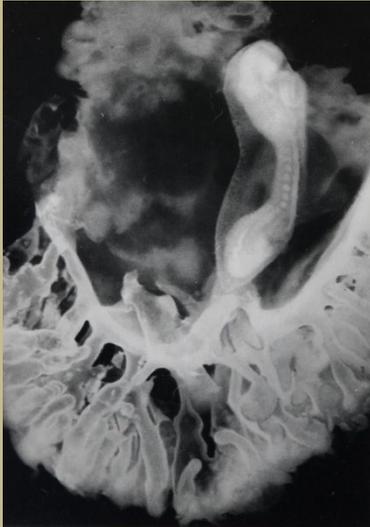


The Development of Structure

A 3-day workshop with
Konrad Obermeier & Marisol Valente



Every manifestation of a human body is a developmental process.

Morphological growth is the organic unfolding of an individual physical form in space and time as a dynamic movement.

Structural Integration **is the normal function** every embryo performs while the human body is shape-shifting through transitory phases.

Epigenetic forces and genetic information contribute to growth and differentiation in a balanced way.

The Embryo, we could say, is a specialist in continually integrating its own structure.

Comprehending differentiation, growth and development of structure provides one more foundational option by which the practical work of Structural Integration can be informed and inspired by.

With this point of view, anatomy is not static-descriptive, but is as animated as poetic and always the result of a kinetic flow.



In this 3-day class the biodynamic model of the German Embryologist **Erich Blechschmidt**, will be presented in a theoretical and some practical, hands-on way.

We will look at some details of the early developmental unfolding during the first 8 weeks of human life and appreciate the underlying rules and principles:

- A brief recapitulation of basic aspects of cellular life – membranes / cytoplasm / nucleus.
- The development of the blastocyst and adplantation / implantation; this will help us to understand the distinction between development, differentiation and growth.
- Metabolic polarization will be understood in the discussion of positional differences of cells constituting limiting tissues and internal tissues.
- Fluid pressure and membranous tension will be introduced as major formative forces of embryonic developmental movements when we look at the differentiation of the three early fluidic cavities: yolk sac, amnion and chorion.
- The dynamic processes leading to the appearance of the primitive streak highlight midline formation, laying down the central axis of the human body.
- Late metabolic fields as original areas of differentiation will help us to clarify the concept and role of metabolic gradients.



The memory of our growth and differentiation is imprinted in us, in what we call The Embryonic Field. Exploring this Embryonic Field from an opening listening space, with skillful hands, is a doorway to access a deep wisdom that can guide the body to relate to its natural organizing forces.

We will explore practically some developmental process:

- First fulcrum - manifesting the base of the cranium;
- Midline - our first function, the essential field around which we are formed that manifests the central axis of the human body;
- Neurovascular bundle – function as central fulcrums for the formation of the structures they serve, since they expand relatively slower to them;
- Fluidic fields – as precursors of the formation of the structures;
- Internal Tissues and Limiting Tissues – dealing with tension and dealing with pressure within the body.



Not only genetic information but also metabolic fields and kinetic forces contribute to the shaping of the early organism. Without this extragenetic information differentiation would not even begin!

Genes are constants in metabolic processes - consequently they always have reactive functions as they are embedded in the external stimuli of the metabolic fields. Thus, the process of biodynamic differentiation is orchestrated from local outside circumstances (i.e.: the metabolic field) inwards (i.e.: the cytoplasm of the cell).

This process of development consists of spatially ordered movements that finally shape a human body. Life processes can consequently be seen as momentary spatial images – a series of movements in time.



Konrad Obermeier – Is a Certified Advanced Rolfer™ and Movement Practitioner since 1991. Anatomy Teacher for the European Roling Association® and the Dr. Ida Rolf Institute® – Boulder Colorado. Teaches Visceral Manipulation, Anatomy and Biodynamic Embryology after Dr. Erich Blechschmidt.



Marisol Aimée Valente - Is a Certified Advanced Rolfer™, Movement Practitioner and Craniosacral Therapist. Her practice has been strongly influenced by Biodynamic Osteopathy (Dr. James Jealous), SourcePoint Therapy® (Bob Schrei) and BodyMind Centering® besides her practice and work of meditation and self-knowledge.