Curing and Healing
Curing and Healing

Medical Anthropology in
Global Perspective

Andrew Strathern
and
Pamela J. Stewart

Department of Anthropology
University of Pittsburgh

Carolina Academic Press
Durham, North Carolina
Contents

About the Authors vi
Acknowledgments vii

Chapter One  Introduction 3
Chapter Two  Regimens of Treatment: Humoral Systems (1) 11
Chapter Three  Humoral Systems (2): Papua New Guinea 35
Chapter Four  Curers and Healers: The Melpa 55
Chapter Five  Duna Ritual Practices and Healing 69
Chapter Six  Medical Pluralism 93
Chapter Seven  Illness and the Emotions 109
Chapter Eight  Ethnopsychiatry 115
Chapter Nine  Spiritual Healing: Charismatic Catholics 127
Chapter Ten  Airs, Waters, Places 137
Chapter Eleven  Fertility and Reproduction 153
Chapter Twelve  Communication: Doctors and Patients 171
Chapter Thirteen  Critical Medical Anthropology 185
Chapter Fourteen  Conclusions: Curing and Healing 191

Questions 197
References 205
About the Authors

Prof. Andrew Strathern and Dr. Pamela J. Stewart are a husband and wife research team who work in the Highlands (Hagen, Duna, and Pangia areas) of Papua New Guinea and the Lowlands (Ayrshire area) of Scotland.
Acknowledgments

We wish to thank Ms. Joan Paluzzi for assistance with the text of Chapter 2 on Latin American ideas and Ms. Leah Voors for help with the questions supplied in conjunction with each chapter. Both were supported through the Dean’s fund in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. Fieldwork among the Duna people of Papua New Guinea was supported partly by the Pitcairn-Crabbe Foundation, administered by the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Ms. Rachel Chapin-Paolone assisted with the typing of the manuscript. Parts of the manuscript were written while we were based at the Centre for Pacific Studies in the School of Anthropology and Archaeology, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia in mid-1998. The copy-edited text was finally checked while we were Visiting Senior Fellows at the International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden. We thank all of these institutions for their support, as well as a number of individual colleagues in the Medical Anthropology Discussion Group at the University of Pittsburgh for their interest in our project. Kaja Finkler also gave initial encouragement to proceed with the book. For all shortcomings we remain responsible.

Leiden, The Netherlands
December 1998