

## WORKSHOPS

### MEDICAL DREAM DIAGNOSIS

Chair: Larry Burk

Presenters:

Larry Burk, Healing Imager, Inc.

Jim Carpenter, Rhine Research Center

Lori Fendell, Traditional Acupuncture

Dreams have provided useful information in medical diagnosis for centuries from ancient shamanic traditions to the healing temples of Asclepius. Shamans would dream intentionally for ailing tribal members as well as interpret dreams that occurred during a healing crisis. Often dreams were responsible for guiding the shamans in the specific uses of medicinal plants. Pilgrims to asclepieia would incubate dreams overnight in the temples and report them to a priest the next day with the expectation of receiving an appropriate prescription for a cure. Particularly effective dreams might even provide a spontaneous cure by themselves. Modern uses of dreams in medical diagnosis are usually limited to anecdotal case reports that occur on a sporadic basis. This presentation was inspired by two such reports related to dreams that predicted the diagnosis of cancers of the tongue and breast.

Holistic health educator Pali Delevitt had dreams of spiders coming out of her mouth that led to having an initial biopsy which was negative. Additional dreams of warnings from a fictional doctor encouraged her to have her tongue biopsied again which led to the eventual diagnosis. A dream of a spider escaping from its cage was another warning of recurrence of the cancer after the initial treatment. Meditation teacher Diane Reibel had a dream of being on the operating room table having surgery on her breast for a cancer by a female doctor. Despite an initial negative mammogram, the cancer was eventually discovered by ultrasound in the exact location as in the dream which led to surgery by the woman surgeon in the dream. She was then guided not to have radiation therapy, but to go on a raw food diet by a series of dreams of different vegetables with no recurrence in 8 years.

Acupuncturist Lori Fendell routinely dreams about her new patients before their first appointments. She is frequently amazed by her foreknowledge of their conditions due to her precognitive dreams. Radiologist Larry Burk has had several dreams of X-rays, CT scans and MRI scans that later were confirmed in actual patients. Psychologist Jim Carpenter has had therapeutic clues provided to him by his own dreams prior to psychotherapy sessions. In this workshop we will review the historical uses of dreams in medical diagnosis as well as the modern literature. Material will be discussed from Carl Jung's books and from *Healing Dreams* by Marc Ian Barasch including the author's own diagnosis of thyroid cancer in a series of dreams. Case reports will be followed by examples of the use of dreams in clinical practice. Comparisons will be made between medical intuitive diagnosis and medical dream diagnosis. An interactive discussion will explore audience experiences with similar phenomena. The session will conclude with an exploration of possible research opportunities.