

## **INTERVIEW WITH DR MARC PIQUEMAL:**

By Christine Issel

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ICR: Marc, tell us a little of your background.

MP: I am director of the firm “ Consultoria de biofisica”, a South America clinic devoted to alternative medicine. In 1986 I graduated from the Montpellier medical school, in France, the oldest western school of medicine. Before going to South America, I graduated as a ‘specialist in primary health education in developing country’. After some years of western clinical practice I decided to learn about alternative medicine and took courses in acupuncture, homeopathy, physiotherapy, some of them taken in Argentina, others in USA. To better understand the physiological process of these alternative medicines, and to mix oriental and occidental ways of thinking, I decided to choose a new investigative tool: Biophysics.

In the 1990s, I took a lot of training courses like “Energy Emission Analysis in Human Being”, Crystallography, ”Cutaneous Bio-Difference in Electrical Potential”, in Europe. These opened my mind about low level of energy in the human being. Wanting to know more about electrical energy, I went back to the university, and in 1999, received my Bachelor degree in electrical engineering in Puerto Rico.

ICR: When and how did you first learn about Reflexology?

MP: About 25 years ago in France at the University of Montpellier where I was studying medicine, a teacher in the Department of Neurology had done some research in Reflexology but he didn’t share much about it with us because it was outside established thought. Later after I moved to South America and worked at the French embassy as a medical doctor to help the poor, my interest in homeopathy and acupuncture and herbs—brought a different way of thinking.

ICR: And what was this new way of thinking?

MP: A way of thinking on the level of energy, that is, recognition of the bio-potential pattern of things. Everything is dynamic. In Reflexology for example it is not simply pushing or applying pressure, but a change in the electricity in the body that can be measured and through measurement prophesied what will happen in the body. When we work with energy we are working with fourth dimensions of time and space, not just the usual two dimensions of length/width and depth of the body.

But to finish the answer to your first question: Years ago, I met three patients in a short period of time which changed my view point. Two of them had had lots of problems and after months of homeopathy and acupuncture treatment they didn’t show any health improvement, then surprisingly they got better. Taking their medical history, I learned they went to a reflexologist, and got satisfactory results. This was my first contact with the “world of reflexology”.

The third patient’s story is a bit different, as it was an unconscious body response, so without what is called in medicine any placebo effect involved. After an automobile accident, the patient went into coma. In the coma, despite the intensive care medical treatment, kidney failure started. This time, after the family asked me to do “something” to solve this critical situation, I directly contacted a reflexologist. After 20 minutes of treatment, the patient was still in coma but was responding well and starting to urinate. A critical situation was averted!

At the same time, my mother, who is 68, immigrated to Paraguay. She took up studying Reflexology as a way of supporting herself and helping others. Reflexology is well-known and recognized by the government. The Reflexology course is connected with the University’s medical program and is part of the school controlled by the health ministry thanks to the valuable work and effort of a Canadian citizen,

Margarit Gothold. The Reflexology program is a two year long, 8 hours per week course of study. Now, because of these 3 patients and my mother Reflexology is part of the treatment plan in my clinic.

ICR: What is your work week like?

MP: I see 20-25 patients a week in my clinic for a combination of homeopathy, acupuncture and conventional medicine, spending one hour with each. I don't like to spend less time because then you're just a technician. My other time is spent researching. My typical day is seeing patients from 7a.m.–noon; resting from noon-3 p.m., working from 3p.m.–7 p.m. a break for dinner, and then working again from 9 p.m.–midnight. Even while in France I had an interest in research. When I came to Paraguay I began to do research for the French Acupuncture Association. Ultimately, my mother inspired me to investigate how Reflexology works.

ICR: Do you have a personal life?

MP: Yes, I'm married and have five children ranging in age from 7-17—two girls and three boys. As a family we choose to have less material things so that I can devote part of my workday to research.

ICR: It's a big subject, but can you condense your approach to the human body?

MP: Yes, that is a huge subject but I'll try. Conventional Medicine is based on the dead body—understanding the disease process and death. Alternative Medicine is based on the living body, understanding life. Energy explains things with the new logic of physics not through chemistry, the foundation of biology upon which conventional medicine is based. We still need to rely on anatomy and physiology and physics when we speak of energy. Whether conventional medicine or alternative the distribution of energy of the body is the same. Measurement of the manifestation and interpretation of the change in the electrical energy in the body depends on the system you use. It will be different if you use Reflexology, iridology or Traditional Chinese Medicine for instance, or conventional medicine. Pathology measures the extension of the distribution of energy after it has physically manifested in the body. Sensitivity in reflex areas is a condensation of the distribution of energy to an area sometimes before it becomes a physical pathology. Reflexology is more than a technique but encompasses a new way of thinking. You are working with the human being but it is also about studying the interaction between organs. Through energy, a small door is opening to huge knowledge and understanding of the body. We need to look at the cell and space around the cell, not only the cell itself as is done in biology.

We need a standard level of knowledge, and can use part of the knowledge of medicine, but I am not sure Reflexology should be part of medicine itself. We could lose it if the field decides to work in the pathological model of medicine. You will need a medical degree to do Reflexology. We can always suggest to medicine to think in a new way, not to be threatened by reflexologists as reflexologists do not want to work with the disease process and biological restriction, but with the recognition of the bio potential patterns of electrical energy in the body and this is not conventional medicine's area of interest or understanding.

ICR: What do you hope to be doing in ten years?

MP: Keeping on research and developing a new way of thinking. Making efforts to better understand Reflexology and discover the physiological clues of how it works.

ICR: Thank you for your thoughts and interest in Reflexology research.