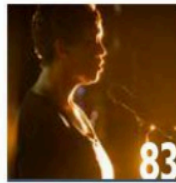


DIPLOMATIC WORLD 55

INTERLINKING POLITICS, DIPLOMACY, BUSINESS
FINANCE, ART & CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

WINTER 2017



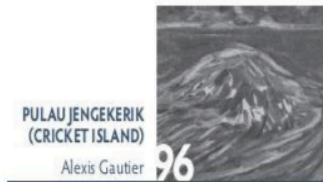
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THE TAL CENTER



Doctor Yair Maimon

Doctor Yair Maimon is the head of the research department and he has a very clear vision about the TAL Center. “The TAL Center is a visionary place, and it is up to us to fulfill the vision, one way or another. The vision is very clear: to do whatever we can do to change the way cancer is being treated. To bring in different natural treatments we know are effective. To prove that they are effective. To change the protocols of cancer patients.

When the patient comes in, one of his choices should be whatever we are providing. Patients should not have to go elsewhere, looking for practitioners and therapists. When the normal medical system cannot provide them with the right treatment options, we are a very legitimate option.”

“We are living in very interesting times. Western medicine is about 50 to 80 years old, that means that all the treatments patients are receiving are relatively new. What we observe and what we are pioneering in the center and in other places in the world, is not relevant just to the use of natural medicine in cancer. It is also relevant to human consciousness and deeper understanding of healing. We believe that will see great change in the next ten years. Much of it is due to unexpected future discoveries. We are observing many changes in cancer patients and we keep on asking the question: “How can we prove what we observe?”

Patients are doing well, but people are asking us for proof.

Prevention, and prevention of recurrence and improving quality of life is the aim.”

“Even more important, there is the science of medicine and the art of healing. These two should combine. Hospitals sometimes focus too much on the science of medicine and could therefore forget the art of healing. What we are providing is not just a treatment. We are proving another point, another important statement to the medical community: we are stressing that, because of too much focus on science, there is a tendency to forget the healing.

“We forgot that the healing is within the patient, not in the medicine, not in the molecules. That has a lot of ramifications on how you look for a personalized treatment, how you can improve the quality of life of the patient and how the patient is treated. Also helping them to die in the proper way because western medicine tends to concentrate on the cancer and not on the system and the patient. The word ‘healing’ is the key word. It is very easy to go into the molecular world and forget that the healing is not done on the molecular level.”



“There is a big difference between evidence-based medicine and patient-centered medicine. Evidence-based medicine is a two-edged sword, it does not always work to the benefit of the patient. Some patients might want something different.”

“Zoya, the head of my lab is a scientist, she is a molecular biologist. Last week she came to the clinic while I was treating a patient. I told her to come in because we are always in the lab, researching herbs, and it would be good if she could witness what we can achieve in the practice. There was a lung cancer patient who had been taking the herbs since she came to me a year ago. At that time, she had a terrible cough, was very highly medicated and on steroids. Her life expectancy was very low. By the expected medical criteria, she was not supposed to still be here when Zoya saw her. She still has metastatic cancer, but she is not coughing. She goes out, she is driving, her swelling reduced, she reduced the cortisone. To Zoya, the lab’s molecular biologist, to hear this from the patient, to see that the patient has improved, to her this is evidence that the treatment is useful and above all safe.”

Dr. Yair Maimon is a practitioner and a researcher. When they started the TAL Center he took charge of the research department and was very keen on proving that it is a center of excellence.

talk about research, but research is very difficult to do. Especially when it's not well-funded and even more so when you research something which is strange.”

“It is easy to research a molecule, but it is difficult to research multi molecule herbs. When you research 2 herbs it is even more difficult. The more variables you have, the more difficult it is. The classical research method is to research one molecule for one result. One intervention and one result. You know the mechanics and you can use the result. We are totally 180° on the opposite side of this spectrum.



Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)

The topic of discussions or studies is always the disease.

In Chinese medicine there is no word for 'disease'. Western medicine is focused on disease; Chinese medicine is focused on balance and imbalance.

One way to create change is to change the belief system. One of the great advantages of science is the ability to learn more, to know more. We are in a hospital for a reason, we are not against science, we are not against progress and certainly not against progression of modern science.

We use science to prove that what we know is working and this can be very surprising. It surprises me all the time.

Now I am doing something totally opposite to Chinese medicine or natural medicine. I go to the molecule. I go back to see what TCM does in a cell. A cell can teach you a lot of surprising things.

Let me tell you about one of our findings to illustrate this. We are using an herbal formula which consists of a few herbs and is called LCS101 in our research protocol. We are trying this on cancer cells and on normal cells. To our surprise we saw that when you put the herbs on the normal cells, nothing happens to them. When you increase the dose, nothing happens. Actually, they are very happy, they even thrive better. When you put the herbs on the cancer cells, this almost immediately kills them. The formula is selective, it has its own

wisdom: it kills cancer cells and does not affect normal cells. It goes even further: if you take chemotherapy that kills both normal cells and cancer cells — which happens at the same speed and at the same rate — when you take the herbs, they protect the normal cells and immediately kill the cancer cells. It offers a selective protection and that is phenomenal to observe. We published it already, it is quite unique.

What herbal medicine is doing in the immune system is exciting as well. We take the patients' blood and look at how the herbal formula is protecting the blood. We take patients tissue and grow their cancer cells in the lab. We see how the herbs are reacting to the cancer cells. We are very advanced in our vision of proving that what we are doing is not only effective but safe. We can provide clinical proof and laboratory proof that we are not just dreamers. It has nothing to do with dreaming. The more we can prove in the lab that what we are doing is potentially very interesting, should be researched further, and should be implemented — and herbs are the most difficult to implement in a hospital setting — the further we can move forward.

It is much easier to implement other alternative therapies in the hospital like acupuncture or touch therapy because there already is a lot of evidence backing it up.

A hundred years ago herbs were very much implemented. All the wisdom is in nature. We must go back to observing nature with respect and care. We are living in a time of change. Reinventing nature suddenly is going to be interesting. We talk about “the amazing wisdom of nature”.

The breakthrough in Western medicine will also happen through researching the immune system. It is not through providing drugs targeted at cancer cells.

There are three reasons why we are going to see great change: The first one and the strongest one relates to the reason why integrative medicine is popular. It creates a grass root movement: the patients are asking for it. Second: there is, and there will be an advance in science which will help to bring in other criteria into what is evidence and what is not. The outcome of pragmatic studies through observation will be regarded as evidence. The third issue is money. The cost of the medicine that is administered to the patient is ridiculously high and becomes a real burden. The cost is becoming a burden on the system as well, not just the chemo but also the cost of drugs like the ones given against nausea.

A patient is being given a medicine that is not really curative, maybe to help him survive better, maybe even palliative and it will cost \$100.000 to \$200.000. This to get a medicine of which the chance that it will help him is small. But how can one not allow a patient who is going to die medicine when there is a small chance that it will help him? The treatments we are providing in TCM are not only effective but also very sensible, very cost-effective and needed for cancer patients on so many levels.

The main reason why I believe we can create a change in cancer care, by using traditional Chinese medicine as integrative complementary medicine, relates to the fact that it is safe and more cost effective than conventional medicine. We have to look at a ten-year process. What we are saying now, will come. We are a visionary place.

Everything we do starts with a thought, a believe or a wish for how things will develop.