



## **Declaration of Colombia 2022**

In the 19 years since the Declaration of Colombia emerged from the First World Meeting of Neural Therapy and Neurofocal Dentistry, held in Bogota, several conceptual, scientific, and academic transformations in the fields of medicine and dentistry have also emerged. This Third International Congress of Neuraltherapeutic Medicine and Neurofocal Dentistry was conceived to reflect these changes in our profession.

### **From Neural Therapy to Neuraltherapeutic Medicine**

Colombia is the birthplace of the “Complex Systemic School.” Through the academic framework developed in the Master’s Program at the National University of Colombia, Neural Therapy has experienced a transformation important enough to warrant the proposal of a new designation for our discipline: Neuraltherapeutic Medicine. This name has been accepted by the Ministry of Health. The conception of this medical system transcends the idea that Neural Therapy is simply a system of procaine injections. It represents a new epistemological approach, a biocentric cosmology that is consistent with the ideas of Dr. Julio Cesar Payán.

This approach, which also follows the principles of the Russian and British Nervism schools, conceives of the nervous system as the coordinator of all pathophysiological states in the organism. It suggests that health and disease are cybernetic, dynamic, non-linear, and self-organizing processes. It also involves an integrative conception of the body in which the health of the oral cavity is relevant to the whole.

Its teachings include an interpersonal and intercultural perspective, with an understanding that the health of an individual, or that of a community, is dependent upon non-hierarchical relationships with regard to cultural orientation and gender.

Additionally, it assumes a critical and proactive perspective within the field of public health which promotes the autonomy of individuals and communities, respecting a diversity of cultures and beliefs. This new understanding of the



contextual process of health and disease suggests a need for reassessment of public policies.

This pedagogic guidance has been built from respectful dialogues designed to overcome relationships based upon hierarchical authority. It recognizes collaborative learning processes, and the development of knowledge through critical and creative thinking.

### **Neuraltherapeutic Medicine and the New Paradigms**

Neuraltherapeutic Medicine is built upon a particular academic, social, and scientific approach. The biocentric nature of this approach implies that it supports the preservation of life. It assumes the union of body and mind, objective and subjective, without divisions. It conceives of the complexity of life and its emergent properties as an open, thermodynamic, autopoietic process that highlights the self-organizing, non-hierarchical interdependencies of all living beings in nature and the cosmos.

This approach recognizes that health and disease are not opposites, but integral parts of life itself. As Hippocrates said, “there are no diseases, but people who are ill.” The state of health of any individual, or any community, is unique.

Neuraltherapeutic Medicine recognizes that individuals became human through relationships with others. Our social lives are inherent to our humanity. The strong coupling of humans to others, and to the environment suggests the phrase, “I am because we are.” The ethics which guide Neuraltherapeutic Medicine reflect the “inter-self,” which represents inclusion, recognition, respect, and social and cultural visibility. It seeks to retain an ecology of knowledge, with open dialogue between cultures. Neuraltherapeutic Medicine comes from a place of love, from heart-mind, and from human dignity.



## **Global Perspectives: Public and Environmental Health**

There is no human health without environmental health. Climate scientists for the United Nations insist that the situation facing human and environmental health is increasing in seriousness, threatening an extinction of all life. Due to globalization, health care access has become an example of the politics of inequality, and our current systems are unprepared for our future challenges. Neurotherapeutic Medicine recognizes the interdependence of humans with the health of the planetary biomass. That is why we repeat, privately and publicly, the assertion that human health is a fundamental right.

Health is a dialectic process encompassing biology, sociology, the individual and the universe. As Julio Cesar Payán said, health is “an adaptive process within a society, (encompassing its) cultural, political, economic, environmental, vital, and historic processes.” From this perspective, Neurotherapeutic Medicine has emerged as a response to the societal need for health, understanding that the individual represents a node in the network of social relationships, influence, and feedback.

In this context, Neurotherapeutic Medicine supports the claim from the 1978 Alma Ata WHO Conference that future decision-making in primary health care will require the increased participation of individuals and their communities as the needs for healthy food, climate change mitigation, and protection of soils and biomass, accelerate. Hence, the recognition of health as a fundamental human right is an unwavering commitment. The neurotherapeutic approach should be loving, caring, and ethical for the individual, for the planet, and, as Dr. Payán used to say, for Andromeda.

## **About the Training in Neurotherapeutic Medicine**

Education in neurotherapeutic medicine originated in the informal, warm settings of rural states, private offices, and conferences that allowed for such a complex doctrine to emerge. Since the seventies, these schools of thought were developed in Colombia and Latin America under the leadership of Dr. Julio Cesar Payán. Several of the afore-mentioned paradigmatic and scientific concepts were



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integrated into his teaching, including the recognition of neurofocal dentistry, thanks to the collaborative work of both the medical doctors and dentists in the field of neural therapy.

Nowadays, at the fundamental core of neural therapy's identity is a complex medical system that is concerned with the deeper dimensions of social and political health in addition to those of clinical investigation. So, this is an invitation to the guild of neuraltherapeutic practitioners to continue teaching from this reflexive, self-critical, and collaborative perspective. As Julio Cesar often repeated, a loving, ethical, academic path that accepts both our knowledge and our ignorance gives us hope for the future of life.