

ADDRESSING CAREGIVER'S NEEDS

Youssef, a young man from Morocco who came to Europe to study medicine proudly shares with us the particular views of his culture and society:

“The Moroccan therapeutic system is the result of a remarkable fusion between local traditions rooted in the natural environment and the secular science of Arabic Islamic medicine. Arabic medicine is, in fact, medicine written in the Arabic language, the medical traditions being the crossings of various berber, andalusian, african, hebrew and even western influences. This is, thus, a multicultural medical practice we are talking about in Morocco, where we have a great number of healers who employ ancient products and recipes still in use today. They also enhance their therapies with humble prayers hoping to receive a divine answer for the cause of the illness. Caring for the ill in such systems is a task for the whole community, not one individual. This science of interpersonal connection, enriched with religious ritual and love of nature, consists in an impressive arsenal of therapeutic means, so all in all, traditional Moroccan medicine has many advantages.”

Topics for Forum:

- ! How would you react if you were in Morocco becoming ill with a local disease, and a healer came to treat you instead of a physician?
- ! Would you accept an empirical alternative treatment recommended by the Moroccan healer?
- ! Do you think you should trust the recommendations or would you rush to the nearest modern hospital?

Ilias stresses on the fact that he can only trust the medical staff trained in the modern ways. The professional needs for practice, the logistics required are all very important in order to establish the diagnosis. In Tunisia, however, although the main goal is to act in the patient's best interest, the needs of the staff taking care of the patient is only secondary.

Topics for Forum:

- ! Are the needs of the care givers being observed in your country of origin? Give specific examples.
- ! What is the level of medical training of the staff taking care of the hospitalized patients in your country?
- ! If you could not study medicine at university, would you be able to take care of patients in a state hospital in your country?