

GEORGIAN COLLEGE CANCELS DIPLOMA IN HOMEOPATHY, CBC SHAWN BUCKLEY RESPONDS

Shawn's Apr 24, 2018 rebuttal to CBC's article (on reverse)

A friend sent me articles about the homeopathy program at Georgian College being attacked and of the College caving in and cancelling the program. She wanted to know what I thought about the articles and the attack on the program. As I sat back



reflecting upon what I thought, I noticed that one of the articles was one dated February 9, 2018 titled "Georgian College Cancels Homeopathy Diploma" (3 minute 30 second read), by Kelly Crowe of the CBC. That brought back a memory that one of the first times I learned about homeopathy was during a CBC radio program I listened to while driving to Williams Lake decades ago. This was before I understood the value of natural remedies such as homeopathic remedies. The program was speaking about how, at the time of the 1918 flu pandemic which killed one out of every five North Americans, there were both homeopathic hospitals, and allopathic hospitals. Our mainstream hospitals are allopathic hospitals.

The Collins dictionary defines "allopathy" as:

"treatment of disease by remedies that produce effects different from or opposite to those produced by the disease".

This is why mainstream medicine, which is allopathic, treats sickness with chemical drugs to address the symptoms of the sickness as opposed to the cause of the sickness. This is a very lucrative medical model which is why, in my opinion, it has been able to dominate our public policy and our media.

The Collins dictionary defines homeopathy as:

"a system of medical treatment based on the theory that certain diseases can be cured by giving very small doses of drugs which in a healthy person would produce symptoms like those of the disease".

You will note that our belief in vaccines and vaccination is very similar to homeopathy. We introduce a small amount of a bacteria or virus to create an immune response.

Back to the CBC radio program. If my recollection of the program is correct, when the 1918 flu was decimating North America, sick persons who went to an allopathic hospital had an 80% chance of dying, whereas persons who went to a

homeopathic hospital had an 80% chance of living. I remember clearly thinking that the next time there is a killer viral flu, I want to go to a homeopathic hospital. Allopathic hospitals will not have any remedy for a viral flu (antibiotics only work on bacteria). The problem is that we no longer have homeopathic hospitals. They have all been closed as the allopathic model has been adopted by the state to the virtual exclusion of other models.

My next thought in reading the articles was that I have been aware for years now that there has been a mounting mainstream media campaign against homeopathy. The attack on the program at the Georgian College is simply another branch of what appears to be an ongoing campaign to turn the public from homeopathy.

I have to admit, however, to being old school. When I went to university, universities were the defenders of personal opinion, tolerance of the opinion of others, and the pursuit and protection of knowledge in all forms. The idea that a College would cancel a program over criticism is foreign to my university experience. Long ago opposition to a university or college program would attract students and be ignored by the school. My first reaction was that it is a shame that the College would not push ahead despite media attention. It seems few can stand up to the mainstream media agenda any more.

My second reaction was alarm that we are losing a healing tradition that has an enviable track record. We are not losing it because of a media campaign that is citing reasonable evidence that homeopathy is less effective than allopathy. We are losing homeopathy on based upon assertions and innuendo being pushed by the mainstream media.

For those who want to jump on the anti-homeopathic bandwagon, I offer the following to hopefully cause a moment of reasoned reflection. I offer a quote from Dr. Marcia Angell. Dr. Angell is a medical doctor and an editor of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. *The New England Journal of Medicine* is arguably the best mainstream medical journal in the world. In discussing problems with the research and marketing of drugs used by our mainstream allopathic model Dr. Angell writes:

"The problems I've discussed are not limited to psychiatry, although they reach their most florid form there. Similar conflicts of interest and biases exist in virtually every field of medicine, particularly those that rely heavily on drugs or devices. It is simply no longer possible to believe much of the clinical research that is published, or to rely on the judgment of trusted physicians or authoritative medical guidelines. I take no pleasure in this conclusion, which I reached slowly and reluctantly over my two decades as an editor of The New England Journal of Medicine."

(*Drug Companies & Doctors: A Story of Corruption*, The New York Review of Books, January 15, 2009).

Do not expect Dr. Angell's reasoned opinion to be in the CBC or National Post any time soon. The fact that a very strong case can be made out that many of our mainstream medical treatments are not based in reasonable science will not become main stream news despite the very high risk, including deaths, that these treatments pose.

This obvious double standard makes me suspect that the attack on homeopathy is fake news.

GEORGIAN COLLEGE CANCELS DIPLOMA IN HOMEOPATHY

Controversial program ends after 'response from our community'

CBC's Feb 9, 2018 article preceded Shawn's rebuttal (on reverse)

Georgian College says it is cancelling its controversial advanced diploma program in homeopathy. The announcement came just hours after the college told CBC News it had no plans to change the program, which has been criticized by doctors and scientists from across the country.

"In light of the recent response from our local community and beyond and in consideration of our students, Georgian College has made the decision to cancel the homeopathy program," the Ontario school said in a statement on Friday. Students already enrolled are being offered the chance to withdraw or transfer to another program.

The provincially funded community college had planned to start courses in September to train students to use sugar pills to treat "acute and chronic health conditions." The course documents had been prepared, and the tuition had been set at \$4,454.00 for the first term, according to the official course materials.

The program had been approved by the Georgian College board of governors and the Ontario Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development.

But over the past few weeks the college had come under increasing criticism. Dr. Chris Giorshev, an emergency medicine physician, sent letters of protest to the college and to the provincial government after seeing an advertisement for the program which would have been offered at the nearby campus in Barrie, Ont.

He worried there would be a risk to public health if people assumed homeopathy has some legitimacy. "It gave me some angst about the whole thing," he said.

Giorshev is already seeing evidence of homeopathy's impact in his hospital's emergency room.

"We see people, they have the flu and they're sick and I ask, 'Did you get a flu shot?' and they say, 'My homeopath gave me a flu shot,' and I think, 'Well, you actually didn't get anything.'"

Health Canada has warned that children given homeopathic nosodes instead of vaccinations are at risk of developing serious and potentially fatal illnesses. (CBC)

The program documents say homeopathic vaccines, called "nosodes," were part of the program. One course — HOMP1002— would have taught "concepts related to remedy selection, aggravations, antidotes, polycrests and nosodes." ("Polycrest" is another term for homeopathic treatments.)

"In this day and age with everything we know about science, that a discredited 200-year-old bit of puffery should be legitimized is scandalous," said Joe Schwarcz, director of McGill University's Office of Science and Society, who had been consulting with other scientists about launching a protest against the program.

"To put students through three years of nonsense so that they can go out and practice placebo treatments is totally unfair to those students and it's unfair to the public," said Schwarcz.

Prof. Joe Schwarcz, seen here in 2011, wrote an open letter signed by 90 prominent scientists protesting a University of Toronto research study into homeopathy therapies for ADHD.



(Cliff Spicer/Canadian Press)

Homeopathy is based on a scientifically implausible belief in an unproven theory — that water can be exposed to plants or minerals and retain a memory of those molecules, even after all traces of the compound have been eliminated through dilution. Added to that is the unproven conviction that the water, sprayed onto sugar pellets, has curative powers for a wide range of human disease.

Georgian College had defended the program earlier on Friday in a statement sent to CBC News, saying it had undergone "an extensive and rigorous academic approval process."

Last year Schwarcz wrote an open letter signed by 90 prominent scientists protesting a University of Toronto research study into homeopathy therapies for ADHD. That study is ongoing, although the principal investigator is skeptical that the pills will work.

"But until we have the results I need to keep an open mind," Heather Boon, dean of the school of pharmacy, told CBC News.

At McMaster University, researchers are studying the homeopathic nosodes in human volunteers, but the purpose of that study is to prove they don't work, according to lead research Mark Loeb.

"Our hypothesis is that these homeopathic vaccines will not show any impact on the immune system," Loeb told CBC News.

Two other Canadian studies fizzled because researchers couldn't find enough volunteers to participate in the clinical trials.

But Schwarcz said there's already been plenty of evidence that homeopathy is ineffective. "Non-existent molecules do not cure existing diseases. It's as simple as that."

In December, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced action to "protect consumers from potentially harmful, unproven homeopathic drugs." In Canada, homeopathic products are licensed as natural health products by Health Canada.