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***Treatment in Croatia: the Product of Science or of Superstition***

Extensive development of new diagnostic technologies in medicine, while proportional to the lag in the development of effective medical procedures, opens wide the door for the development of non-scientific, or how often to say, methods for complementary treatment. Human, as a unique creation in the universe that no longer believes what he hears from what they see, by nature prone to idolatry, is an ideal medium for a broad group of charlatans and healers, packaged in a far phenotype, often barely literate humbug, who, under the guise of treatment and healership ruthlessly abuse human misery and impotence

Croatia is, unfortunately, a country where charlatans may be celebrated by the President, where a University Rector may contract swindlers as experts and where former Ministers publicly promote the work of frauds. The famed Croatian Medical Chamber itself, in its greed for money, supports homeopaths and similar imposters, giving legitimacy to their professional meetings, which reminds me of the sale of indulgences in the Catholic church, which was one of the immediate cause of the Reform. Comments from the professional leadership of the Chamber about the correctness of such procedures are so immoral and clumsy that the poor patients live in doubt whether they should at all believe in a medicine based on scientific evidence.

Every day, watching TV or reading the newspapers, I cannot break free from the fact that I am continually exposed to fraud attempts from advertisers boasting the nearly magic effects of “medical aids” or “clinically tested drugs” for improving circulation, immunity, etc. If, however you oppose rationality to the advertised “arguments”, the users draw on typical nonsense arguing of the “naturalness” of the product, which, according to them, is a guarantee for the effectiveness, or at least for the harmlessness, of these products.

The lack of education -- if not illiteracy – and the gullibility of the citizens are the best vehicles for the emergence of “medical charlatanism” embodied in a variety of healers, shamans and pseudo-therapists who “cure” by voice at a distance, or by mere touch, etc. Regardless of how

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much people are (medically) uneducated, every nation has its critical mass of medical experts and other intellectuals whose views should establish a political climate that will prevent and punish charlatanism, in a similar way as happens for criminal abortion. Unfortunately, although at the doorstep of the EU, I am afraid that Croatia is still intellectually too immature for reaching this goal.