

Creating an Epidemic of Health
Think Tank Meeting
Fetzer Institute – Oct. 30 – Nov. 1, 2000

Interview Questions

As you know, this meeting at Fetzer is intended to create a think tank to imagine ways to engage thousands...and perhaps millions...of people in cascading conversations of health and hope in the service of creating an epidemic of health.

1. What is it that compels or draws you to this meeting? Without being humble, what are some of the best qualities and special gifts that you bring to this think tank?

2. The great Jonas Salk would ask people three simple but powerful questions. None were about illness. In Salk's view "health" was not simply the absence of disease. It was qualitatively different and vastly more. He wanted people to discover, through systematic study and delicate awareness those things that they do that *make them healthy*. He was amazed with the wisdom and varieties of techniques, behaviors, and lessons people identified. He would conclude each conversation with a request: *Please share your thoughts and insights with as many people as possible*. Salk's great hope was to discover the means and methods "to create an epidemic of health."

The creative conversation would start, for example, by anchoring the discussion in people's own life experiences, reflecting on moments in their life when they felt most alive and healthy, or he might ask about times they were in the midst of healing, when they were taking valuable steps toward visions of better health.

Three questions always followed:

- What keeps you healthy?
- What do you want to teach your / our grandchildren?
- What would keep the world healthy for those children?

Reflect for a minute on a time in your life when you felt most alive and healthy. What keeps you healthy? What do you want to teach our grandchildren? What would keep the world healthy for those children?

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care. What would you suppose happened in this “living dialogue” that produced such stunning change?

7. Returning now to the fall of 2000, reflect for a minute about what we might do to ignite a powerful movement to generate a revolutionary new system of health and care. What three wishes do you have for creating a conversation initiative that would produce powerful, grounded results? What kinds of partnerships might we wish for? What kinds of technological scaffolding might support us? What kinds of recognition or publicity might accelerate the process and bring about quick results? (Note: Treat this question as a brainstorming question.)
