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## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Exploring New Horizons in Electromedicine

ROBERT O. BECKER, M.D.

Biology, the science of life, has gone through many transformations in the history of humanity. It is a human characteristic that each concept had been initially considered to be the ultimate truth. We are now in the process of revising the past century's biochemical concept, under which all major life processes are chemical in nature, to one that proposes that such processes are electromagnetic in nature. Because the practice of medicine is a direct descendant of each new scientific paradigm we now have "energy medicine" as an alternative to "chemical medicine." This new paradigm rests quite solidly on the fact that all chemical reactions are basically electrical or electromagnetic in nature.

The initial successes of this new medical concept may be judged on the basis of findings reported in this *Journal* issue. While methods for the application of electromagnetic energy to patients have remained relatively simple, some new ideas are being explored, such as the use of stable, free ions, which may yield new uses as a result of the specific size and atomic structure of these charged entities, permitting targeted applications (Becker, 2002). Unfortunately, the chemical concept has led to the development of a major pharmaceutical industry that is resistant to change. One hopes that the final outcome will be a coming together of the best aspects of the two paradigms.

In the interim, I would propose that additional research be directed to expanding the scope of energy medicine beyond the simple electromagnetic concept. There are a number of life processes that are observable but that do not fit the electromagnetic paradigm easily and are not explicable according to our present knowledge base. These all fall within the rubric of nonreproducible phenomena, and most pertain to communications, some apparently limited to humans and some to interspecies phenomena. While they are not reproducible in the usual scientific sense, sufficient observations have been documented to indicate that they have a basis in reality. It appears that these observations are related to properties and actions of such fields that are totally unlike any of those presently known. Consequently, to be successful, any research program in this area must be truly multidisciplinary in nature.

I provide an example drawn from my own experience. Approximately 10 years ago, I was consulted by the mother of an 11-year-old boy with the complaint that, along with his ability to sense the presence of very-low-strength environmental electromagnetic fields, he was also able to sense the existence of disease states in humans visually. I worked with him for several months and validated both claims to my satisfaction. Experimental details were agreed upon prior to any work by both the subject and his mother and, as a precondition for the study, I was required to never to reveal his identity.

One set of experiments consisted of placing varying numbers of low-strength direct current magnets within a wooden box on top of which a grid was drawn; the subject was asked to locate the magnets within the grid, which he did with statistically significant results. He also volunteered that he was able to detect sites that had been used in prior experiments, a claim tested by substituting a new, unused matrix for the old one (with the subject then correctly indicating that neither magnets nor "residual" fields were present). The information in this set of experiments was transmitted via the boy's fingertips but actual contact was not required.

In a separate set of experiments, the subject was introduced to individuals of whom he had no prior knowledge and asked to indicate whether or not they suffered from any disease processes. He unerringly distinguished those who did from the controls and was able to locate the anatomical sites and indicate the diseases' severity although he could not provide pathologic diagnoses. The information was transmitted in this case visually via alterations in the patients' "aura," a term used in the absence of a more scientific term. The subject volunteered that he "saw" all living

Consultant in Lowville, NY.

organisms as surrounded by a specific pattern of light, the color and intensity of which indicated the physiologic state of the organism.

This work was compelling if not conclusive, but whether or not the subject had these abilities is irrelevant. What is relevant is that this experience showed me that, as a field of inquiry, energy medicine is, at the very least, an intriguing possibility that cannot be dismissed out of hand. If I had to speculate as to the mechanism of action involved in the studies conducted, I would have to say that sensing of a presently unknown aspect of magnetic fields may be a valid possibility.

It should be noted that practically all of our current understanding of electromagnetic energy is the result of serendipitous observations made more than a century ago. Who is to say that, a century from now, people will not look back on the work of researchers—encouraged as I was, by their own observations, or by the work presented in this *Journal*—and regard this as a time of similar discovery, when, as yet unimagined forces, become part of the everyday lexicon we use to describe how we relate to the world around us?

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Address reprint requests to:
*Robert O. Becker, M.D.*
*Box 278, Star Route*
*Lowville, NY 13367*

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