



Professor Mario Deng, M.D., is a cardiologist, specialized in the care of patients with advanced heart failure, mechanical circulatory support devices and heart transplantation.

After medical training in Germany and a postdoctoral cardiology research fellowship at Stanford University, he served as the Medical Director of the Interdisciplinary Heart Failure & Heart Transplantation Program at Muenster University (1992-2000), Director of Cardiac Transplantation Research at Columbia University (2000-2011), and since 2011, Medical Director of the UCLA Integrated Advanced Heart Failure/Mechanical Support/Heart Transplant program (<http://www.uclahealth.org/MarioDeng>).

Prof. Deng maintains a position at the intersection between clinical cardiology, teaching and translational research. Dr. Deng is Co-Principal Investigator of the Cardiac Allograft Rejection Gene Expression Observational (CARGO) study that led to the first-in-history US-FDA-cleared genomic organ transplantation rejection Allomap™ blood test and Principal Investigator of the NIH-NHLBI-project "Multidimensional Molecular Biomarkers of MultiOrgan Dysfunction after Mechanical Circulatory Support Therapy" (<http://www.cardiology.med.ucla.edu/ahfr.htm>).

Together with Prof. Federica Raia, he developed the Relational Medicine Theory with the core concept of the RelationalAct to improve the understanding and practice of modern medicine. In the context of this work, Prof. Deng is the co-founder and co-president, with Prof. Raia, of the Relational Medicine Foundation, a non-profit organization in support of the on-going collaboration among different stakeholders: patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, education researchers and artists/theater professionals to improve the understanding and practice of high-tech modern medicine (<http://relationalmedicinefoundation.org/>).

RELATIONAL MEDICINE: *Personalizing Modern Healthcare*

The Practice of High-Tech Medicine as a RelationalAct



High-tech modern medicine is forcing new territories for humans to dwell in. Forty years ago, it was unthinkable to live a life with an artificial heart, with the heart from somebody else or with a left ventricular assist device. The experiences of the person in interaction with the scientific and technological advances as experienced in advanced heart failure are novel to patients, their families and their caregivers and unknown to healthcare professionals. In *Relational Medicine*, we present a novel framework for understanding the practice of high-tech modern medicine and show how this practice has become particularly attuned to the need of integration of science, technology, body and personhood.

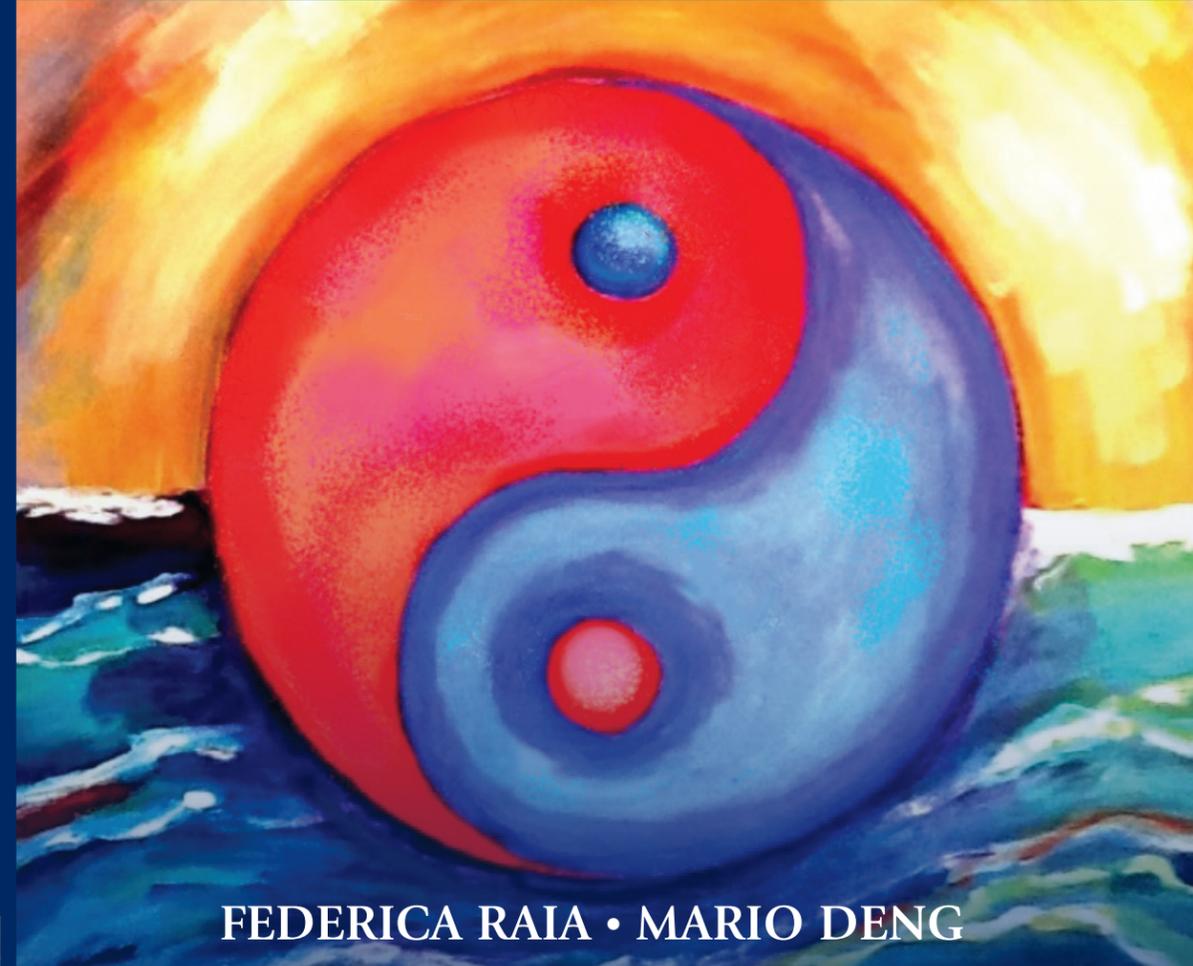
RELATIONAL MEDICINE: PERSONALIZING MODERN HEALTHCARE



RAIA
DENG



RELATIONAL MEDICINE



FEDERICA RAIA • MARIO DENG

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Professor Federica Raia, Ph.D., is a complexity scientist. She studied at the University of Naples 'Federico II', Italy, and the University of California, Santa Barbara where she studied and modeled

complex natural systems. She joined UCLA with a joint appointment in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies and in the David-Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA (<http://gseis.ucla.edu/people/raia>).

As a Complex Systems researcher, Prof. Raia works on developing a theoretical framework for studying and analyzing 1) how we come to understand complexity and mechanisms underlying processes such self-organization, adaptation, emergence; 2) the explanations we accept and the role concepts of causality play in understanding complex systems.

She is concerned with the role of the self and of relationships of multiple perspectives in the context of encounters that traditionally can promote disempowerment and detachment such as the one of a patient with a healthcare professional. As an educator, she is interested in translating these findings into creative learning environments for students and professionals.

In the context of this work, Prof. Raia developed the RelationalAct Model research method and is the co-founder and co-president, with Prof. Mario Deng, of the Relational Medicine Foundation, a non-profit organization in support of the on-going collaboration among different stakeholders: patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, education researchers and artists/theater professionals to improve the understanding, teaching and practice of high-tech modern medicine (<http://relationalmedicinefoundation.org/>).

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