

The Foundation goals

The Foundation «ParacelsusToday – Foundation for Innovative Critical Appraisal and Practice in Medicine» was founded in 1993 on the occasion of the 500th birthday of Paracelsus at his birthplace, Einsiedeln, Switzerland. The Foundation will work to further the basic tenets of Paracelsus – his criticism of traditional academia and its often faulty logical base as well as his successful introduction of improvised and effective healing methods.

The Foundation's primary charge is to further the critical appraisal of medical practices, conventional as well as unconventional, and to make medical practice more effective for patients. The effect of a therapy on the quality of life is a guiding principle.

The Foundation promotes endeavours to identify and to question diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive interventions of modern medicine which are based merely on theoretical academic reasoning without these practices being tested and validated by controlled trials. Moreover, healing phenomena resulting in effective healing effects are to be identified and critically appraised. As a result, medical science and practice should be expanded and its efficiency increased by incorporating those unconventional therapies with documented benefit and by abandoning conventional practices with only spurious benefit.

The Foundation emphasizes the young discipline of clinical epidemiology. This observation-oriented practical science allows the study of the practical effects of therapy without requiring that the theoretical mechanisms of action be established through controlled theoretical conformity. As such, it stands above the various theories of illness and provides the methodological basis for controlled observation and the empiric testing of healing effects as well as providing the basis for a productive and disciplined scientific debate.

The Foundation intends to achieve its goals predominantly through private support and with funds from patrons. Public funding institutions will be given lower priority due to their penchant for shutting themselves off from important new courses in practice and science in medicine. The Foundation is open to collaboration with universities or university institutes. Public control is exerted to guarantee that the contributions are used appropriately in accordance with the charge of the Foundation.

The Foundation pursues its goals with the organisation of congresses, through the promotion of research and, if found expedient, the foundation of scientific institutes and health services institutions. The Foundation collaborates with the Cochrane Collaboration initiative for the dissemination of quality medical research.

The Foundation leaflet is available from:

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