

The 11th European Skeptics Congress

London, September 5-7, 2003

ASKE

The Association for
Skeptical Enquiry

THE SKEPTIC

UK's leading skeptical journal

ECSO

The European Council of
Skeptical Organisations

CSICOP

The Committee for the Scientific
Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal

**At the Franklin Wilkins Building, King's College London,
150 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NN**

11th European Skeptics Congress, ASKE, P.O. Box 5994, Ripley, DE5 3XL, UK
(<http://www.aske.org.uk/congress>)

Congress Chair: Dr. Michael Heap, Tel: +44 (0)114 262 0468; Fax +44(0)114 221 7319;
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FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2003

1.30 Welcome addresses

Symposium: Science, Health and Medicine

2.00 Keynote address: Complementary / alternative medicine for sceptics. Edzard Ernst

3.00 Conventional and unconventional treatments for cancer: a skeptical approach'. Leslie Walker

3.30 Tea

Following tea there is a choice of programme

Main Programme

4.00 When the provider of alternative or complementary medicine becomes ill. Petr Lemez

4.20 *Make your point session:*

Just how traditional is Traditional Chinese Medicine? Robert Imrie
Three principally different segments of acupuncture. Jiří Heřt

5.00 Alternative remedies in ear nose and throat disorders. Chris Potter

5.30 Alternative medicine and the childbirth movement. Kirsten Emmott

Sub-symposium on Mental Illness

4.00 Focus on misdiagnosis of mental illness. Daphne Burleson

4.30 Does mental illness exist? Dorothy Rowe
Followed by an open discussion up to 6.00 pm.

6.00 – 7.30 Reception in the Congress building (wine and 'nibbles')

7.30 – 9.30 Meeting of ECSO Board members (venue to be announced)
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2003

Before coffee there is a choice of programme

Symposium: Science, Health and Medicine (continued)

- 9.00 Veterinary acupuncture: a Western invention from the 1970s. Robert Imrie
- 9.30 A biological mechanism for the placebo effect. Dylan Evans
- 10.00 Prior probability: the dirty little secret of “evidence-based alternative medicine.”
Kimball C. Atwood
- 11.00 Quality in medicine: How to avoid it. Willem Betz

Mini workshop

- 9.00-11.00 Cold reading. Tony Youens
- 11.00 Coffee

Symposium: Parapsychology and Anomalistic Psychology

- 11.30 Keynote address: The Future of parapsychology: Problems and prospects. Robert Morris
- 12.20 Discussant: Ray Hyman
- 1.00 Lunch
- 2.00 Keynote address: Anomalistic psychology. Chris French
- 2.30 Physiology of “Tunnel” and “Darkness”. Gerry Woerlee
- 3.00 The Neurology of the Weird: Brain Mechanisms and Anomalous Experience. Barry L. Beyerstein
- 3.30 Tea

Symposium: Science, pseudo-science and anti-science

This short symposium will consist of talks by several well-known speakers and questions and audience discussion. Included in the programme are:

Anti-science: Moral censorship of scientific research. Paul Kurtz
Title to be confirmed. Ray Hyman

- 6.00 Close of Saturday’s programme.

8.00 Congress Dinner (venue to be determined but will be on the Congress site or within walking distance)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2003

Symposium: Alternative History

9.30 Alternative history and the Ma'atians from cyberspace: Combating pseudohistory on the Web. John Wall

10.00 The Antiquity of Man: A skeptic's view of Hindu creationism. Mikey Brass

10.30 An amateur looks at Egyptian Pseudohistory. Lee Keener

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Old-time religion, old-time language: Interdisciplinary cross-fertilisation and mutual support on the fringe. Mark Newbrook

12.00 Why be a creationist? Nick Pullar

Concluding addresses: The way ahead for skepticism

12.30 Positive skepticism. Richard Wiseman

1.00 Amardeo Sarma ECSO
Paul Kurtz CSICOP

1.30 End of programme