an extreme detoxification to get rid of all the junk—I hate to use the words 'junk food' but that explains it

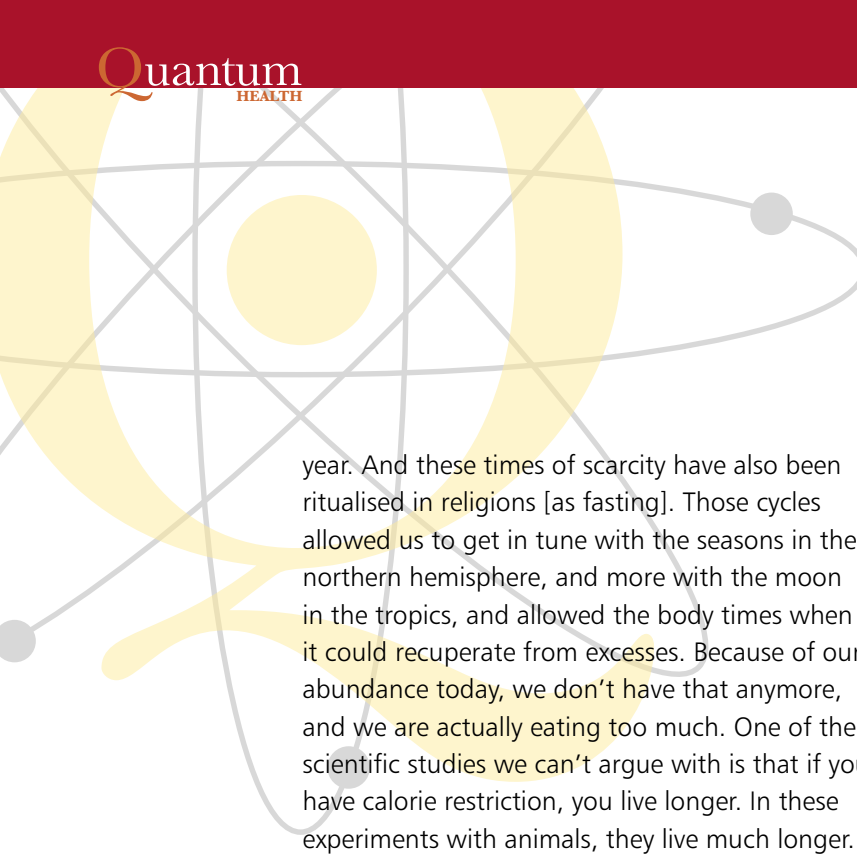
really well—and have gotten well. There are a lot of products and technologies out there that claim to speed the body along to a cure for diabetes, and some of these are based on Ayurveda and Chinese medicine, which are thousands of years old, and others of them are medicines from the Amazon, which is as old but not as systemised, as there are no codices or sutras we can read to find the recipes. Some of them are based on some brilliant scientific work.

Q *Okay, being a stickler for detail here: those who did the extreme detoxification and cured their diabetes—were they type 2 diabetics? That is linked to diet and exercise and so on. But type 1 usually is not.*

FPM: Yes. The consensus among people who are giving these types of therapies is that diabetes type 2 can be reversed at an extremely high rate. The only person I have heard of who has actually reversed diabetes type 1 is Dr. Gabriel Cousens. And it could also be simply that if you are eating only very low-glycemic food you won't need any insulin at all. One of the theories for type 1 diabetes is that it is an immune reaction to a badly folded casein molecule [a milk protein]. The acknowledgment is that countries with the highest milk consumption, such as Finland, have the highest rates of diabetes type 1, which usually comes at a very young age.

Q *Okay, let's move on. Among the frontier science you've seen, which approach, therapy, or research area is exciting you the most?*

FPM: Well, we were just talking about nutrition, and on a personal level I would certainly say nutrition. We all come from well-established cultural backgrounds and so we have been eating in a certain way—and most of the things we eat are not healthy for us. And we are eating too much! In ancient times, we had moments of plenty and moments of lack throughout the



year. And these times of scarcity have also been ritualised in religions [as fasting]. Those cycles allowed us to get in tune with the seasons in the northern hemisphere, and more with the moon in the tropics, and allowed the body times when it could recuperate from excesses. Because of our abundance today, we don't have that anymore, and we are actually eating too much. One of the scientific studies we can't argue with is that if you have calorie restriction, you live longer. In these experiments with animals, they live much longer.

Just the other day I was reading an aphorism that said that the cruelty of this modern world is that medicine is helping us live much longer but we get sick so much sooner. Nutrition—it takes a personal transformation because it takes an effort. I have Italian heritage and have eaten pasta all my life and now I use these quantum technologies that tell me I have intolerance to gluten. It's not at an intestinal level, as most people have, but it goes deeper. And certainly, thanks to these technologies, I was able to evaluate this and I dropped gluten and my life changed. And it's a cultural shift for me! I mean what do I do with my pasta and ravioli and such?

Q I am not asking you to endorse any one therapy or product, but you have access to so many leading-edge scientists and their research results, so would you tell our readers about some of them, about therapies or technologies they may not know about?

FPM: One of the novel technologies we looked at is Photoluminescence Therapy. In one of its basic forms, it is blood irradiation with ultraviolet C light. This has been used extensively in Eastern European countries, especially Russia. Ultraviolet C was actually used quite a lot in the past to disinfect things, like tools in the operating room. In the therapy, it is used at a very low luminescence, a very low intensity, and it seems to clear up many problems for people, whether it's

hepatitis or even malaria. What we now have to ask is if UVC is teratogenic, which means it might cause mutations that could cause cancer, or you could use the word genotoxic. This is a study that has to be done. We still have to investigate it more. So, this is an example of a technology that is not endorsed at all by conventional medicine.

There are others we are examining. For example we are looking at Dr. Tullio Simoncini's protocol for treating cancer using sodium bicarbonate. Basically, he says that cancer is not about cells that have gone genetically berserk and therefore you have to go in and destroy these cells, and you can use chemicals and so on. You can, of course, do that, but you cause a lot of collateral damage. What he is saying is that cancer cells are a physiological reaction to a local fungal infection. He says the cells transform themselves to defend themselves from the fungal infection. For this he has lost his medical licence and is considered a heretic. And many people would say he's a hoax, meaning someone who is intentionally misleading other people. What we are actually seeing are a lot of testimonials from people who claim their lives have changed with this therapy—that they are cured.

The Foundation is trying to serve society, to help the world through this vision inspired by Berkley, but we understand that a radical idea is hard even to take into consideration. And so we are trying to do the homework for people and trying to create a system of evidence by which we can at least take something across to the other side of the table and say, 'Please look at this more seriously.' This process also helps us better understand what we are looking at.

Another therapy we have discovered is the use of magnets to diagnose and treat disease. Although magnets have been used for a long time, the approach that has most fascinated us is the one developed by Dr. Isaac Goiz of Mexico. He uses magnets to neutralise spots in the body

with excessive pH—acidity or alkalinity—that harbour pathogens: fungi and viruses like an acid environment and bacteria and parasites like an alkaline one. What Dr. Goiz claims is that these spots come in pairs where pathogens resonate with each other. For example, Dr. Goiz says that AIDS is the resonating relationship of HIV in the rectum with an acid environment and an Escherichia coli infection in the thymus gland with an alkaline environment. By placing two magnets, these two resonating places get neutralised and the pathogens are eliminated, curing the person of the disease. Dr. Goiz has discovered hundreds of these bio-magnetic pairs that relate to almost all the major diseases. The claims are incredible and we are trying to make sense of all this.

Another remarkable phenomenon is the use by many people around the world of a simple molecule known as MMS (Master Mineral Solution), which was traditionally used for water purification and other industrial applications. Its proponents say that it can be used to cure scores of different deadly diseases. The US FDA has clamped down on the distributors of this product, and its discoverer, Jim Humble, has hidden himself behind a freedom-of-religion umbrella. What makes it so difficult for us to make an assessment of this therapy is that so many issues come together here. Furthermore, it does not interest pharmaceutical corporations because it is dirt cheap and unpatentable.

Sometimes the Foundation builds a relationship with people we believe are true pioneers and paradigm shifters. One of these is Thomas Aksnes, from Norway, who against the pressure of his family, who are all very accomplished conventional scientists, delved at a very young age into energy medicine, principally to cure himself of his own health problems. He has developed a diagnostic and therapeutic model based on devices that use energy or signal technology that are working with the new principles of quantum medicine. He has also developed a handheld PT

[Personal Therapy Device] that incorporates many of these technologies into a convenient format. In the years to come we will most certainly hear much more of him.

Another really interesting technology is the Papimi, which is basically a machine that unloads the energy of a lightning bolt in a nanosecond. The idea behind it is that when the cellular membrane loses its electric charge then all kinds of degenerative diseases can kick in. This technology intends to charge you back up like a battery. The developer is a physicist from Greece who claims biological transmutation is the basis of cellular physiology.

A person we frequently call upon to help us understand this frontier science is the physicist Guy Obolensky, who is perhaps the world expert on Nikola Tesla as well as an outstanding inventor himself. He has developed a machine, upon which the Papimi is based, that is supposed to have powerful therapeutic effects by energising and aligning the spin of the atoms of the body. I mention him because he is an example of a really decent person with a pure, brilliant and lucid mind. What also makes him exceptional is his manual ability that allows him to personally build his own inventions. We at the Foundation really want to help people like Guy Obolensky get the help he needs to give his ideas to the world. Sometimes restrictions in finance, management and marketing, and also legal issues, limit the ability for an already far-out idea to find a space for success.

As you can see, we at the Foundation go to the wildest places!

Q *You certainly do. You already talked about this a bit, but let's revisit it: do you have any advice for people who are trying to bridge both worlds in terms of health and medicine, to sort all of this out?*

FPM: You know, I once had this Romanian doctor screaming at me, 'There is no such thing as alternative medicine. It's all just medicine!' And in a way that's true. Every so often people come along, like Newton or Einstein, who completely shatter everything.

As for your question, it's very hard for single individuals, especially when they are sick, to make such a leap in their personal lives. What usually happens is that friends or relatives come to them and say, 'Hey, have you heard of this or heard of that.' I would say—and I am sure this is a cliché—to try to think with your heart. Somehow, when something is true for you it will resonate.

As a Foundation we are not against doctors. All of the great advances of medicine are incredible. But sometimes we do see abominations. We are not in a position to come in and say 'No'—firstly, because we would create a lot of enemies, and secondly because we don't have the true competency to be able to do that. So in this process of trying to bridge . . . well, sometimes two therapies are not really complementary to each other. They really are alternative to each other. I mean, in a sense, if you buy into, for example, Dr. Simoncini's therapy you cannot buy into chemotherapy. This is the most difficult part. It's not a question of complementing a therapy with minerals or vitamins or good nutrition, which is always good for everybody all the time, right? It's sometimes a question about having to choose a completely alternative path. It's like dropping out of college and saying I am going to study something else. It's personal. And it's difficult. Especially with the Internet and all the information that is available—just fifteen years ago you had to be a library rat to investigate something or to travel across the country to meet someone. Now it's all out there on websites. It's incredible! And that's why I think the revolution is happening.

Q *I want to ask you about any blinders CAM practitioners might be wearing. There are those people in the CAM world who, fairly or unfairly, place blame for the state of medicine on Big Pharma, reductionist scientists and*

the "matter-based" focus on the body. But CAM has its own problems, not the least of which is remaining open itself, as many practitioners become champions for their own specialties and screen out new, different or conflicting information. Would you care to comment on if you think this is true and how it is affecting the field?

FPM: One of the biggest obstacles we are seeing to the advancement of certain therapies is the proponents themselves. The proponents of the therapies themselves, who most of the time are the inventors. They can have such complicated and complex personalities that they either make enemies or they don't really communicate clearly what their ideas are. This has been a big limitation. I would say that some good ideas are not getting across for this reason.

You know, the kind of, let's say, hippie movement feeling to some of CAM, and you know the feeling that the guys in the white coats are the bad guys—I think that is breaking down. We are not in that enemy-is-out-there-mode anymore. Now we are more in the place of the enemy is within. The enemy is our own smallness.

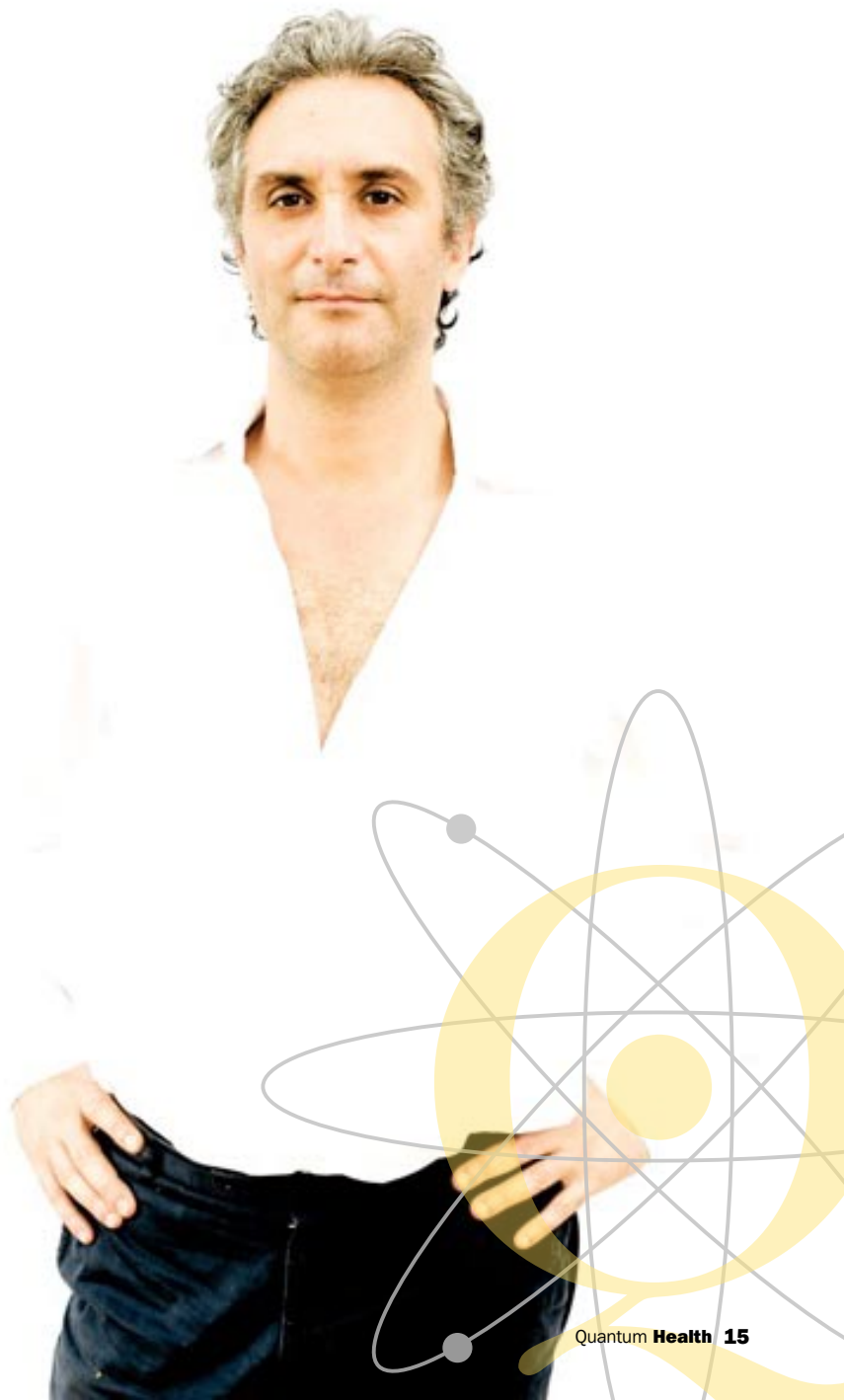
And another obstacle to CAM, one of the biggest, is sloppy science. People who have studied conventional medicine have had a much better preparation in science—I mean among therapists. But people are getting self-organized now. Just as doctors get licensed by other doctors, other types of practitioners are getting licensed by associations so they can ensure that their level of competency is high, and so that we won't have this type of sloppy attitude toward science or clients.

Q *As we close, I would like to completely shift gears. You also study with South American indigenous healers, curanderos. They are the masters of natural medicine. Is modern medicine—both conventional and CAM—missing something important by not paying attention to the "old knowledge"?*

FPM: Well, before I answer I want to congratulate you for your first two books, the ones before the body-field book. Before people discovered you in regard to energy medicine, your other two books [about Peruvian shamanism and visionary/healing plants] were already in my library and quite fundamental to me. I live in Peru because it has an ancient shamanic tradition. It is different from China or India, which are countries with systematised knowledge which sprung from Source, from nature, into a discipline. But what you have in Peru, it's still in its original state.

I have learned, dealing with these healers, to accept. . . . You know, we grow and forget—we often say children see imaginary beings but we stifle that with education. Here [in Peru] we can delve back into a world of infinite possibilities. When we are talking about cures and medicine, we are talking about the ability to wake up something which is intrinsic within us to be able to transform ourselves both physically and in our wider essence. What I have learned from my experiences here is that this is possible. People have come here with serious diseases—cancer and so on—to see some of the people [shamans] I have been studying with, and just because of the experience [with the shamans] they have been able to somehow shift the way their life has been going. Who knows how really? When we read about Jesus doing miracles—maybe he was such a powerful 'guru' that he was able to convince people to do something and to cure them in this way? Certainly we know about how with some people—for example, with a very powerful doctor—just the presence of the doctor makes them feel better, makes them feel safe. I think there is a lot to be learned there.

Ferdinando Pisani Massamormile is the son of a diplomat and lived in many different countries as he grew up. This unsettled life allowed him to develop a sensitivity for understanding diverse and sometimes opposing points of view. After studying economics in Italy, he worked for a series of foundations pursuing sustainable economic development. Finding the issues of the unfairness of modern conventional medical system more pressing, Ferdinando moved to the French NGO Barefoot Doctors. After initiating medical projects in South America to treat diseases with local and natural resources, he started a two-year internship with Amazonian shamans in Peru. Ferdinando now works for the Foundation for Alternative and Integrative Medicine. He can be reached at nando@faim.org. You can visit FAIM at www.FAIM.org and general email enquiries can be made at info@faim.org.



Photographs on pages 8 and 9 by Daniella Flores. All other photographs of Ferdinando Pisani Massamormile by Magnus Bischofberger.