

The Pertinence of PEAR to the Pursuit of Global Health

For nearly 30 years, the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research (PEAR) laboratory complex at Princeton University has conducted an integrated program of empirical experimentation, analytical assessment, and theoretical modeling of various anomalous interactions of human consciousness with an assortment of random physical systems and information processes. From these studies has emerged a vast array of traditionally inexplicable effects, predicated an inescapable recognition that all of these ultimately stem from a common, very deep, ontological underlayer of reality where, as Fred Hoyle once succinctly put it, “mind and matter meld.” It thus follows that the insights and accomplishments acquired in study of any one of the phenomenological branches of the mind/matter dialogue can bear relevance to many other academic or pragmatic regimes of application. Otherwise put, once we understand how to access and utilize this ineffable, primordial source of information in any context, its appropriation for many other purposes is validated and enabled.

In an attempt to share this insight with the practitioners and clients of the global healthcare communities, the purposes of this anthology are to review a selected portion of the accumulated PEAR research on consciousness-correlated anomalous physical phenomena and to suggest its relevance to many features encountered in the practice of complementary and integrative medicine. To this end, we have assembled and annotated an assortment of pertinent archival publications authored by members of our PEAR staff over the past three decades. Some of these outline the history, purposes, agenda, methodologies, and results of our laboratory program; others sketch the evolution of our conceptual epistemology and representations of its underlying ontology;

and a few, along with some interstitial commentary interspersed throughout this text, argue for the relevance of the work to the fundamental knowledge base and practical applications of many modes of consciousness-mediated healing.

Comprehension of this thesis could benefit from access to three extant primary references that the serious reader may wish to avail for handy complementary information:

- (1) the PEAR Web site, available at <http://www.princeton.edu/~pear>, from which may be downloaded over 50 archival articles, technical reports, essays, and institutional links developed by the program to date;
- (2) the tutorial textbook *Margins of Reality: The Role of Consciousness in the Physical World*, published in 1987 by Harcourt Brace (softcover, 1988; ISBN 0-15-657246-X); and
- (3) a more contemporary multimedia educational DVD/CD set entitled *The PEAR Proposition*, which includes a synopsis of the program's history; a virtual tour of the laboratory; several lectures to an undergraduate class; presentations and informal commentaries by staff members, interns, operators, and friends; and other material that attempts to capture the spirit and substance of the PEAR enterprise and to offer perspectives on the interpretations and implications of its research results. (This may be acquired on-line through its sponsoring agency, the International Consciousness Research Laboratories, <http://www.icrl.org/contributions.php>, or via the appropriate link on the PEAR Web site, or at <http://www.amazon.com>.)

As to the structure of this document, following a brief allusion to item (2), we

begin with a reprise of a major review article, also entitled “The PEAR Proposition,” a multidimensional, multitonal summary of our professional and personal experiences in steering this anathematic research program through the intellectual, political, economic, and cultural vicissitudes imposed on it by its prevailing academic locus. Then follow a few other survey articles, some presented in full, some only by abstract, some only by title and link, that address mind/body issues more directly. These are buttressed by several hard-core research items that establish a number of the specific idiosyncratic features of the consciousness/source dialogue that set it apart from more traditional scientific endeavors. We then propose a few conceptual frameworks that have helped us to interpret and utilize the empirical experiential features and to relate them to other established philosophical perspectives. We conclude with a few specific allusions to the implications for contemporary and future healthcare modalities, and for the evolution of broader comprehension and utilization of the generic mind/matter intercourse, in the hope of stimulating more profound beneficial applications in these and many other sectors of human activity.

This editorial design inevitably necessitates compromises between autonomous completeness of every full article, and minimization of the redundancy among these several texts and their graphical and tabular materials. In general, we have tended to favor the former approach, on the premise that many readers may be selective in their use of these publications, and would prefer not to have to search corollary articles or other references to fill in missing details in the particular items of their interest. However, where necessary constraints on publication space have forced us to resort to presentations by ab-

stract or title alone, Web site links have been provided that will allow rapid access to the full parent articles. Further compression has also been achieved by combining the individual article references and acknowledgments into master lists, which may in their own right prove useful to the readership.

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Brenda J. Dunne, MS, holds degrees in psychology and the humanities from Mundelein College in Chicago, and an MS in Human Development from the University of Chicago. She has been manager of the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research laboratory since 1979, in which capacity she supervises the full spectrum of PEAR activities and oversees research projects of visiting scholars and student interns. Since 1986, she has been a Councilor of the Society for Scientific Exploration and currently serves on its Executive Committee as Education Officer. She is also President and Treasurer of the International Consciousness Research Laboratories.