

8th International Conference on

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND ACUPUNCTURE

July 23-24, 2018 | Rome, Italy

Barbara Cawood, Arch Gen Intern Med 2018, Volume 2 | DOI: 10.4066/2591-7951-C1-002

FROM ELEPHANTS, TRADITIONAL AFRICAN MEDICINE AND MODERN MEDICINE: WHERE TO FROM HERE?

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A perspective from a grass roots allopathic medicine clinician of 31 years, who experienced as a child the best classroom in her backyard, Nature. Growing up, being integral with nature, she learnt about life and Healing before venturing to the city to study medicine. Her constant awareness and search for healing across cultures and continents has shaped her perspective.

Nature has an innate capacity for organisation and healing. Elephants have inhabited earth for 50 million years. A case presentation of elephants is shown within the environment they find themselves. A Baobab tree of 4000 years is still thriving, and a baby baboon has a conversation with us. In contrast, the probability of anthropogenic human extinction in America within the next 100 years is a topic of active debate. Kenya has an extinction rate 1000 times faster than other events in the last 65 million years which makes it plausible that in the next 300 years Kenyans will be extinct.

An interview with a Traditional African Medicine (TAM) healer who is a young white African boy and his family reveals the calling, the training and society and the church's attitudes toward TAM.

Economies globally struggle to afford health care costs. Market trends show the consumer is driving change. The focus needs to shift to mass prevention and diagnoses and to wellness aspects of body mind and soul. A new treatment model for medicine is proposed.

BIOGRAPHY

Barbara Cawood completed her medical degree at the age of 25 years from the University of the Witwatersrand Medical School. She is director of Cawood Medical Clinic, providing General Practice, Occupational Medicine and Health, Integrative Medicine, Fast Weight Loss, Wellness and Dispensing to a rural community on the northern tip of South Africa, which is the gateway to Africa. Barbara has affiliations with the South African Medical Association (SAMA), South African Society of Integrative Medicine (SASIM), South African Society of Occupational Medicine (SASOM) and the Australasian College of Nutritional and Environmental Medicine (ACNEM). Barbara has lived and worked in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Canada, New Zealand and Australia during her career and has always chosen to live rurally within cultural diversity.



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