



African Traditional Medicine - Answers for Today's Health Problems

PROMETRA INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

PROMETRA is an international NGO headquartered in Dakar, Senegal, established in 1971, whose purpose is to preserve African traditional medicine, culture and indigenous science through research, education, advocacy and practice. It works to improve the health and wellbeing of global communities through the use of quality traditional medicine and indigenous science, and building bridges between modern and traditional systems of health care. It has twenty-eight (28) chapters throughout Africa, Europe, Caribbean and USA.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

PROMETRA currently conducts scientific research in the areas of HIV/AIDS, Ebola, diabetes mellitus, viral hepatitis and dermatosis. Clinical observational studies are conducted at the Center for Experimental Traditional Medicine (CEMETRA) in Fatick, Senegal. CEMETRA is a regional center of excellence where all studies are performed under the supervision of an international Scientific and Legal Advisory Committee composed of international scientists, academicians, lawyers, patients and traditional practitioners.

PROMETRA conducts training of traditional practitioners throughout Africa with a scientifically based curriculum, entitled FAPEG. This curriculum covers the topics of HIV/AIDS, nutrition, maternal and child health issues and natural family planning. Since 1999, more than 18,000 traditional healers have received training through this participatory, culturally specific curriculum.

Working to improve the relationship between modern and traditional medicine, PROMETRA International hosts workshops and conferences. PROMETRA International actively participates in international meetings, and serves as consultants to health organizations, international work groups and advisory boards.

African Traditional Medicine Day 2015

"Traditional health practitioners are an important source of health care for many Africans, with an estimated 80% of people seeking treatment from them. The benefits of traditional medicine are evident to all... I call for stronger collaboration between governments, donors, the private sector and relevant stakeholders to take forward this important undertaking... I also call upon researchers to work in collaboration with traditional health practitioners to produce scientific evidence on the safety, efficacy and quality of traditional medicine products."

WHO AFRO Regional Director
Dr. Matshidiso Rebecca Moeti 2015

WHO defines traditional medicine as the sum total of the knowledge, skill, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness.

WHO Traditional Medicine
Strategy 2014-2023

COMMUNICATION AND NETWORK ACTIVITIES

PROMETRA International publishes a bilingual (French and English) scientific journal, *Medecin Verte*, maintains an active web site (www.prometra.org) and produces video documentaries on the topics of African traditional medicine and African culture. A network of officially recognized traditional medicine organizations has been developed and maintained for the purposes of education, research, advocacy and public policy. PROMETRA International's goal is to improve the health and well being of Africa through the use of quality traditional medicine and indigenous science. PROMETRA advocates for the legalization of traditional medicine, elimination of charlatanism, and the intellectual property rights protection of traditional knowledge.

CULTURAL EXCHANGES - STUDY TOURS

A goal of PROMETRA International is to build bridges between Africa and the diaspora. To that end, study tours are conducted to encourage the sons and daughters of Africa to return home through cultural and spiritual journeys. PROMETRA International has established The Door of Return Museum, located in Ouidah, Benin, that depicts the holocaust of the African slave trade, the glories of ancient African kingdoms and the legacies of Africa. This museum is open to the public.

It has revived the ancient XOY divination ceremony of the Sereer people. UNESCO designated this ceremony as a UNESCO cultural heritage. It takes place every June in Senegal.

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