

# Integration of Two Sectors – Ethical Issues

Dr Monika Clark-Grill  
University of Otago



Ethics – the type of conduct  
that is conducive to the  
good life



# What people say that they are getting from CAM

- Effective treatments for their conditions
- Treatments that are less dangerous and have fewer side-effects
- Greater sense of being in charge of their health
- A holistic perspective of health and illness
- Acceptance of their subjective experience
- Appreciation of the mental and spiritual dimensions of illness

# Conclusions for integration

- It is crucial that the beneficial aspects and conceptual foundations of CAM are preserved
- To achieve this people's experience with CAM should provide the starting point for regulation, research and practice

# Regulation

- Keep to a minimum, not to hinder patient access (compliance cost) nor the practitioner's art and creativity in healing (over-standardization).
- Encourage the holistic approach. CAM professions should not have to move towards the reductionist medical model to gain legitimization.

# Practice & Education

- For an integrated medicine both medical doctors and CAM practitioners must acquire a basic understanding of the other discipline and its underlying conceptual framework
- Introductory courses in CAM in medical schools
- Training in the basics of scientific medicine for CAM practitioners

# Research

- Encourage research in CAM
- Broaden the scope of evidence beyond what is quantifiable
- Develop and include research methods that can capture the subjective dimension of illness and account for a holistic framework

# Summary

- The increasing popularity of CAM practices is showing us that important elements are missing from mainstream medicine
- By integrating CAM we are creating a more complete and therefore more ethical health care
- In the process of integration we must preserve the aspects which people find valuable in CAM