



Practitioner Corner:

One Practitioner's Perspective

Daniel Wasserman, Acupuncture Physician



Being personally involved in medical collaborations involving multiple healing modalities, I have seen how they can benefit patients on so many levels. My perspective is limited

to my own experience and expertise. Through collaborations, I can access new insights from other practitioners and modalities. Patients feel properly cared for when they know that physicians and healers are discussing their case. Unfortunately, the transformation of medicine into the modern era has brought the medical experience to a place where, oftentimes, a person is relegated to a set diagnostic codes and procedural numbers. It is no wonder that more and more people are seeking alternative forms of health care. Certainly, in these circles, the individual is generally given more attention than the common 5-minute office visit. However, even within the sea of alternative and complementary practitioners, an individual could drown in it's disjointed incohesiveness and lack of intercommunication.

There seems to be three possible outcomes from collaboration. In the first outcome possibility, the collaborating practitioners arrive at the same diagnostic imbalance. This is analogous to a person who is looking for a hidden pot of gold. When asking five people for advice, they offer five different routes. However, each route arrives at the same final destination. Although the language used by the various medical perspectives might be vastly different, bridges are created to reveal their commonalities. In the center, there would be the organ system of imbalance, for example, liver dysfunction or overexcited sympathetic nervous system. The strength of this outcome is that confidence increases when vastly different medical perspectives agree.





Practitioner Corner:

One Practitioner's Perspective, Daniel Wasserman, Acupuncture Physician

Another possible outcome would be when each practitioner reveals a portion of a larger imbalance. This would be similar to a jigsaw puzzle. Only through discovering and connecting all of the pieces can the whole puzzle be identified. Being that chronic disease is multi-layered and multi-factorial, it is nearly impossible for one modality to contribute all of the puzzle pieces. The value of this outcome lies in its ability to interconnect the unique angle of each modality.

The last outcome would occur when the collaboration concludes with five unrelated opinions regarding the individual's imbalance. Although this might seem the least productive of the possible outcomes, there are extreme benefits that must be appreciated. Firstly, each practitioner's opinion was stated before the entire group. This creates a system of checks and balances which is virtually nonexistent in today's medical climate. Statistics clearly indicate the number of medical errors that are occurring due to a lack of careful scrutiny. However, in a collaborative setting, the practitioner must review and present their findings to a group of educated health professionals. This cannot be underestimated.

As a whole, collaborations can bring today's medical environment to a new level. The entire process is energizing and enthralling for, both, practitioners and patients.

This article was written by Daniel Wasserman DOM, an integrative Chinese Medical practitioner in South Florida. Daniel is a health navigator for Yellow Courtyard and has led many collaborations.

For questions or comments, he can be contacted through Yellow Courtyard at: dwasserman@alchemicalcourtyard.com