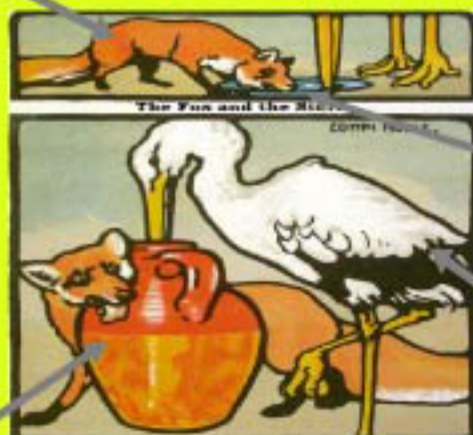


Conventional Medicine and Holistic Medicine

an old story retold

Conventional medicine



Traditional scientific methods

Holistic medicine

A general-purpose methodology

When the holistic medicine is invited to prove its value and establish its results by using the traditional scientific methods, it finds itself in a similar situation as the stork in the familiar Aesop's fable when the fox invited it for dinner: It goes home hungry. It is the conventional medicine which naturally grows on nourishment from traditional science. The reason why neither conventional medicine nor traditional science are holistic is that the methods of traditional science are not supportive of holistic thinking. Why expect that the scientific holistic medicine, the 'new species' which distinguishes itself by holistic thinking, can grow on nourishment from that same source?

On the other hand, the traditional scientific methods have developed based on epistemological assumptions which have been proven wrong by experimental results in physics and cognitive science (see, for example, Werner Heisenberg's "Physics and Philosophy" and Antonio Damasio's "Descartes' Error").

The methodological approach to academic research allows us to state explicitly the epistemological assumptions and the criteria our methods are based on. By specifying the epistemology, we can create solid, academic foundations for our method; by specifying the criteria, we can give our method a holistic orientation. On such solidly constructed foundation, we can develop methods which support holistic medicine and science, and which are at the same time academically no less solid and sound than the methods of traditional science. In other words, the methodology is the sort of 'dish' from which the scientific holistic medicine can be properly nourished. It is the sort of foundation which can give the holistic orientation in science its due advantage.

Based on this approach, a prototype general-purpose methodology called Polyscopic Modeling has been developed by the University of Oslo Information Design Group. In cooperation with Prof. Gunnar Tellnes of University of Oslo School of Medicine and EUPHA we are beginning a research project called NaCuHeal-InformationDesign which combines the methodological approach to science with holistic medicine.