Two Vital Perspectives The following article is contributed by two writers, a chiropractor and a naturopath. Each offers a unique and vitalistic perspective.

The germ theory states that diseases are due to specific microorganisms, which are capable of transmission from body to body. Yet although it is widely accepted by medical professionals, forming the basis for billions of dollars of healthcare spending (actually sickness care, but that’s another article), the fact that so many people believe it to be true doesn’t make it so. This is one of the classic logical fallacies: argumentum ad populum, the appeal to the majority, where a thing is stated to be true simply because so many people believe it.

That didn’t work for the belief that the earth was flat, and it shouldn’t work for a theory of disease that is increasingly coming under fire from the scientific community and whose fundamental premise was known to be flawed almost from the beginning. I am reminded of the famous quote by Anatole France: “If fifty million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing.”
The Germ Theory: A Chiropractic Look at the Germ Theory

Written by Daniel A. Middleton, DC

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The germ theory states that diseases are due to specific microorganisms, which are capable of transmission from body to body. Not although it is widely accepted by medical professionals, forming the basis for billions of dollars of healthcare spending (actually allopathic care, but that’s another article), the fact that so many people believe it to be true doesn’t make it so. This is one of the classic logical fallacies: argument ad populum, the appeal to the majority, where a thing is stated to be true simply because so many people believe it.

That didn’t work for the belief that the earth was flat, and it shouldn’t work for a theory of disease that is increasingly coming under fire from the scientific community and whose fundamental premise was known to be flawed almost from the beginning. I am reminded of the famous quote by Anais Nin: “Fifty million people can be wrong, it is still a believable number.”

Everyone is familiar with Louis Pasteur’s name, but one of his contemporaries and chief opponents was a scientist named Claude Bernard (1813–1878), who argued that it was not the ‘seed’ (the germ) that caused disease, but was instead the ‘soil’ (the human body). Bernard argued that the cause of all disease is the body’s susceptibility to the disease-causing agents, or germs, and that the body’s ability to fight off the disease is determined by the state of its ‘soil’—its overall health.

Pasteur came to realize that the germ was not the only factor in determining who became sick and who remained well. Bernard was right. In the end, Pasteur came to realize that the germ was not the only factor in determining who became sick and who remained well. Bernard was right.

My argument is against the ‘germ theory of disease’ as it is now understood. The germ theory of disease is the cornerstone of modern medicine, and its chief proponent, Louis Pasteur, a demigod in the medical canon. But is what we remember Pasteur for the last hundred years?

Is it any wonder that we all grew up believing in the medical model of health care? After all, everyone is used to it. With the number of drug ads on television and in magazines, and news shows touting the latest medical advancement to treat this or that disease (many of which show up later with unpredicted—maybe even unpredictable—side effects or problems) and the complex than that. Otherwise, as chiropractic pioneer B.J. Palmer said, eventually no one would be able to fight off the disease, letting you recover more quickly.

The germ (or virus or bacteria) might well be the agent of disease, but the cause is much more complex than that. Otherwise, an infectious person Dr. Palmer said sensationally one would be able to tell you about it, and that would be the end of it. Instead, we have seen that the cause of disease is multifactorial and includes anything from diet and lifestyle to stress and environment.

The germ theory of disease is not as cut and dried as we’ve been led to believe. The germ theory of disease is not as cut and dried as we’ve been led to believe. The germ theory of disease is not as cut and dried as we’ve been led to believe. It was an argument that persisted throughout their careers, and for his entire life Pasteur was convinced that germs lay at the root of illness.

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What this tells us is that modern medicine (or Big Pharma, as the pharmaceutical companies have come to be called) has based its fundamental premise on a theory that is, at best, highly controversial when it was first proposed, the germ theory is now the cornerstone of modern medicine, and its chief proponent, Louis Pasteur, is a demigod in the medical canon. But is what we remember Pasteur for the last hundred years?

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