We studied the enneagram since the 90’s during intensive meditation retreats with the Venerable Dhiravamsa, a buddhist master of international reputation and also a very close friend of Claudio Naranjo. Bernadette and I almost immediately intuitively felt that there was a link between the three kingdoms of the homeopathic materia medica (mineral, plant and animal) and the three subtypes of enneagram (self-preservation, social and sexual).

My passion as researcher was stimulated. Indeed, if this analogy was validated, it would constitute a real revolution for homeopathy, as it would give a tool of estimable value for diagnosing a patient’s constitution.

But there was an obstacle. The data that I had received on the enneagram was not quite sufficient for my medical purpose: more valid criteria for the diagnosis of type and subtype were needed; they had to be both reliable and reproducible, independent of the subjectivity of the patient and the practitioner. Classic psychological tests in the context of a homeopathic consultation are not appropriate.

I therefore went in search of the sources of the enneagram, to find more data that supports my feeling. I read all the literature on the subject without finding more elements, and understood that at the beginning of the enneagram of Personality was Claudio Naranjo and Oscar Ichazo.

I was quite excited about the possibility of having found the answer to my purpose by discovering Oscar Ichazo. With Bernadette, who was entirely part of the research, we studied all Ichazo's writings and were within a hair's breadth from going to meet him in Hawaii to submit our work.

...CONTINUED ON PAGE 21
Nibbling at the edge of the “2C” mark … the EM is inching towards issue #200 and into our 20th year. “So far so good” said the man falling from the 40th floor as he passed the 20th— sorry couldn’t help myself, been snickering at that joke for years...

20 years ago when we first started the EM, the mood in the Enneagram community was festive like news clips I’ve seen of East Germans (after the Berlin wall came down) pouring into a Western supermarket, eyes blinking incredulous at the opulence and loading up their shopping carts. There was something for everyone. And we were only just beginning to scratch the surface of the enneagram, its potential and the vast range of applications. Over the years we covered a vast horizontal range of opinions and theories. Every time we thought we reached bottom, a new layer would open up. I suppose that’s how life and science works. The flow of “horizontal” insights, applications and techniques continues seemingly unabated, but lately more and more attention is given to the vertical aspect of the Enneagram — what is type, why nine and not ten or eight, is it an arbitrary classification or is it based on something more substantive? Are questions that surely have crossed everyone’s mind, but were left to linger. The answer would have to stand on a pretty deep understanding of the nature of creation, life, purpose of existence and such; a tall order, but in this issue, we make a good dent in it. So, without further ado…

From the Editor:

In This Issue:

Bernadette Schmitt & Frédéric Schmitt, M.D.

have discovered, tested and have been working for years on an exciting link between “Homeopathy and Enneagram.” To readers not familiar with Homeopathy, it’s a 200+ year old system of medicine based on the principle of “like cures like” according to which, a substance that in sufficient dosage will cause certain symptoms of a disease in healthy people, will cure similar symptoms in sick people if that same substance is administered in a microscopically tiny dilution (as in a vaccine). The idea is to wake up the specific defense mechanism able to deal with the disease. It’s an energetic type of medicine similar to acupuncture or other “native/shamanistic/primitive” forms of medicine that may work extraordinarily well at times, but leave scientists unable to figure out why...

In most energetic systems of medicine, effectiveness depends on the ability of the physician to prescribe the correct treatment. This task is much more difficult for systems handicapped by the principle of “first, do no harm,” given that such systems are not officially allowed to prescribe remedies with possible/probable harmful collateral effects and therefore will always have statistically measurable effects. Frédéric and Bernadette did their research the good way. Instead of starting off with an attractive theory and then hunting for corroborating proof of validity, they took a cool and dispassionate look at a large number of results they had tabulated and then saw their theory emerge based on the evidence. The results were remarkable and included some surprising discoveries of effectiveness with certain homeopathic remedies for specific enneagram types and subtypes.

Tim Vreeland, former chair of the UCLA’s Department of Architecture looks at “Three 20th Century Star Architects in a Remarkable Enneagram Constellation” who defined the Century of American architecture. In an earlier series (EM June–September 2012) Tim took us through the ages from styles “chiseled in Stone” (Egypt, Greece to Rome) followed by the Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque and into the early parts of the previous century all the way to modernity. Each of these periods characterized the yearning, outlook on the world and attitudes correlating with all nine enneagram types.

Each of these periods certainly had nuanced variations in the visions of the builders that expressed core impulses associated with the head, heart or gut centers. In this series Tim will be placing the focus on the finer distinctions of how each of the three great contemporary architects happen to be “housed” in a different instinctual center and how that manifests in their work.

Carolyn Bartlett takes the chapter “Enneagram Field Guide: Threes” from her book on the issues most likely to be encountered in therapy with each enneagram type. Her observations after many years of therapy are sharp, insightful and tested over and over — verifying the effectiveness of her advice with the outcomes for her clients.

Albert Einstein is quoted as saying: “If you can’t explain it simply, you don’t understand it well enough” and Carolyn does not have that problem. Her Field Guide is refreshingly free of mambo-jumbo (a device more commonly used to convey “proof of erudition” rather than clarity), and totally accessible to folks who simply want practical tips on how to deal with common everyday issues that can and do at times grow into problems.

Speaking of everyday issues that can grow into problems, relationships, especially those of the intimate kind have a thing or two to say about that.

Jennifer Schneider and Ron Corn compiled samples of common complaints and issues that can haunt couples. They just published a hefty 560 page book with 45 possible pairings and a chapter for each. With so many combination to choose from, makes it very likely that you will recognize your own situation(s) and will either feel less unique or victimized and more like a member of a like-minded club. This month’s contribution is “The Perfectionist-Giver (One-Two) Couple.”

Richard Knowles tested the validity of “The Process Enneagram — A Tool to Help in the Transformation of Organizations,” while being a plant manager. The results were striking. In essence, the Process Enneagram (as used by Richard) looks at activity, what is happening, the sequence of events, and helps people understand the complexity of their situation better so they can find solutions. All that, while at the same time learning to work together developing better leadership skills and methods, or, as the case would be, developing more comfortable ways of co-creating their futures together.

“Conversation with Hart de Fouw” is one of my all-time favorite conversations that made it into these pages. Hart de Fouw is an accomplished Vedic Astrologer and teacher of various related disciplines. I had the good sense and fortune to take his week-long courses about 12 years ago (in Hasta Samudrika Shastra, i.e. Vedic Palmistry) as part of my attempt to satisfy curiosity (or hunger) for learning about what makes us tick.

As far as I know, Vedic wisdom is the oldest known continuous tradition on earth for philosophi-
The Enneagram Monthly, Inc. was founded by Jack Labanauskas and Andrea Isaacs as a not-for-profit corporation. Its purpose is to gather and disseminate information in the field of the Enneagram, that is most commonly known as a personality typing system.

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