

Larry Dossey

Larry Dossey is an American physician and author of books about psychic experiences, healing and nonlocal consciousness.

Career

Larry Dossey is a Texas physician and author who serves as former Executive Editor of the peer-reviewed journals [*Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine*](#) and [*EXPLORE: The Journal of Science and Healing*](#). He graduated with honours from the University of Texas at Austin, worked as a pharmacist while earning his MD degree from Southwestern Medical School in Dallas in 1967, and completed his residency in internal medicine following decorated service as a battalion surgeon in Vietnam.

Dossey established the Dallas Diagnostic Association, the largest group of internal medicine practitioners in that city and served as Chief of Staff of Medical City Dallas Hospital in 1982.

For Dossey, traditional Western medical training provided no framework for understanding patients experiencing unexplained remissions and ‘miracle cures’. These anomalous healing events prompted his systematic investigation into consciousness-based medicine. Dossey is particularly well known for his popularization of Intercessory Prayer, in which healing invocations from strangers are directed at those suffering ill health.

Intercessory Prayer

In a 2005 paper, Dossey and Hufford systematically address twenty criticisms of intercessory prayer experiments in clinical research. Eight major reviews examining prayer and distant healing in humans were analyzed, of which four yielded statistically significant results, with most showing generally positive outcomes. These criticisms range from methodological concerns about measuring prayer variables such as intensity and quality, to philosophical objections regarding prayer's supernatural nature. Theological criticisms include claims of blasphemy, while practical concerns focus on establishing prayer-free controls free of extraneous prayer by family members.

The authors point out that psychotherapy research faces similar measurement challenges yet has gained acceptance. They emphasize that prayer researchers study consciousness and intentionality rather than theology and cite quantum physics developments suggesting nonlocal effects may not violate natural laws. They conclude that prayer research can proceed within established scientific principles.^{[1](#)}

Healing Stages

Dossey has examined distant healing through three phases: the healer's meditative state, the ‘nonlocal gap’ between healer and recipient, and the recipient's response.

While conventional explanations describe the first and third phases, they cannot account for the nonlocal gap where healing effects traverse distances without identifiable mechanisms.

Dossey critiques imprecise terminology, particularly ‘energy’ and ‘quantum’ concepts used without scientific foundation, arguing this alienates mainstream researchers. He advocates rigorous vocabulary while acknowledging ignorance about consciousness mechanisms. Theoretical hypotheses include [Rauscher and Targ’s complex Minkowski space models](#) and [May’s Decision Augmentation Theory](#).

Dossey argues that demonstrating nonlocal consciousness effects would fundamentally transform scientific understanding, as nonlocal consciousness implies infinitude in space and time.²

Cellular Memory, NDEs and Reincarnation

Following cases of transplant recipients reportedly acquiring donor characteristics, the ‘cellular memory’ hypothesis emerged, suggesting memories and traits are stored throughout the body’s cells rather than only in the brain. Skeptics attribute this concept to popular media rather than scientific evidence, questioning why heart transplants specifically generate such reports while kidney transplants and xenografts do not.³ Dossey points out that the phenomenon parallels near-death experiences, which gained recognition only after becoming socially acceptable to discuss: the transplant experiences essentially represent modern reincarnation concepts, where personality traits transfer between individuals.

Meanwhile, claims that brains produce consciousness remain unsubstantiated. Dossey proposes nonlocal mind as an alternative explanation—consciousness that is infinite in space and time rather than confined to specific brains or bodies, offering a more comprehensive framework for understanding these anomalous experiences.⁴

PEAR Psychokinesis Findings

Dossey has examined the [Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research \(PEAR\)](#) program’s investigation of consciousness-machine interactions over twenty-five years, positioning it as evidence for nonlocal mind theory. He critiques materialistic perspectives that reduce consciousness to neural activity, citing philosophers Searle and Fodor who acknowledge current ignorance about consciousness mechanisms.

The PEAR database demonstrates statistically significant effects of human intentions on physical devices, complementing distant healing research where eleven of twenty controlled trials showed positive results. Dossey again argues that nonlocal mind explains these phenomena better than conventional theories and offers benefits such as reduced death anxiety, enhanced ethical behavior through recognition of shared consciousness, and transformation of medical practice from ‘Temporal Medicine’ focused on mortality toward ‘Eternity Medicine’ acknowledging consciousness continuity.⁵

Daryl Bem

Dossey critiqued the hostile scientific reaction to Cornell psychologist [Daryl Bem's 2011 study](#) demonstrating statistically significant precognitive effects, which elicited comments such as 'craziness' and 'an assault on science'. Dossey argues this represents materialistic dogma rather than scientific skepticism, noting that quantum physicists like Brian Josephson and Gerald Feinberg see no fundamental physics violations in precognitive phenomena. He contrasts this with public readers' thoughtful responses and surveys showing 55% of natural scientists consider ESP plausible. For Dossey, the controversy exemplifies science's transformation into 'scientism', rigid adherence to materialistic assumptions that paradoxically undermines genuine scientific inquiry.⁶

Consciousness Filter Hypothesis

Dossey has argued in favour of the brain-as-filter hypothesis that was originally proposed by figures like [Henri Bergson](#) and [William James](#), suggesting the brain normally limits rather than produces consciousness. According to this model, consciousness is not manufactured by the human brain but is filtered or limited by it to the level required for biological survival. He points out that creative individuals throughout history have developed methods to bypass this filter mechanism. Poet James Merrill used Ouija boards to access what he described as communications with spirits, while French psychic [Hélène Smith](#) painted acclaimed religious works during altered states. Institutionalized artist Adolf Wölfl produced extraordinary volumes of integrated art, music, and literature despite severe psychiatric conditions and minimal resources.

Dossey contrasts this openness with 'negative hallucinations'—the tendency to screen out evidence contradicting materialistic assumptions about consciousness. He cites PEAR findings that support nonlocal consciousness effects and quotes philosophers like Robert Almeder questioning claims that brains 'secrete consciousness in the same way that glands produce hormones.fn]Dossey (2012).

Consciousness as Fundamental Model

Dossey examines the Triadic Dimensional Distinction Vortical Paradigm (TDVP) developed by neuropsychiatrist Vernon Neppe and mathematician Edward Close, who received the 2016 Whiting Memorial Award for advancing scientific understanding. TDVP proposes that Space, Time, and Consciousness (STC) are fundamental, separate yet interconnected dimensions, challenging mainstream materialism that views consciousness as brain-produced. The paradigm, which involves nine spinning dimensions and introduces 'gimmel', a massless, energyless property representing consciousness, is said to explain previously unsolved physics problems like the Cabibbo angle. Dossey argues this consciousness-centered model addresses humanity's environmental crisis by countering materialistic nihilism that views humans as meaningless. He suggests TDVP's recognition of consciousness as fundamental may prove essential for planetary survival.⁷

Selected Books

One Mind

In *One Mind: How Our Individual Mind Is Part of a Greater Consciousness and Why It Matters*. (2000), Dossey proposes that all individual minds are part of an infinite, collective dimension called the One Mind, which explains diverse phenomena from creative breakthroughs to remote healing and communication with other species. By means of engaging stories and research, he presents this consciousness theory as offering renewed hope for humanity to successfully confront current global challenges through enhanced empathy and collective awareness.[8](#)

The Power of Premonitions

The Power of Premonitions: How Knowing the Future Can Shape Our Lives was published in 2009. Dossey describes real-life episodes where accidents and disasters were seemingly previewed before their occurrence in dreams and visions and looks at the scientific evidence for precognition, before discussing the benefits of cultivating premonitions and their place in our society.[9](#)

Reinventing Medicine

In *Reinventing Medicine: Beyond Mind-Body to a New Era of Healing* (2014), Dossey presents scientific evidence for Era III medicine, which incorporates spiritual dimensions such as prayer, dreams, and intuition alongside conventional and mind/body approaches. He demonstrates how the 'nonlocal mind' can revolutionize healing through spiritual tools that have measurable effects on health outcomes, forever changing the practice of medicine.[10](#)

Website

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Michael Duggan

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Endnotes

Footnotes

- [1.](#) Dossey & Hufford (2005).
- [2.](#) Dossey (2002).
- [3.](#) Carroll (n.d.).
- [4.](#) Dossey (2008).
- [5.](#) Dossey (2007).
- [6.](#) Dossey (2011).
- [7.](#) Dossey (2017).
- [8.](#) Dossey (2000).
- [9.](#) Dossey (2009).
- [10.](#) Dossey (2014).