

**The Work
of the
Dr Rath
Foundation
in South Africa**

In the following part of my response, I will outline the work of the Dr Rath Health Foundation – not only about its present projects in Africa, but also about its history.

NATURAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY – THE HISTORY OF OUR FOUNDATION

Following is a short description of the history of our Foundation. After recognising the importance of my initial scientific discoveries about the importance of vitamins in the prevention of cardiovascular disease as well as cancer we approached leading pharmaceutical companies. Our goal was to win them for a corporation in order to make these important discoveries available to benefit the people of worldwide.

In the context of these efforts in the early 1990s I personally visited pharmaceutical companies including the headquarters of drug multinationals like Hofman-LaRoche in Basel, Switzerland, and Schering in Berlin, Germany. In both cases I gave scientific presentations about these discoveries.

While the representatives of these companies explicitly acknowledged the value of these discoveries they, after some consideration, decided not to take advantage of them. The arguments provided were sobering: they did not want to compete with patented products, which they had in their product “pipeline.” In recognition of the scientific value of our research, Roches offered the financial support for a research assistant, but I decided to decline this because, in my view, it did not reflect the global responsibility of what needed to be done.

It was only later that I realised another reason why these corporations showed no interest in a collaboration: six years later Hofman-LaRoche and other companies it had lured into a “vitamin cartel” pleaded guilty of criminal price-fixing charges in con-

LEADING RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN NATURAL HEALTH



The Dr Rath Research Institute in cellular medicine in California is one of the world's leading research institutions in the area of natural health. No other independent research institution has published more breakthrough research in natural health than this Institute.



This international research team is led by Dr Aleksandra Niedzwiecki (centre). It is composed of a team of internationally recognised scientists and doctors, specialising in research on cardiovascular disease, cancer, infectious diseases and other global health problems.

More research information: www.dr-rath-research.org

nection with vitamin C and other micronutrients and paid a fine in the magnitude of hundreds of millions of dollars. The dates of the origin of these price-fixing scandals – the early 1990s – coincided with my first contacts with them. Thus, while they did not want to support our vitamin breakthrough – for fear of endangering their own drug markets – these drug multinationals still wanted to participate economically from the breakthrough and the foreseeable increase in vitamin sale.

Compelled by the disinterest of pharmaceutical companies and in order to develop the important field of vitamin research, we founded our own Research Institute. Since no other funding for natural

WORLD SUMMIT JOHANNESBURG 2002

Already two years before the Dr Rath Foundation started its work in South Africa, Dr Rath shared his concept of an effective, safe and affordable health care – especially for the developing countries – with the leaders of the world.

At the World Summit in Johannesburg in August 2002 Dr Rath published the below document "Health for All by the Year 2020" in the official programme of this World Summit, which was attended by delegates from all over the world including more than one hundred heads of state.

Health For All By The

1. **Health is a basic human right.** Every person is entitled to make use of this right without any restriction. Public institutions and private organizations are to be held accountable for providing life-saving health information to the people of the world. The obstruction of the right to essential health information for everyone constitutes a crime against humanity.
2. **Today, health is not available to every human being for good reasons.** They include social injustice, military conflicts and others. Another significant reason is the fact that the most profitable industry on earth, the pharmaceutical industry, is an investment industry based upon the existence and continuation of diseases – despite declarations to the contrary. Low-cost prevention, treatment and elimination of diseases threaten this multi-trillion dollar "business with disease".
3. **Most efforts to improve health on a global scale have failed thus far.** The World Health Organization's effort "Health for All by the Year 2000" could not reach its goals because it did not distinctly separate itself from the global "business with disease." It focused instead on administrative health care changes, rather than taking advantage of global advances in medicine.
4. **Advances in the field of natural medicine have been made over recent years** that will reduce the incidence of common diseases in the industrialized countries as well as in the developing world, to a fraction of their current frequency. The primary cause of the world's most common health conditions is a chronic deficiency of micronutrients, essential for optimum cellular energy metabolism as well as optimum connective tissue stability.
5. **In the industrialized world,** the leading causes of death are heart attacks, cancer, strokes, diabetes and high blood pressure. Using the available knowledge in nutritional

research and cellular medicine, these health conditions can be significantly reduced and hundreds of millions of lives can be saved.

6. **In the developing world,** two billion people suffer from deficiencies in micronutrients, according to United Nations Organizations. Avitaminosis is a leading cause of disease resulting in blindness in millions and promoting infectious diseases in hundreds of millions by compromising cellular defense mechanisms in their bodies. Taking advantage of the knowledge in nutritional medicine already available today, billions of lives can be saved in the developing world.
7. **The eradication of today's most common health problems is dependent on one factor only: how fast the information about this breakthrough in natural health can be spread.** While the scientific knowledge to combat these diseases effectively is available and the essential nutrients to prevent these health conditions, can be produced at low costs, in any quantity, anywhere in the world, the dissemination of this life-saving information to the people of the world is being obstructed.
8. **The Pharmaceutical industry tries to protect its global drug market by outlawing natural remedies.** Effective, non-patentable and affordable natural health approaches threaten the very existence of the pharmaceutical industry. The multi-trillion dollar global pharmaceutical market is dependent on synthetic drugs that allow an excessively high return on investment based on the patentability of those drugs. To secure the continued existence of the pharmaceutical industry as the most profitable industry on earth, large corporations embarked on a global battle to outlaw the dissemination of natural health information. To that effect the pharmaceutical industry abuses the United Nations "Codex Alimentarius Commission" and other national and international bodies.



Cover page of the official programme of the Johannesburg World Summit 2002

Year 2020

9. The people of the world face one of the largest challenges in human history. The right to health and life for billions of people is being threatened by the profit interests of a few shareholders. The goals of these two interest groups are incompatible by their very nature. Similarly, in the battle to save human lives against the profits from patented drugs, every government, every public and private institution has to take a decision on which side they stand. And they will be held accountable by history.

10. The goal "Health for All by the Year 2020" is in sight. What is needed immediately is a worldwide effort to promote the dissemination of natural health benefits in every country.

I call upon

- The United Nations Organizations and other international organizations to promote natural health policies by all means available;
- Politicians in every country to implement natural health as an integral part of national health policies;
- Health professionals to utilize natural health approaches to improve the health of your patients.

I call upon every man and woman to spread this live-saving information in order to protect your life and that of millions of others.

Johannesburg,
August 2002.
Matthias Rath, M.D.



Dr Rath participating at a podium discussion with delegates from international non governmental organisations at the 2002 Summit ...



... and discussing his 10-Step-Programme with delegates at the World Summit

health research was available, we decided to make the research results in natural health available to the public in form of the micronutrient programmes. The revenues from the sales of these products served to promote further research in this field. I was supported in these efforts by Dr Aleksandra Niedzwiecki.

By 1999 we were able to establish our own research laboratory and immediately started to focus on the field of micronutrients in the fight against cancer and other diseases. Today our Research Institute comprises more than 20 scientists and scientific staff, and is headed by Dr Niedzwiecki.

Throughout the years, we have used the profits from the sale of the micronutrient programmes to finance our natural health research as well as public education in this field.

By 2004 I took the decision to formalise this non-profit character of our research and education efforts. I transferred 100 % of the shares I owned to a non-profit foundation Inc. according to the laws of the Netherlands.*

THE WORK OF OUR FOUNDATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Over decades, malnutrition and particularly micronutrient deficiency has been one of the primary causes of immune deficiencies in the developing world. Moreover, in countless international health reports about the poor health conditions in Africa and other regions of the world, micronutrient deficiencies and avitaminosis were listed among the leading causes of morbidity and mortality especially among children. The 2002 UNICEF “Damage assessment Report,” concluding that more than two billion people worldwide suffer from “vitamin and mineral deficiency,” was already discussed in detail above.*

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SCIENCE BASED NATURAL HEALTH IN SOUTH AFRICA



In April 2004 Dr Rath and his team of scientists were invited by the Medical Research Council (MRC) of South Africa to co-host a scientific symposium on natural health in Cape Town. During this three day seminar the scientific breakthroughs of micronutrients in the fight against cardiovascular disease, cancer and infectious diseases were discussed.

The picture above was taken at this meeting. Professor Anthony Mbewu, head of the MRC today, is at the center. He is surrounded by scientists from the Dr Rath Research Institute, including its head, Dr Aleksandra Niedzwiecki, as well as leading South African scientists, from the Department of Virology at the University of Cape Town.

In light of these compelling facts, there is no reasonable explanation that so few vitamin studies have been conducted to develop effective and affordable public health strategies and to help improve the health conditions across Africa and the developing world. However, as discussed in detail in part II of this book, there is an economic explanation for this failure. Vitamins and other micronutrients are non-patentable, yield low profit margins and

gins and threaten the multibillion Rand business with patented pharmaceutical drugs in those countries.

For years, our Foundation and our Research Institute have focused on promoting the knowledge of science based micronutrient research in the fight against cardiovascular disease and cancer. As of today, I am not aware of any research institution in the world that has published more scientific publications in these areas of natural approaches to cancer and cardiovascular disease. Thus, we recognised our responsibility to expand this knowledge and to bring our research experience to help effectively fight the AIDS epidemic as the greatest health threat in the developing world.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL CARTEL TURNS SOUTH AFRICA INTO A BATTLE GROUND FOR ITS INVESTMENT BUSINESS

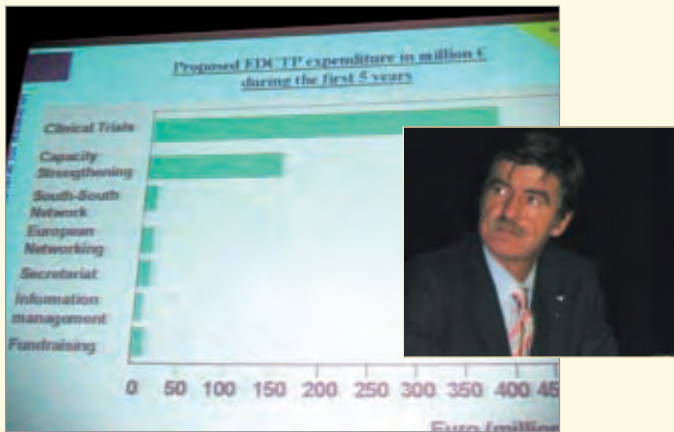
Towards this end, in April 2004 we were invited to participate in a 3 day workshop at the MRC of South Africa. Immediately following our first preparatory meeting for this event in January 2004, the global pharmaceutical interests and their political stakeholders reacted. Through one of the international bodies it controls – the EU Commission in Brussels (see above) – the astonishing amount of 4.2 billion Rand (4,200,000,000 Rand) was allocated in a surprise move to the MRC, the very institution the symposium on natural health was to take place.*

This 4.2 billion Rand transaction to the MRC

- was in fact a subsidy programme for the export of patented ARVs and other drugs from Europe to Africa,
- was covered as a “charity” to help the poor people in Africa and therefore

- was “channelled” by the EU Commission through one of its “ruse organisations,” the “European Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (ECDTP)” deceptively named to cover what is described in Dr Angell’s book as “Marketing masquerading as research,”
- was paid for by millions of taxpayers all over Europe who were unaware of this “ruse,”
- did neither serve the people of South Africa, for whom these toxic drugs were designated, nor the people of Europe, who had to pay for this giant drug subsidy programme, the only beneficiaries of this huge amount of money were the European drug companies, who would receive most of this money in return for exporting toxic ARVs and other controversial drugs to Africa.

BRIBING AFRICA



Dr Quintana was the official envoy of the European drug cartel and its cover organisation ECDTP (see text) at the World Summit in Johannesburg in 2002. Already there he tried to lure African governments with more than 3 billion Rand of EU drug money to test patented toxic drugs in thousands of African people.

This huge EU drug bribes – originally allocated for the entire African continent – was paid in its entirety to the MRC in South Africa, shortly after our first meeting there in spring 2004.

It is a significant fact that the payment of this huge amount of “drug export subsidy” money happened on the eve of a scientific seminar with the participation of researchers from the Dr Rath Research Institute and marshalling the scientific facts about the health benefits of non-patented natural health and micronutrients. This fact documents the paramount fear of the pharmaceutical investment business.

FIGHTING THE AIDS EPIDEMIC WITH SCIENCE-BASED NATURAL HEALTH

The work of the Dr Rath Foundation in South Africa has two main elements: a) public health education and b) the donation of nutritional vitamin programmes to community organisations, to be given free of charge to community members affected by AIDS. As mentioned before, this work is being supported by the Dr Rath Foundation in Europe.

Initially, we had thought about selling the vitamin product “Vitacell” which we had registered with the South African Department of Health in 2004, and use the money to support public health measures in the country. But we soon decided against it because those people with the greatest need for these nutritional support programmes – the AIDS victims in the poor townships of the country – don’t even have the money to buy food, let alone micronutrients. Thus, in 2004, the decision was taken to donate these vitamins to community organisations and enable them to provide these micronutrients to those in need.

As for the work of the Dr Rath Foundation Africa into the area of public health education, these activities comprise the distribution of books and other public health information. This public health information contains general information about the role of micronutrients and other natural and nutritional health approach-

es. This public health information made clear to everyone that the Dr Rath Foundation is a non-profit organisation active in the field of research and worldwide dissemination of science-based natural health information.

The need for health education informing the general public about the importance of nutrition and micronutrients for optimum health is especially compelling in South Africa. Here decades of Apartheid have heavily promoted pharmaceutical drugs and left millions of people ignorant of their nutritional needs and of basic health information.



Across South Africa, SANCO members and other community leaders have become health educators in their communities, teaching about the health benefits of nutrition. Above Mzanywa Ndibongo from SANCO Khayelitsha.

Since there is currently no cure for AIDS, the task at hand has been to bridge the time until such a cure is found. It is scientifically undisputed that ARVs cannot cure AIDS and, in addition, are associated with severe side effects. Micronutrients are no cure for AIDS either, but because of their undisputed ability to improve the immune systems – especially in people suffering from immune deficiency conditions – they have to be considered an effective and safe approach to help control AIDS. Thus, the widespread use of micronutrients should enable the development of effective and affordable public health strategies and help to win valuable time for the governments of the world until a cure for AIDS is found.

It was obvious from the beginning of our work in the field of immune deficiencies that millions of people affected by AIDS would have immediate benefits from the implementation of micronutrient community programmes. Moreover, the private sectors and the governments of those nations whose economies are debilitated by the costs to fight the AIDS epidemic would also greatly benefit from this advance in public health.

In fact, there has been only one group, which has a vested interest to obstruct this advance in public health and to discredit the implementation of micronutrients in public health programmes fighting AIDS. As mentioned above, this special interest group is the pharmaceutical industry and its stakeholders who make billions of Rand with the continuation of the AIDS epidemic and with the promotion of patented ARV drugs. For them the message of science based natural, non-patentable approaches to the AIDS epidemic, would be a fundamental threat to for their investment business with patented AIDS drugs.

