



Quality Assurance of Osteopathic Education in the European Union – Master of Science in Osteopathy

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1. Problem Setting

No clear/unanimous competency profile of the osteopath in Europe

No uniformity in Osteopathic education in Europe

No comparison possible between osteopathic education and education in other medical disciplines

Ambiguous view of medical profession on osteopaths

Esoteric osteopathy > < Evidence and consensus based osteopathy

Different countries, different rules



2. Consequences

No or insufficient legal professional recognition and legislation

No recognition of the established medical academic world

Possible unsafe practice – patients in danger

No quality guarantee for candidate students



The Place of Osteopathy within the Primary Health Care

Health care is:

- diagnosis,
- treatment,
- prevention

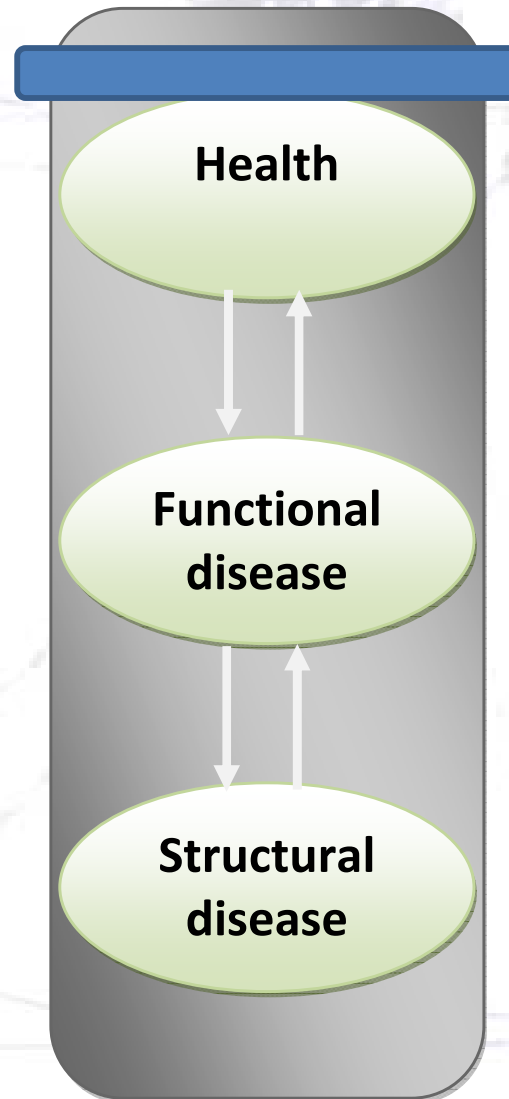
of disease, illness, injury, and other physical and mental impairments in humans.

Health care is delivered/influenced by:

- practitioners in medicine,
- practitioners in osteopathy,
- practitioners in dentistry,
- practitioners in nursing, pharmacy and allied health,
- governmental institutions,
- humans themselves.

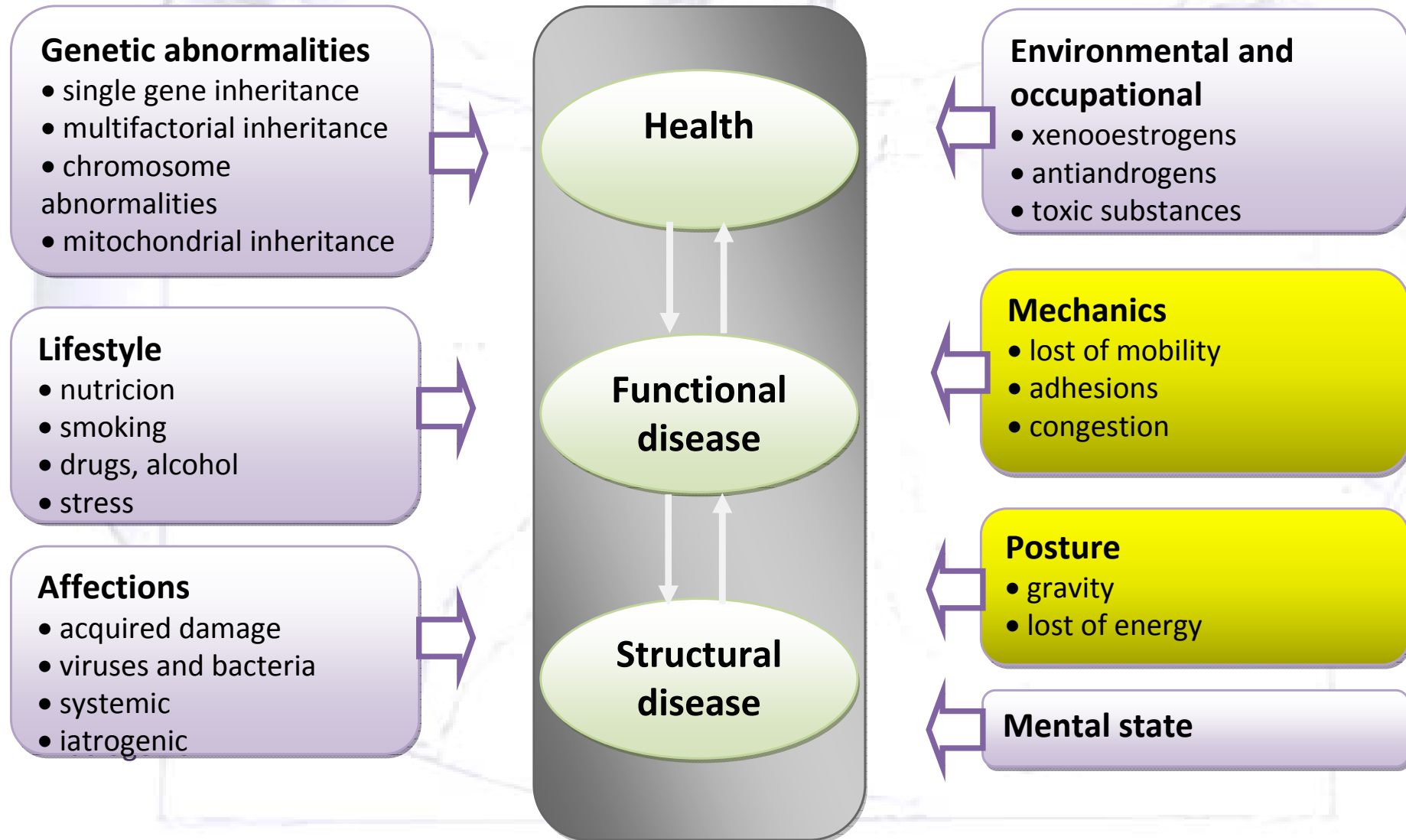


The Place of Osteopathy within the Primary Health Care



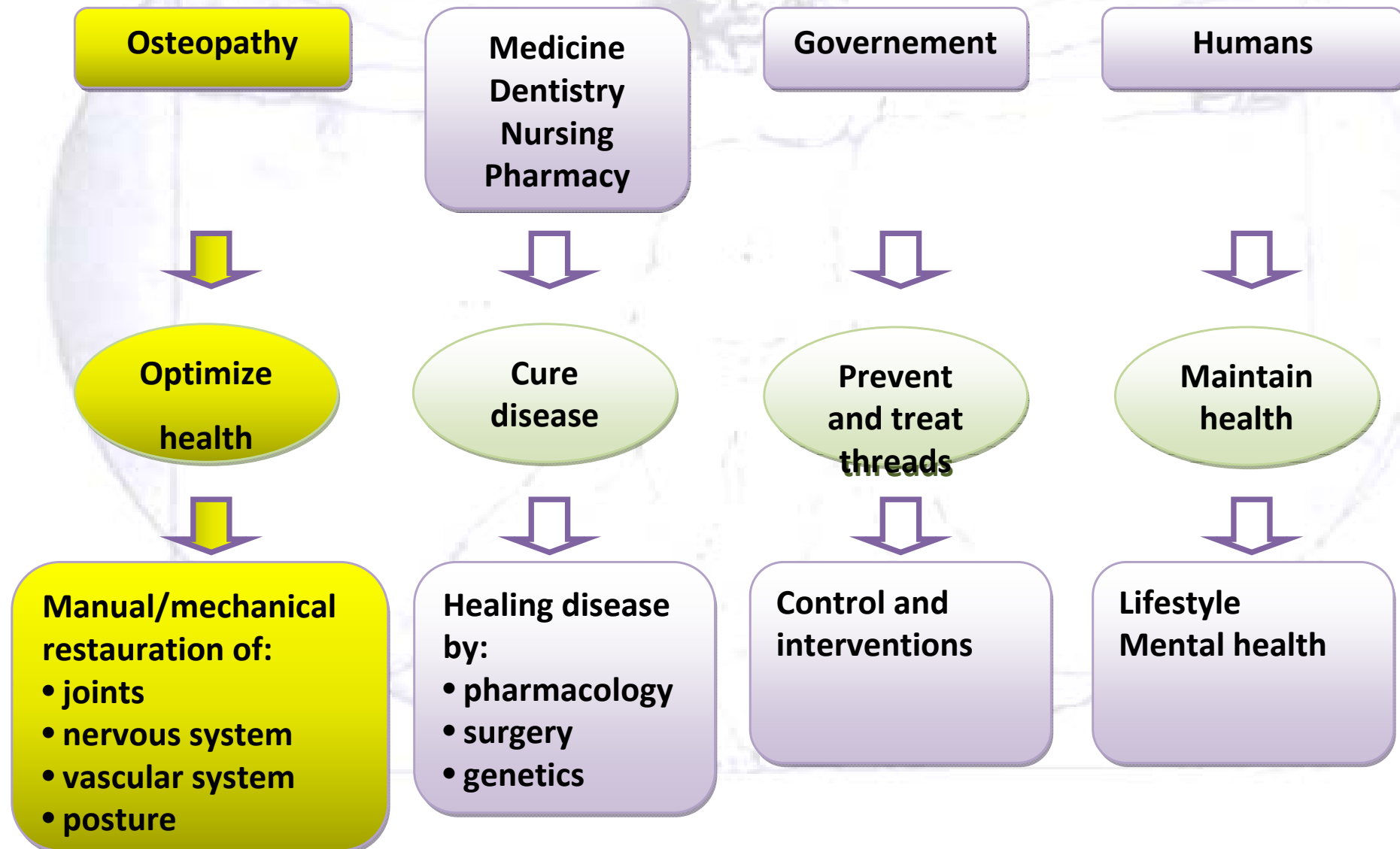


The Place of Osteopathy within the Primary Health Care





The Place of Osteopathy within the Primary Health Care





3. Solution

Start of the solution = Schools = Education and Training in Osteopathy

There is an existing educational system in Europe that:

- Assures academic comparison with other medical schools and degrees
- Assures quality for students in osteopathy
- Assures academic and osteopathic quality/skills of the graduate

Therefore: lets not re-invent the wheel by making own rules and regulations for osteopathic schools.



3. Solution

European Standards in Osteopathic Training and Education

- **Academic quality of the provided education:** must be based on the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area” created by the **ENQA**. (Bologna Process)
- **Quality of the management of a school:** must be based on the **EN ISO 9001** standard or comparable.
- **Quality of the course content** must be in respect for the basic osteopathic principles and the quality criteria as in the **WHO Benchmarks for Osteopathy** (2010).



3. Solution

European Standards in Osteopathic Training and Education

- **Typology – Standardization – Comparability**
 - Academic level of Osteopaths = **Master of Science in Osteopathy (MSc.Ost.)**
 - European Academic Quality Criteria for Osteopathic Education and Training = **ENQA**
 - European Organizational Quality Criteria for Osteopathic Schools = **EN ISO 9001**
 - Quality on course content: **WHO Benchmarks**
- **Diversity**
 - Richness within Typology
 - Scientific advances and research



Thank you for your attention

Luc Peeters



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