



Angela LaSalle, M.D.

“Our quest for higher knowledge has taken us to the moon, produced palm-sized computers, built robots that assist us in industry and surgery, and has progressed medicine to the point of mapping the human genome. Individual areas of science have produced amazing insights and brought many new diagnostic and treatment tools to the field of medicine. However, we still have a long way to go.

With rates of cancer, autoimmune disease, diabetes, heart disease, degenerative neurological disease on the rise, it becomes imperative that we push the limits of our knowledge and drop the walls of the box to step beyond our current medical philosophies.

The pharmaceutical industry is fast approaching its limits with the current theories regarding cellular communication. As complex as the human body is, it is naïve of us to think that merely “adjusting” the biochemistry with use of medications will result in shifting only the targeted body system. Inflammatory cascades, hormonal feedback loops and the immune system are commonly triggered by the treatments we prescribe, often resulting in adverse outcomes for the patient.

In order to increase the probabilities of more favorable outcomes, we must broaden our perspectives and address the problems from a different, or at least an additional and more inclusive, direction.

What if we applied theories from other scientific disciplines, say, quantum physics? If we start with the simple quantum finding that all matter vibrates, then that must mean that our cells vibrate, too... including our DNA. Vibration results in a wave, which has a measured frequency. The musical term for frequency is pitch. Each cell contains within its walls its own DNA, and each amino acid in the DNA would have its own vibrational pattern, not only frequency/pitch but also wave form which is musical timbre and amplitude which is musical loudness. This physical pattern also pertains to each individual molecule. Thus, could we actually describe our cells as a microscopic symphony?

What could we accomplish if we would listen to the vibrational musical patterns of our tissues? In this procedure, would we be able to decipher another layer of cellular communication?

Better yet, what if we could speak back to the cells in a way that would lead to more readily restoration of health? Could application of the mathematical relationships and frequencies/pitches that lie within music bring a greater, insightful understanding of how our cells talk (sing?) to one another? Isn't this the literal process of tuning the human bodily symphony?

We can only begin to answer such questions by first stopping to consider our resources. Medicine alone cannot begin to tackle this topic. Our current measurement devices are not sophisticated enough to allow for more appropriate research methods, and is probably why current research in the area of music-based therapies falls short of convincing the medical community to use these as front-line therapies.

We must begin to pull together scientific disciplines and their knowledges in a way that we never have had before. Only then will we, together, be able to cooperatively brainstorm new questions and develop measurement tools that will allow us to return to medical dilemmas with new broadened, and yet perhaps paradoxically, specific perspectives.

The purpose of the Alliance for Research in Music Medicine (ARiMM) is to network and find scientific colleagues from all disciplines who are interested in expanding on current technology, and step beyond the current use of radio frequency, sound, physics and mathematics in medical diagnostics and therapies.

Our focus is two-fold: first to brainstorm multi-disciplinary based research projects, and secondly, to provide information and educational opportunities to the scientific community and general public. All scientific, computer, medical and musical disciplines are welcome to participate in ARiMM.

Our current level of scientific knowledge now makes it possible to do what our founding physicians of the ancient cultures and societies could not accomplish. The healing effects of music have been noted anecdotally throughout the centuries. In fact, the ancient physicians were also well-versed in music and the arts. Likely they could see, hear, and intuit the importance of linking the arts and sciences, yet they lacked the sophisticated technology and understanding to explain why music had to be administered to their patients.

Why should we allow this effective tool to lie on the sidelines of treatment options simply because we have not yet explained more fully its mechanism of action?

Granted, it will be a challenge to decipher the scientifically related language of music and cells. It will take every piece of scientific knowledge that we have. But I challenge you: If we can listen to sounds of a vibrating black hole millions of light years away...and it has been done, can we not determine a way to listen to a vibrating cell culture that sits right in front of us? Again, I challenge you: What can't we accomplish if we combine our scientific and artistic talents?

In order to coalesce this we must work together, drop the walls among the disciplines and allow the collaborative creative process to take over. Only by stepping to the very edge of wise thinking and evolving current technology will we see and hear not only the possibilities but also the probabilities that lie beyond.

My hope is that ARiMM will become a forum that fosters original research grounded in scientific method, thus preventing negative judgment and dismissal from our professional colleagues. By tackling this daunting task, may we push one another past our perceived limits and in the process, teach the next generation that it is the application of the creative process to scientific discipline that allows healing progress, not merely the collection of itemized scientific fact.

Knowledge without application is useless, and application of knowledge requires creativity. It was Albert Einstein that said, “The significant problems we have cannot be solved at the same level of thinking with which we created them.”

In order for us to find new applications and future technologies, we must, as a scientific community, apply the science of creativity. Only then will we truly be practicing the science of Music and the art of Medicine.”

Respectfully,

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