

# A Survey of Questionable Medical Devices

## Mark Banash

Dr. Banash received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania and his doctorate in the same science from Princeton University. He is currently pursuing an MBA at the University of Maryland, University College, studying valuation issues related to technology. He is Manager of eLearning at Millennium Chemicals in Hunt Valley, MD and producer of "The Funnt File," an SF radio series that often deals with skeptical themes.

Before medicine emerged as a science in the 19th century, people turned to any cure that offered relief as long as it appealed to their "common sense."

Unfortunately, such devices persist even into the present day. In this talk, Mark Banash will discuss several, spanning the range from the merely ineffective to the outright dangerous.

**Saturday, March 30**

**2:00-3:30pm**

**Silver Spring Library**

**Colesville Road**

**Silver Spring, Maryland**

about 4 blocks north of the Silver Spring Metro station

**Note:** Because of reconstruction at our usual meeting place, programs this season are scheduled at different locations and sometimes at different times than in the past. Please be careful that you check the correct location AND time for each meeting.



### National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series

FREE admission - Everyone welcome - members and non-members

For more information call the 24-hour NCAS Skeptic Line recording at (301) 587-3827

e-mail: [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org)

[www.ncas.org](http://www.ncas.org)



# Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

APRIL 2002

National Capital Area Skeptics presents

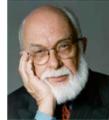
## SKEPTICISM 2002:

## BEYOND THE BASICS

April 6-7, 2002

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

Special Guest **James Randi**



Sure, you're a skeptic...you understand why **ASTROLOGY** belongs on the comics page and why **HOMEOPATHY** is watered-down medicine. You wouldn't touch **DOWSING** with a ten-foot rod.

But are you up to speed on the **MARS EFFECT**?

The latest in "**DIGITAL BIOLOGY**"?

**HIGH-TECH GIZMOS** based on **IDEOMOTOR ACTION** and marketed to law enforcement?

NCAS presents a workshop where you can delve into the advanced issues and most up-to-date twists on topics that just won't seem to go away. Speakers include Chip Denman, Jim Giglio, Paul Jaffe, Marv Zelkowitz, author of *Voodoo Science* **Bob Park**, and very special guest **James "the Amazing" Randi**.

Saturday, April 6, 9:30am - 5:00pm  
Sunday, April 7, 9 - noon

**Advance registration is required.**

Registration fee: \$40 -- includes conference fee and handouts

Please send name(s), address, telephone number, email and check for \$40 per person to:

**NCAS**  
PO Box 8428  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20907

**Hotel information -- please make hotel arrangements directly with hotel.**

Hilltop House Hotel, 400 East Ridge Street  
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425  
1-800-338-8319

Double: \$85/night per person, Single: \$105/night  
Hotel **INCLUDES** meals and snacks.

Guests registering for Friday & Saturday get Friday dinner, 3 meals Saturday, and Sunday breakfast/lunch.

Guests registering for Saturday only get dinner, and Sunday breakfast/lunch. Saturday lunch is an additional \$8. Conference attendees not staying in the Hilltop House should consult the hotel regarding meal options.



### National Capital Area Skeptics Weekend Workshop

Everyone welcome - members and non-members. Advance registration required. For more information call the 24-hour NCAS Skeptic Line recording at (301) 587-3827  
e-mail: [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org)  
[www.ncas.org](http://www.ncas.org)

NCAS is a 501(c)(3)

Space is limited and filling fast.

**Register today!**

### Election Time again

In the spring it is again time to hold elections for the NCAS Board of Directors. The Board consists of 16 members, half of whom are elected each year. If you would like to become involved in NCAS activities, send the Board a message to [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org) or call the NCAS line at 301-587-3827

### Randi's encyclopedia

NCAS has started a project to create an online version of Randi's encyclopedia "An Encyclopedia of Claims, Frauds and Hoaxes of the Occult and Supernatural." If you would like to help with the editing of the final version, send mail to [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org).

### Alternative realities

*Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 21-23.* Each year, the United States UFO Information and Research Center - [www.usufoirc.org](http://www.usufoirc.org), along with the newly founded ARC - Alternate Realities Center - [www.spiritofthearc.org](http://www.spiritofthearc.org) hosts a public awareness conference. The conference has been known as Ufology Day Picnic and Skywatch and the E.T. Conference, but this year the gathering will take on a new name- Alternate Realities Conf. - [www.etconference.org](http://www.etconference.org). As with conferences from year's past will be held once again in the traditional setting of Roan Mountain State Park located on the border of Tennessee and North Carolina in June 2002. This event encompasses the sharing of information of those who attend as well as the outdoor experience of Earth and the Earth energies.

### Time to Renew?

Check your mailing label. If the renewal date has passed, please send \$30 (for 1 person) or \$40 (for 2-member households) for a one-year renewal to the NCAS address below, or you will be dropped as a member.



**National Capital Area Skeptics**

**P.O. Box 8428**

**Silver Spring, Maryland 20907**

### NCAS Information:

Telephone: 301-587-3827

Email: [ncas@ncas.org](mailto:ncas@ncas.org)

Skeptical Eye submission: [S\\_Eye@ncas.org](mailto:S_Eye@ncas.org)

<http://www.ncas.org>