

**ASSESSING COHERENCE BETWEEN PSYCHIC HEALERS AND
PATIENTS BY SIMULTANEOUS MONITORING OF
PHYSIOLOGICAL VARIABLES**

*Stephen Baumann**

Bial Fellowship Programme 79/00

Abstract

Psychic healers often claim that it is necessary for them to attain a state of attunement or resonance with their patients for a successful treatment to occur. This is a bi-directional process that also depends on the patient's willingness to remain open to the experience and to mentally connect with the healer. If this is true, then there are likely to be physiological indicators of such a subjective resonant state of attunement, and there are some indications of this in the literature (e.g. Orme-Johnson et al., 1982, Grinberg-Zylberbaum et al., 1994, Russek and Schwartz, 1994). We are midway in an effort to perform simultaneous, time-locked recordings of physiological variables, primarily electroencephalograms (EEG) and electrocardiograms (ECG) but also fingertip plethysmography and skin conductance response (SCR), from a minimum of 10 healer-patient pairs and a comparable number of control pairs of strangers. Healer-patient pairs with the highest coherence scores will be recruited for functional MRI studies.

Using two linked, 128-channel systems, EEG and ECG data from six healer-patient pairs has been obtained during randomized treatment and non-treatment periods of time of 10 minutes each. Data are now being analyzed and a preliminary report will be presented. There is some indication that coherence analysis of short epoch lengths of about 10 seconds shows a difference between treatment and non-treatment periods in the frontal lobes at both alpha and beta frequencies, whereas longer epoch lengths obscure this difference.

* Rhine Research Center, USA.