

Manifesto for Integrated Medicine

*Presented by the Italian Society of Homeopathy and Integrated Medicine
on 3rd December 2011 in the 'Salone de' Dugento
of the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence*

In the last few years the Public Health Service in various countries has launched the concept of Integrated Health Care (IHC) by adopting the *Complementary and Alternative Medicine* (CAM) experience. This has brought about a series of changes to what the Health Service actually provides to the public and, furthermore, it develops collaboration between biomedically specialised health professionals within CAM - it involves national guidelines, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and health management in general.

Integrated medicine today is a therapeutic practice in which elements of complementary medicine and traditional practices for wellbeing accompany the therapeutic and diagnostic instruments of biomedicine through an honest alliance and an interdisciplinary approach to caring for the health of each individual citizen. However, to date the different health care systems are not well coordinated and there is lack of agreement as to the real setting that should be created for Integrated Medicine.

The event held here in Florence on 3rd December 2011, hosted by the Italian Society of Homeopathy and Integrated Medicine (SIOMI), hopes to offer a useful contribution to all those who, from different perspectives, are involved in public health. It also hopes to inspire more profound reflection regarding the emerging topic of our many resources in medical health care and their coming together in a better-integrated whole.

We were pleased to have the participation of many of our national institutions in the field of health care. We received messages of goodwill from, among others, the Ministry of Health, the Italian Agency for Pharmaceuticals and the Commission of Health and Hygiene of the Senate and the Republic. Among those who participated in our celebration we were pleased to note Federazione Nazionale degli Ordini dei medici (National Association of Medical Doctors Orders), Federazione

Presidente
Simonetta Bernardini

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Francesco Macri

Segretario
Gino Santini

Tesoriere
Ennio Masciello

Consiglieri
Tiziana Di Giampietro
Italo Grassi
Roberto Pulcri

DIREZIONE EDITORIALE
E SCIENTIFICA



DIREZIONE SCIENTIFICA

Omeopatia 33

CONFEDERATA



E-mail: segreteria@siomi.it - Sito Internet: www.siomi.it
Ufficio di Presidenza e Segreteria: **Via Kyoto, 51 - 50126 Firenze**
Tel.: **055.6800.389** - Fax: **055.683.355** (24h)

Nazionale degli Ordini dei Farmacisti (National Federation of Order of Pharmacists), Federazione Nazionale degli Ordini dei Biologi (National Federation of Biologist Orders); Federazione Italiana delle Società Medico-Scientifiche (Italian Federation of National Medical Societies); Federazione Italiana Medici Medicina Generale (Italian Federation of Family doctors); Federazione Italiana Pediatri di Famiglia (Italian Federation of Family Paediatricians); Società Italiana di Cure Palliative (The Italian Society of Palliative Care); Società Italiana di Psiconeuroendocrino-immunologia (Italian Society of PNEI); Agenzia regionale di Sanità Toscana (Tuscany Agency of Health); Istituto Superiore della Sanità (National Institute of Health). We also had the pleasure of receiving the administrators of the ASL9 who oversee the Hospital for Integrated Medicine in Pitigliano. This hospital is actually the first in Italy within the public health sector to introduce homeopathy, acupuncture and plant therapy for patients. We also received the contribute of the renowned national organizations of health and wellbeing (Inter Arti per la Salute, Federazione Italiana Scuole di Tuina e Qi Gong; Unione Italiana Sport, area Discipline orientali, Scuole Chentaiji Hongmethod Europe), the Institutions of Complementary Medicines members of Consulta Nazionale per la Medicina Integrata, the Italian Society of Anthroposofical Medicine; the CAM Society of Cancer Institute of Milano and Slow medicine. Finally on behalf of the public we also had Cittadinanza Attiva, Tribunale del Malato and Italian Association of Homeopathic Patients.

All declared they welcomed our Manifesto and were interested in discussing various areas and developing them within their own institutional fields.

The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Siena offers a MA degree in Integrated Medicine for medical doctors, medical odontologists and pharmacists and another for nurses and other health workers; this takes place for all practical purposes, at the Centre for Integrated Medicine in Pitigliano. Interest was shown in developing a plan for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) at university level in order to change our vision of medicine in the long run. The Department of Veterinary Health, represented by l'Istituto Zooprofilattico di Lazio e Toscana, also showed interest in learning more.

Finally Daniela Scaramuccia, Commissioner for the Department of Health in the Region of Tuscany, declared: *"It could only be in Tuscany, of course, that we see the first experience of a public hospital for integrated health. We were the first region to introduce the concept of complementary medicine as opposed to alternative medicine and we continue to give opportunities to our doctors to come together to cure and to care for their patients, each according to his own speciality".*

With the Manifesto, the Italian Society of Integrated Medicine also presented a document on the cultural aspects and the health management issues involved in integrated care. This will be translated into English soon.

At the end of the ceremony Simonetta Bernardini, stated: *"At last we have reached a time when we can review our vision of medicine beyond the old boundaries and take into consideration new alliances among our therapeutic resources. We hope that from now on, with the help of all, the home of medicine may enlarge beyond orthodoxy and welcome a medicine of medicines, in other words Integrated Medicine!"*

We wish to thank all our authors: Simonetta Bernardini, President of the Italian Society for Integrated Medicine and Manager of the Centre for Integrated Medicine at the Hospital of Pitigliano Ivan Cavicchi, Professor of Philosophy of Medicine at University of Roma "Tor Vergata", Andrea Dei Professor of Chemistry at University of Florence; Francesco Macrì, SIOMI Vicepresident and Professor at University "Sapienza" of Rome; Guido Giarelli, Professor of Sociology at University of Magna Grecia, Catanzaro; Alfredo Zuppiroli, President of Bioethic Commission of Tuscany region.

SIOMI Press Office

E-mail: segreteria@siomi.it

Phone: **+39.340.7291939**

Photos available on www.siomi.it

