THE EMBRYO IN US
UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES AS EMBRYO
A Four-Day Seminar: July 11th-July 15th, 2012
A Dynamic and Holistic Morphology of the human Mind and Body with Jaap van der Wal MD PhD
Maastricht, Holland

Why a course about the embryo?

In recent years, new interest in human embryology has been raised. This also came up in the slipstream of a whole scale of techniques that have been developed to influence and manipulate the processes of conception, pregnancy, prenatal development and birth. In this context, it is important not only to develop such techniques, but also to raise awareness of the ethical question, “What are we actually doing?” We have to consider what prenatal life - and in particular a human embryo - essentially is. Moreover: How should we interpret the facts from modern scientific embryology within a spiritual and holistic point of view on man and nature? Science does not only produce techniques and knowledge, it also engenders images about ourselves; for example, showing what we actually are as embryos. Such images that are represented as the ‘scientific truth’, however, often appear to be materialistic and reduced views on the human being. In this seminar an attempt is made to get to the often denied spiritual core of this phase of human existence. In a real understanding of the science of embryology we are able to ‘meet’ the creating and creative forces that work through the human being. It may help us to challenge the modern reductionistic view as to humans as ‘walking brains’.

Modern science is always deafening silent about what really matters

During our embryonic development we are, so to say, organisms 'still functioning in forms'. Shaping or ‘performing’ of the body seems the main ‘activity’ of the embryo. During embryonic development, the human body gets its shape and form in a continuous process of change and metamorphosis. By the so-called phenomenological approach, it is possible to understand those body ‘movements’ as gestures of human behavior. In the early phases of human existence, the processes that accompany the act of incarnation may be ‘read’ from the biological facts. The shaping gestures also are a kind of echo or recapitulation of the development of man as a species. In this way, becoming a human and becoming human, biography and biology meet. The embryo helps us to learn the real patterns of (human) development. It reveals our essence as a being, mediating between spirit and matter, soul and body, between heaven (cosmos) and earth.

To explore Jaap’s work & ideas further, check out his website at www.embryo.nl
Core questions addressed by “The Embryo in Us”

Jaap van der Wal is the initiator of the project *Embryo in Us*. For this he travels the world giving lectures, courses and seminars about the roots of human existence prior to birth. In the prenatal domain he examines questions like, “What do we actually do when we are embryos?” “Where are soul and spirit during the embryonic development?” “Do we have experiences and feelings when we are there?” “Can we recall prenatal experience?” “Are we just insentient bodies yet?” “Is the embryo but a passive brainless being? What actually is consciousness?” “Are we not yet human?” “Are we just coincidences in a sea of time, or do we come from a more meaningful whole to become human beings on this earth?” “Where do we come from?” “Do we make our children or do we receive, conceive them?”

The aim of this seminar is to let the participants share in the mighty processes that form human individuality on this earth. We will explore these areas not only by participating with the intellect but also by thinking with the heart (the phenomenological approach). Thus the mystery of the incarnation of spirit with (or into) a body will be revealed. It will provide an image of the human being that is based on spirituality and science. ‘Embryosophy’ as presented in this course will open new perspectives as to polarity thinking and threefoldness, mind AND body, microcosm and macrocosm, heredity and incarnation and evolution of the earth and mankind. Through these perspectives the participants may find that they get deeper insights into why we are here and what is moving us.

*Meet the embryo of freedom.*

An open book of forms and gestures revealing the essence of man as encounter between ‘heaven and earth’, mind and matter.

For whom this course is intended?

No prior knowledge of embryology is needed. Familiarity with or interest in a spiritual approach to life is appreciated. Participation in this course may help you to become aware of what your attitude toward the embryo might mean in your work as a medical doctor, as a therapist, but also as a parent, as a partner, or other roles in human life. The course is not specialized for particular professionals or practitioners. All fields are welcome.

“In the last three decades that I gave these courses many kinds of therapies and philosophies recognized themselves in this approach of the embryo and human biology. The images and ideas presented have been applied to numerous practical fields and professions. All kinds of participants attended: teachers, doctors, midwives, medical specialists, osteopaths, craniosacral and polarity therapists, anthroposophists, rolfers, biodynamic therapists, trauma and mind-body therapists, and many others” (JvdW).

*The aim of this four-day seminar is to let the participants share in the mighty processes that form the basis of every human individuality and life on this earth.*
Practice or Theory? Understanding with Head and Heart

In the approach of phenomenological embryology not only the thinking (‘head’) but also the experiencing and feeling (‘heart’) have merit. In this way we come to scientific conclusions and views that consider the human embryo as a spiritual and ‘inspired’ being. And how you think is prerequisite for how you do, act, treat.

This for example relates to the conclusion that we are not simply generated from egg cells or a genome, but that we incarnate during the embryonic phase into the body. We are beings who come to appearance in our biography by means of our body. In this approach can lie very important clues for the consciousness of the health care practitioner. It is important to comprehend embryological forces, because the same forces that formed the body are continuously at work throughout life, carrying the blueprint of Health.

This is not a course about therapeutic techniques. You do not learn how to treat or what to do. The emphasis here is to develop a solid phenomenological foundation, and an experiential sense of who we are, which then may serve to guide applications in many fields. Health care practitioners get to appreciate that comprehending embryological forces supports a holistic approach, because the same forces that formed the body are continuously at work throughout life, carrying the blueprint of Health into manifestation: the Embryo in us. “It is about becoming aware of how you think. The best practice still is good theory” (JvdW).

This course is more about the Know-why than about the Know-how.

How is the course organized?

The course consists of illustrated lectures and discussions alternating with practical exercises such as form drawing, body movements, stories and meditations.

There is an introductory lecture from 7-9PM on the evening of July 11th. The daily schedule is then 9:00-12:30 and 2:00-5:30 (with 2 evening classes from 7:30-9:00 on Friday and Saturday), and on the last day ending at 1:00pm (followed by lunch). Handouts include course notes with diagrams and a number of articles organized in binder form. The PowerPoint presentation and applied small animations used in the lectures are available at Jaap’s website (www.embryo.nl) or via a USB-stick (ask for it). For further study, there is also a DVD of the 2010 workshop (purchasable at www.portlandbranch.org)

The two domains of human locomotion and human development are linked to each other by the principles of form and motion.
About the teacher

Jaap van der Wal PhD MD recently retired from the Department of Anatomy and Embryology at the University of Maastricht, Holland. Since graduation in 1973 he has worked as teacher and researcher at various universities in Holland. He became specialized in the functional anatomy of locomotion in particular as to proprioception. Gradually he became interested in the philosophical backgrounds of medicine becoming also a teacher theory of science and philosophy. He developed himself as teacher in Medical Anthropology. He now teaches his ‘Embryosophy’ in Europe and USA to audiences representing Anthroposophy, Craniosacral Therapy, Osteopathy, Polarity-Therapy, Trauma and Mind-Body Therapy and many others.

“I love anatomy but my passion however was and still is human embryology. The two domains of human locomotion and human development (embryology) are linked to each other by the principles of form (shape) and motion (movement). The human body is a process, developing and functioning in time. The embryo moves, behaves in forms. It is in this area that I encountered anthroposophy. The Goethean phenomenological approach, which I met there, appeared to be the key for bridging between the domain of ‘natural science’ and ’spiritual science’ (or even: religion). Applying the method of dynamic morphology to the study of the human embryo gave me the tool to understand what we actually are doing as human beings when we still are embryos. With respect I can find in the embryo cautious answers to questions as to the meaning of human existence”.

“I think that there are many people who need a spiritual approach. They are perfectly happy with a proper blending of science, phenomenology and non-fundamentalist spirituality. I believe that this is why you have been so successful in your teachings” (Michael Shea, author of Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy).


SCHEDULE: From 9.00 am until 5.30 pm each day with two additional evening sessions from 7.30 until 9.00 pm on Friday and Saturday included and finishing 1:00 pm on the last day. A public lecture preceding the workshop, Mind and Body in the Womb- How do we exist as an Embryo? will be held from 7-9PM on Wednesday, July 11, 2012, and is facultative for course participants. Public lecture cost ($10 for general public; $20 for professional CEU’s) is included in the workshop fee.

COST: $475. PRICE RECENTLY REDUCED, now only $350 for the full course. Checks should be made payable to Dr. Robert Kellum, at 3046 NE 33rd Ave, Portland OR 97212. A limited number of $250.00 work-study grants are available. Please describe your need, reason for attending, AND your availability just before and after the workshop. Email to healthbridge@integra.net. Public lecture is included with the workshop fee.

CLASS SIZE LIMITED (45 PEOPLE). APPLY EARLY TO ASSURE YOUR PLACE.

For further details and booking, contact Dr Bob Kellum at: healthbridge@integra.net or 503-331-7393

July 11-15th, 2012 “THE EMBRYO IN US” REGISTRATION FORM
WARNER PACIFIC COLLEGE, 2219 SE 68th Ave. PORTLAND, OR 97215
503-517-1000 (FRONT DESK FROM 9:00AM-5:00PM)

PLEASE REGISTER BY USING THIS FORM

NAME________________________________ PROFESSION/ INTEREST___________________
ADDRESS___________________________________ CITY___________________________
STATE_____________ ZIP_______________ COUNTRY (IF NOT USA)_________________
PHONE (PREFERRED #)___________________ EMAIL ______________________________

If you would like to have your name, address, phone and email in a contact list, distributed electronically to class participants, PLEASE CHECK HERE TO GIVE US PERMISSION ☐.

COURSE PARTICIPATION: This course is accessible for interested lay people as well as health professionals, be it doctors (chiropractic, medical, naturopathic, osteopathic, etc), massage therapists, midwives, nurses, physical therapists, or representatives of psychosomatic & spiritual oriented therapies (such as various anthroposophical therapies, Craniosacral therapy, Polarity or Trauma Therapy, Psychotherapy), Teachers, etc. Prior knowledge of embryology is not required. Diagrams, illustrations & a few summarizing articles will be available. The lectures and discussions will be alternated with practical exercises like form drawing and bodily motions (‘eurhythmy’). APPROVAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY OBNE FOR 26.5 NATUROPATHIC GENERAL OR OB CEU’S.

MOBILITY, AND OTHER NEEDS: Please inform us as soon as possible, so we may best adapt.

VENUE: This year, Warner Pacific College is offering SINGLE occupancy dorm rooms (twin beds) for all who need housing, at $40.00 per person per nite. There are three common bathrooms on the floor. Rooms have a desk and chair per person, and there is wireless internet. The rooms are less than 50 yards from the class and cafeteria. A campus map is available at: www.warnerpacific.edu/

LOCATION: 15 minutes from the Portland Airport. Airport transport, directions, & other practical details will be sent upon registration

RIDE SHARING ☐ Please include me in a June email list of all who want to ride share .

EMAIL ADDRESS________________________________________________________

MEALS: Meals at Warner Pacific are conveniently served in the new cafeteria, just below the classroom. The caterer provides delicious and consciously prepared food, using antibiotic/ hormone free meats, & fresh, seasonal, locally grown, organic produce as much as possible.

CHECK HERE FOR DIETARY CONCERNS: ☐ REGULAR (CHICKEN, FISH OR MEAT)
☐ CHICKEN, FISH ONLY ☐ VEGETARIAN ☐ VEGAN ☐ GLUTEN-FREE
MEAL PLANS (CHECK THE MEALS YOU WISH AND THEN TOTAL):

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CALCULATE YOUR TOTAL MEAL COST: _______________

ON-CAMPUS LODGING IN DORM ROOMS:

☐ SINGLE OCCUPANCY ROOM  # NIGHTS NEEDED_____ @ $40.00/NIGHT= _____

(PLEASE INDICATE IF ARRIVING: WEDNESDAY_____ OR THURSDAY______)

YOUR TOTAL ROOM COST _______________

PAYMENT: PLEASE MAKE OUT CHECK FOR CONFERENCE FEE TO “Dr Robert Kellum”

REGULAR REGISTRATION (POSTMARKED POST- 5/1/12)

☐ $350.00

CALCULATE TOTAL PAYMENT (WORKSHOP, LODGING, MEALS) _______________

MAIL YOUR CHECK AND COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO:

DR ROBERT KELLUM, 3046 NE 33RD AVENUE, PORTLAND, OR 97212

TO PAY BY CHARGE: CALL 503-331-7393 M-F, 9AM-5PM PST, OR EMAIL REQUEST TO

HEALTHBRIDGE@INTEGRA.NET. I WILL SEND YOU AN INVOICE TO PAY VIA PAYPAL.

YOU MAY ALSO SCAN AND EMAIL YOUR COMPLETED REGISTRATION TO:

HEALTHBRIDGE@INTEGRA.NET

WORK/STUDY PROGRAM: A limited number of $250.00 work-study grants are available. Please describe your need, reason for attending, AND your availability just before and after the workshop. Email to healthbridge@integra.net. We recommend you apply early.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Participant’s cancellation requests must be received in writing (i.e., emailed and received, or postmarked) BEFORE MAY 1ST for a refund, less a $25.00 administrative fee. Cancellation requests received in writing after MAY 1st and before JUNE 15th will receive a refund less a $100.00 fee. Cancellation requests after that date will not be eligible for a refund, but another person may be substituted. Telephone cancellations cannot be honored. Until an email cancellation has been promptly acknowledged by return email, you cannot assume it has been received.
## “THE EMBRYO IN US” WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012

- **3:30PM-5:30PM** Room check-in at WPC dormitory lobby
- **5:30PM-7:00PM** Dinner in Cafeteria (all meals catered here, just below EGVEDT 203)
- **7:00-9:00 PM** Public lecture with Dr Van der Wal, in EGVEDT 203

### THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2012

- **7:30AM - 9:00AM** Breakfast
- **8:00AM-9:00AM** Workshop registration
- **9:00AM-10:30AM** Class
- **10:30AM-11:00AM** Break
- **11:00AM-12:30PM** Class
- **12:30PM-2:00PM** Lunch
- **2:00PM-3:30PM** Class
- **3:30PM-4:00PM** Break
- **4:00PM-5:30PM** Class
- **6:00PM-7:30PM** Dinner

### FRIDAY, JULY 13, 2012

- **7:30AM-9:00AM** Breakfast
- **9:00AM-10:30 AM** Class
- **10:30-11:00 BREAK**
- **11:00-12:30PM** Class
- **12:30-2:00PM** Lunch
- **2:00PM-3:30PM** Class
- **3:30PM-4:00PM** Break
- **4:00PM-5:30PM Class
- **6:00PM-7:30PM** Dinner
- **7:30PM-9:00PM** Evening practical exercise

### SATURDAY, JULY 14, 2012

- **7:30AM-9:00AM** Breakfast
- **9:00AM-10:30 AM** Class
- **10:30AM-11:00AM BREAK**
- **11:00AM-12:30PM** Class
- **12:30-2:00PM** Lunch
- **2:00PM-3:30PM** Class
- **3:30PM-4:00PM** Break
- **4:00PM-5:30PM Class
- **6:00PM-7:30PM** Dinner
- **7:30-9PM** Evening practical exercise

### SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2012

- **7:30AM-9:00AM** Breakfast
- **9:00AM-1:00PM** Class, with half hour break
- **10:00-2:00PM LUNCH/CERTIFICATES/GOODBYE**

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**CEU HOURS**

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- 7.5
- 3.5
- 26.5