OSTEOPATHY

- A TRADITIONAL MEDICINE SYSTEM
- DEVELOPED THROUGH CLINICIAN OBSERVATION

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EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE
WHERE IS THE EVIDENCE?

PEOPLE
A need for researchers that are interested in undertaking research about osteopathy and understand it.

INFRASTRUCTURE
A need for infrastructure that facilitates efficient conduct of large-scale, rigorous research.

FUNDING
A need for dedicated research funding for osteopathic research.

INSTITUTIONS
A need for osteopathic academic institutions that supports and encourages research and researchers.
THE RENAISSANCE OF KNOWLEDGE

Implementation science
A critical method of supporting the implementation of researcher-generated knowledge into health care

Knowledge translation
The process of converting researcher-generated knowledge into a format that is usable for non-researchers

Knowledge mobilisation
The process of sharing knowledge generated through different sources with a variety of users.

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EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE?

BEST AVAILABLE EVIDENCE
Preferences research evidence, but where do traditional knowledge and practices fit?

CLINICIAN EXPERIENCE
Clinician’s may have very different experiences when viewing a patient through a holistic lens

PATIENT PREFERENCE
Patients also have experiences that represent a valuable type of knowledge

Evidence-based practice

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KNOWLEDGE

EQUITY

Equality

Equity

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RESEARCH
Developing a framework for the critical appraisal and adaptation of traditional knowledge to contemporary research, education, policy and practice
VALUING PATIENTS
The era of the patient expert

1. Patient preference
2. Patient experience
3. Patient wisdom

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THE BIG QUESTIONS

POLICYMAKERS
How much does it cost?
Is it safe?

OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
What does this mean for the patient?
What does this mean for their practice?

PATIENTS
Will this make me feel better?
Will I feel heard and understood?

CLINICIANS
What do they do in their practice?
Why do they do those things?
IN GOVERNMENT SPEAK…

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
A formal report aimed at informing policy decisions by summarizing evidence about a health intervention’s effectiveness, safety and cost.

EXAMPLES FROM TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Anthroposophic medicine
Commissioned by the Swiss government

Homeopathy
Commissioned by the Swiss government

Naturopathy
Prepared by the naturopathic profession
Naturopathy
Practice, Effectiveness, Economics, Safety

KEY HIGHLIGHTS
750 pages, 41 chapters
51 authors (11 countries)
60 reviewers (22 countries)
Seven international surveys

IMPLEMENTATION
Prevalence
Regulatory models
Evidence-based practice
Access and equity
Health promotion

RESEARCH INCLUDED
Bibliometric analysis
2000 peer-reviewed articles
>300 clinical studies
100 health populations

DISSEMINATION
Free to download
Copies to all members
Training to all members
Executive summary

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WHAT DOES ‘PRACTICE OSTEOPATHY’ MEAN?
More than just ‘hands’

DO
Practices and prescriptions

SHARE
Clinical encounter

THINK
Clinical reasoning

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CLINICAL RESEARCH DRIVEN BY CLINICAL PRACTICE

Aligning research priorities with real-world practice behaviours and populations

Informed by health services research

Developed using pragmatic designs
THE COMPLEXITY OF HOLISM

Using complexity science to study clinical reasoning

Example mind map

The interconnections of holistic thinking

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THE CLINICAL ENCOUNTER

PATIENT-CENTRED
Survey research (ORION)
Patient Assessment of Chronic Illness Care scale
Patient-Centred Care scale
Perceived Provider Support scale
Empowerment scale

SUMMARY RESULTS
Osteopaths provide a greater degree of patient-centred care, provider support and patient-centred chronic illness care than medical doctors.

KNOWLEDGE SHARING
Survey research
Knowledge mobilisation
Evidence-based practice
Patient-provided information

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SUMMARY RESULTS
Naturopaths use various information sources
Patient-provided information, particularly their experiences, are valued.
The future of osteopathy research needs to be:

- Transdisciplinary
- Diverse methods
- Developed with target audiences in mind
- Supported by the international osteopathic community
THANK YOU

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References available on request

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