

INTERNAL NEWS

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European Committee for Homeopathy

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ECH CELEBRATES JUBILEE AT BRUGES AUTUMN MEETING

For 25 years homeopathic medical doctors, pharmacists, veterinarians and researchers, supported by patients and documenters, have been collaborating to promote Homeopathy all around Europe.

A special programme was created for the ECH Autumn meeting to celebrate the organisation's 25th Anniversary. The programme blended past and present, with contributions from the current ECH team, prominent past members, special guests and many representatives of the ECH subcommittees and member associations.

A symposium took place at Bruges' NH Hotel, entitled *Homeopathy in Europe – Opportunities and Challenges*. Ton Nicolai discussed ongoing activities relating to his role as coordinator for EUROCAM, an umbrella organisation for associations and practitioners of complementary medicine across Europe. He highlighted the power of shared lobbying and how it is supporting our cause when engaging with European policy makers. Klaus Von Amonn presented the work carried out by his Swiss institute IKOM, within the University of Bern, promoting homeopathy within the spectrum of integrative medicine. Mrs Annette Altenpohl, of the Austrian Standards Institute in Vienna, addressed work which was initiated by ECH. This work was done in collaboration with homeopathic mirror committees all around Europe, in order to set the CEN standards for the training and practice of medical doctors with additional qualification in homeopathy. She underlined the expected benefits of this process, and moved to address any cause for concern over a lack of awareness on the real scope of the project. Professor Duru, of the LA-SER group presented a summary of the EPI 3 Study, which has been conducted in France in recent years, with very positive results demonstrating the efficacy and the benefits of the homeopathic treatment for



Drs Jacques Imberechts, Ton Nicolai, Yves Maillé, Yves Faingnaert and Michel Van Wassenhoven awarded for their great commitment for ECH

patients suffering Upper Respiratory Tract Infection diseases, musculoskeletal disorders and anxiety-based sleeping problems. ECH president, Thomas Peinbauer presented the latest ECH publication – the book *ECH and medical Homeopathy in Europe – 1990-2015* – addressing both the achievements of these 25 past years and future projects and opportunities for medical homeopathy in Europe. You can have a look at the presentations here: <http://homeopathyeurope.org/media/event-publications/bruges-2015/>

Later in the evening, the string quartet Académie Sainte Cécile performed a concert in the Sint-Gillis church, playing pieces by Haydn, Onslow and Dvorak. The performance in the beautiful church building provided a suitable opportunity for reflection and prayers, helping to evoke a feeling of peace and European solidarity in the midst of the tragic events in Paris that weekend.

A communal gala dinner at a Flemish restaurant in the centre of Bruges brought this remarkable day to a close.

ECH SPRING MEETING 2016 TO TAKE PLACE IN VILNIUS, LITHUANIA – 15/16 APRIL



ECH's council and subcommittees will organise their spring meeting in Vilnius next April. Our host – Lietuvos Homeopatu Asociacija – our Lithuanian national member association, will take this opportunity to strengthen the links with all of our European members. The meeting will take place near the city centre, in the Grata Hotel.

Subcommittee sessions will be held on Friday and Saturday afternoon, and the Saturday morning will be dedicated to a common workshop on communications and public relations.

All those who would like to share their experiences and/or expectations in regards can get in contact with the ECH General Secretary and ECH Vice-president (respective emails: generalsecretary@homeopathyeurope.org and vicepresident@homeopathyeurope.org). All details regarding organisation and registration are handled by our secretariat, please get in contact if needed: info@homeopathyeurope.org

We very much look forward to meeting you next spring in Lithuania.

EUROPEAN CONGRESS FOR HOMEOPATHY 2016 IN VIENNA

The new European Congress for Homeopathy aims to explore the theme *Homeopathy – Individualised Medicine for all Ages – from the medical, veterinary, pharmacy and patient perspective*. Creating a platform for professionals from diverse fields shall enable them to interact, share and present aspects of their work. Internationally recognised experts will guarantee a high quality of public discourse. Different formats including keynote speeches, lectures, expert panels, workshops featuring ECH experts committees, and poster presentations will offer a varied program.

The first day of the convention will cover the theme of Homeopathy in Paediatrics & Young Animals with keynote speeches of:

- *New trends in conventional treatment of ADD/ADHD patients* by Prof. Manfred Doepfner, PhD, Department for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychosomatics and Psychotherapy, Medical Faculty of the University of Cologne, Germany
- *ADD/ADHD and Polarity Analysis: Tips and tricks for remedy determination and long-time treatment* by Dr. Heiner Frei MD, paediatrician, Laupen, Switzerland
- *Homeopathy as replacement of antibiotics: research design and Research: Prevention of neonatal diarrhoea in piglets* by Dr. Liesbeth Ellinger (Veterinarian), Apeldoorn, Holland
- *Cases of restless animals treated with Lac caprinum* by Edward De Beukelaer DVM, mrcvs, Marlborough, Great Britain.

Highlights of the second congress day on "Homeopathy in Adulthood & Adult Animals" focusing especially on the theme of cancer are

- *Homeopathy treatment and cure of cancer*, by Dr. med. Jens Wurster, Clinica St. Croce, Orselina, Switzerland
- *Experimental and clinical studies with potentised Arsenicum album* by Prof. Anisur R. Khuda-Bukhsh, Ph.D., Emeritus Professor University of Kalyani, India
- *The Homeopathic Treatment of Cancer in Horses* by Sue Armstrong MA VetMB VetMFHom CertIAVH MRCVS RSHom, Wetherby, United Kingdom
- *A proving of testosterone and human and veterinary cases* by Geoff Johnson MA VetMB MRCVS RSHom Vet FFHOM PCH, Wiveliscombe, United Kingdom.

The third day will cover the topics of Homeopathy in Old Age Humans and Animals & extra Symposia on Medical Pluralism, Homeopathic Pharmacy and The use of Suggestopaedia as a special teaching method in homeopathy, with key notes including, but not limited to:

- *Current state of play in homeopathy basic research* by Dr. Alexander Tournier, BScCantab PhD LCHE RSHom, HRI Executive Director and independent researcher, France,



- *Symposium on Homeopathic Pharmacy: Keynote speech: Availability and Regulatory affairs of Homeopathic Medicinal Products in Europe (HMPs), a special call for "homeopathic pharmacy"*
- *Workshop: Pharmaceutical compounding of Homeopathic Medicinal Products*
- *Homeopathy in Veterinary Pharmacy and Medicine will be presented by Dr. Agnes Dadak, Pharmacologist University of Vienna, Austria.*

As a special focus will be on the exchange of practical experience, the Congress also wants to encourage homeopathic doctors and veterinarians to present their experience. The call for abstracts has already started and submissions are due by Friday, April 29, 2016. Abstracts must be submitted electronically through the conference website – www.homeopathycongress.eu/2016/index.php/abstract-submission – where you will also find detailed information regarding the relevant topics, the complete criteria for acceptance and presentation guidelines.

Vienna will be the perfect place to celebrate 200 years of homeopathy in Central Europe, where Samuel Hahnemann stayed at the hospital of "Barmherzige Brüder" in 1777. Hosted at the Imperial Riding School Renaissance Vienna Hotel, located in the centre of Vienna, the most important national and European stakeholders in homeopathy will come together. An invitation from the Mayor to the spectacular Vienna City Hall for dinner will be a fantastic opportunity for networking. Registration will start mid-February 2016. www.homeopathycongress.eu/2016/index.php/registration.

We are looking forward to meeting you at the European Congress for Homeopathy 2016.

EUROPEAN CONGRESS FOR HOMEOPATHY

VIENNA
17-19 NOV
2016



THE AVAILABILITY OF HOMEOPATHIC REMEDIES IN EUROPE



Homeopathy is well known by patients and consumers in Europe and worldwide. It is booming – with an increasing presence of homeopathic medical products being well observed in the market.

But who knows about the direction of homeopathic pharmacy will take in future?

To create a special venue for information in homeopathic pharmacy, ECH Subcommittee pharmacy will present the main topics at Homeopathycongress Vienna in November 2016 for getting an impression about tendencies in "homeopathy in industry and pharmacy".

In April 2014, ECH acknowledged during the 2020 strategy meeting in London, that availability of remedies has become a serious concern. A Homeopathy 2020 Strategy proposal was presented at GA in Brussels 2014.

The complex topic of availability of homeopathic remedy exercised the minds of the Pharmacy subcommittee at the recent ECH Meeting in Bruges, after taking over the so called *Availability Report – A Strategic view on Safeguarding the Availability of Homeopathic Medicines within Europe*.

Several issues were identified, including:

- Quality considerations and availability of (correct) raw materials,
- The demand for new 'exotic' remedies as a result of new methods of practising homeopathy,
- Developments in legislation within the EU
- The emerging likelihood of some manufacturers withdrawing non-viable commercial stocks from the market.

It is the last point that has been the subject of particular concern to some European pharmacists, the implication being that patients would suffer due to a carefully repertorised remedy being unavailable. However, currently we do not know exactly which remedies could be affected and therefore how big a problem this might be.

It has been suggested that Remedy Bank could be set up to preserve stocks of so called 'important other remedies'.

The objective of Remedy Bank is to make available/keeping raw materials for the preparation of homeopathic remedies. Each pharmacy or producer, who is allowed to produce homeopathic medicinal products, it is required to start with a certified raw material/mother tincture. It could be a problem for pharmacies to buy a certified raw material in future. Remedy Bank produces mother tinctures/raw materials with certificate really for everyone, who is entitled to produce homeopathic medicines (Pharma companies and pharmacists). Remedy Bank is a cooperative, this means that everyone can buy (and sell) shares.

The other issues mentioned above are of equal importance in providing high quality remedies.

There is generally no way of identifying the pharmacopoeial standard being used to produce a particular remedy and there is considerable variation in plant species and part used in the various pharmacopoeias. A remedy could be available, but is it the right one? Is it the one that was used last time, but from a different supplier? Are two outlets supplying equivalent products made by using the same method? Labels should give an indication of the pharmacopoeia to assist in the availability of consistent products!

When EU legislation was first introduced it was hailed as an important step forward by most practitioners, but sadly the harmonisation that it promised was not quite so straightforward with interpretations varying across Member States. We must also be ever vigilant to ensure that Europe-wide and national changes in legislation do not hamper pharmacists in making remedies available. Increasingly, licensed homeopathic veterinary remedies are emerging in some countries, an interesting development, but with their own problems.

These, then, are the tricky issues associated with availability of homeopathic remedies in Europe. It would be of great assistance if colleagues experiencing difficulties contact the Pharmacy subcommittee with full details of the remedies concerned.

Steven B. Kayne

Ilse Muchitsch, Coordinator SC pharmacy

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE: ALSO THINK LIKE PATIENTS – 'OUTSIDE THE BOX'

SUPPLEMENT TO THE RAND QUESTIONNAIRE BY ECH, DECEMBER 2015



The RAND survey about antimicrobial resistance (AMR) enquires about the opinion of and the effectiveness of the EU action plan on AMR. The users and professionals involved in complementary/alternative medicine (CAM), including homeopathy, had no part in this action plan.

Therefore, our response to the RAND survey requires extensive explanation. In our opinion homeopathy is, and has been for a long time already, a relevant solution for AMR, highly valued by patients, but neglected by governments.

At the Commission's Joint Conference on AMR of December 2013 experts agreed that key elements in fighting AMR are taking a holistic approach, ensuring that all key players carry out their responsibilities, and global cooperation. Reading the 'Progress report on the Action plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance', however, we notice that the Commission does not think 'outside the box', while millions of patients use complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), also for their problems with AMR. In that respect the action plan is not holistic. We have known about the threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) for decades now, in this short history of 70 years of antibiotics. Still, solutions like new antibiotics and reduction of improper use of antibiotics are so far not very successful. Of course, such efforts should continue, but the immense threat of AMR and the slow progress of the evident solutions are reasons to think 'outside the box' too. This may meet considerable practical and emotional hurdles, but there is a compass available in the form of practical experience in millions of patients and tens of thousands of doctors.

Millions of patients use CAM for complaints that do not respond well to conventional medicine, like recurrent infections. In Europe about 145,000 doctors follow this need and practice CAM. The large majority of these doctors practice acupuncture and homeopathy. There are 45,000 doctors practicing homeopathy in Europe and Respiratory Tract Infections (RTI) is one of the most frequently treated conditions in homeopathy. RTI is also one of the most frequent reasons for prescribing antibiotics. Other recurrent infections – not responding to conventional medicine – are also a frequent reason for consulting a homeopathic practitioner.

Homeopathy is indeed 'outside the box' of conventional medicine because we do not yet understand how it works. Some say it cannot work. That is incorrect: it cannot work like conventional medicines via a medicine-receptor model, because homeopathic medicines are stepwise diluted (also applying succussion) to a degree that makes this mechanism of action highly improbable. Another mechanism of action though may be possible. Such an unknown mechanism of action may lead to new opportunities. In the experience of doctors and patients using homeopathy it indeed works differently in several respects:

- In a chronic condition the effect builds up slowly over weeks to months.
- A homeopathic medicine cannot be prescribed solely by medical condition; it has to fit the patient, not only the specific complaint.
- The effect of a homeopathic medicine extends to several complaints in the same patient.
- There may be an initial aggravation of complaints, but serious adverse effects are rare.
- The same homeopathic medicines have been used for infections all over the world for two centuries; no resistance has developed as yet.

Observational research confirms that homeopathy is often applied after conventional medicines have failed for several years and in conditions where antibiotics are used. Despite the chronicity of complaints there is considerable satisfaction and long-term benefit. Observational studies and randomised controlled trials confirm that the method is safe despite its effectiveness.

The critic on homeopathy refers mainly to implausibility, has hardly changed over two centuries and ignores scientific developments in the fields of thermodynamics, biology and information science which occurred in the second half of the twentieth century. The fact that homeopathy is often applied after conventional medicine failed and the differences mentioned above indicate that homeopathy is complementary to conventional medicine. It does not seem to fit in the conventional paradigm. The present infrastructure for research is strongly connected to the conventional paradigm, but AMR is a good reason to question the completeness of this paradigm.

The Progress report on the Action plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance (2015) states: *"The up-to-date and evidence-based medicinal product information should be one of the key elements supporting an appropriate use of antimicrobials"*. In this answer to the RAND consultation we want to present the evidence for homeopathy and our suggestions to apply homeopathy to fight AMR.

Medical doctors with additional qualification in homeopathy use less antibiotics (Grimaldi-Bensouda et al., 2014). There is also evidence that homeopathy reduces the use of antibiotics in farming (Camerlink, Ellinger, Bakker, & Lantinga, 2010). It is stated that the effect of homeopathy is solely due to context effects, because of implausibility, but there is evidence from randomised controlled trials (RCTs) that homeopathy works better than placebo (context).

This evidence is contested, but so is much evidence in conventional medicine. At first, several independent scientists acknowledged that proof for homeopathy by RCT is not inferior to proof for conventional medicine (Kleijnen, Knipschild, & ter Riet, 1991)(Linde et al., 1997)(Vandenbroucke, 1998). There is one review comparing homeopathy trials with conventional trials that does not disprove this (Shang et al., 2005). Later reviews concluded negatively; this was based on post-hoc selection of trials, see appendix. Hitherto there is no evaluation of all combined evidence (RCT, fundamental research, observational research). Only the RCT evidence is evaluated repeatedly and subjective circular reasoning is apparent: "It does not work because it cannot work". Nobody can tell what and how much evidence is needed for 'recognition,' resulting in acceptance by the majority of doctors and the usual infrastructure for research. CAM and homeopathy are not included in the ARNA and ARPEC projects. It would be a waste to ignore the vast amount of information (practical experience, clinical and fundamental research) about treating infections with homeopathy that already lies on the shelf.

The reproducibility of homeopathy offers an interesting opportunity to explore other ways of thinking. Recent developments in genetics result in personalised medicine: the therapy should not only fit the medical condition, but also the genotype. It is acknowledged that all personal characteristics and symptoms can influence outcome of disease and therapy. Homeopathy has a long tradition exploring the relationship between phenotype and medicine: the homeopathic medicine should fit the personal characteristics and symptoms, not only the complaint.

Homeopathy can be applied to reduce the use of antibiotics, but also in treating the patients with drug-resistant bacteria (causing about 25,000 human deaths annually). Even in severe sepsis additional value of homeopathy has been proven (Frass et al., 2005). For the patients with drug-resistant bacteria there is no solution in the near future, except CAM solutions like homeopathy.

Applying homeopathy to reduce the use of antibiotics opens new perspectives, but also introduces new challenges because of the 'outside the box' elements in the method. The most important challenge is to meet the individualised character of the prescription of a homeopathic medicine. This should be expressed in research and in the skill of prescribers. Developing methods for research in individualised medicine is necessary for the recently developed need for individualised (personalised) conventional medicine. Another challenge is to spread the use of homeopathy.

In daily practice homeopathy may offer the following solutions for reducing AMR:

1. Medical doctors with additional qualification in homeopathy often treat patients with recurrent infections to reduce the number of episodes.
2. Involve doctors with additional qualification in homeopathy in the treatment of infections with drug-resistant bacteria.
3. Assist doctors in applying homeopathy for delayed prescription of antibiotics by computer algorithms to make a personalised homeopathic prescription.
4. Develop and evaluate the applicability of homeopathic medicinal products in daily practice to prevent non-prudent use of antibiotics and to assist delayed prescribing of antibiotics.
5. Promote homeopathic medicinal products as a safe alternative for self-medication to prevent non-prudent use of antimicrobial agents in self-medication.
6. Apply homeopathy in farming by training farmers in using homeopathy.

Dr. Lex Rutten, scientific committee

HOMEOPATHY IN THE UK: DEFENDING ITS PLACE IN THE NHS

H O M E O P A T H Y

In the UK we anticipate that 2016 will be a critical year for the future of homeopathy services in the National Health Service (NHS). Homeopathy treatment is under attack from those who wish to see it removed from the NHS. In response to these threats, organisations such as the British Homeo-

pathic Association (BHA), 4Homeopathy, and patients' groups are uniting to defend the right of patients to have access to homeopathy within the NHS.

Homeopathic treatment in the NHS is delivered through homeopathic hospitals, and several homeopathic clinics. In 1948, when the NHS was established, there were five homeopathic hospitals. One has since closed because its funding was withdrawn. But two of the four remain as hospitals: The Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine, and the NHS Glasgow Centre for Integrative Care. The other two, Liverpool and Bristol, have changed into non-profit clinics, which receive NHS funding through patient referrals. To receive homeopathic treatment at a hospital or one of the clinics, the patient needs a referral from their General Practitioner (GP) or specialist.

Patients are now facing increased difficulty in obtaining an NHS referral. In 2013 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) came into existence and are responsible at a local level for planning and purchasing hospital and many of the community-based services. Pressure to refuse homeopathy referrals and withdraw funding for homeopathy has come from the so-called 'sceptics' who criticise any NHS expenditure on homeopathy, claiming there is no evidence of its effectiveness. The most prominent of these groups, known as the Good Thinking Society, is currently threatening CCGs with legal action if they continue to fund homeopathy.

In Scotland, the Lothian Health Board withdrew funding from the Lothian homeopathic clinic. Although a patient challenged this decision and sought a judicial review, a Judge has upheld the decision. A campaign by the Good Thinking Society (GTS) in Liverpool challenged the CCG's decision to spend £30k (out of its annual £840 million health budget) on the Liverpool Medical Homeopathy Service, a service provided by Faculty of Homeopathy doctors. The Liverpool CCG responded by conducting a public consultation process seeking the views of local people about the homeopathy service. The consultation has just concluded and, whatever the outcome, it appears that the GTS is prepared to threaten CCGs with lawsuits resulting in costly public consultations on whether the relatively small expenditure on homeopathy is justified.

To add to these pressures, the Department of Health has announced its intention to hold a consultation this year on whether to "blacklist" homeopathic medicines from the NHS – i.e. putting them on the list of drugs which GPs cannot prescribe.

New strategies for supporting NHS homeopathy

Despite the seriousness of these threats, there are some grounds for optimism as there has been an encouraging growth of organisations working in partnership to defend homeopathy. Alongside patient groups mobilising to support their local provision, homeopathic organisations have joined together as 4Homeopathy (4H) to coordinate responses to the attacks, as well as promote wider awareness of homeopathy and the research evidence on its effectiveness. 4H was set up in 2011, initially with seven of the UK's major homeopathy organisations including the BHA, Society of Homeopaths, Alliance of Registered Homeopaths, Homeopathy Action Trust, Friends of the Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine, Faculty of Homeopathy, Homeopathic Medical Association. It is now made up of 11 organisations, including vets and pharmacists. This collaboration is vital to ensure that there is a united and quick response to negative media coverage.

The very effective use of social media – Twitter, Facebook and YouTube – by 4H means that its message can now reach a larger audience of existing and potential supporters, including young people. The bold and easily identifiable 4H logo [electronic version attached in email for publication] has been a great success, and other homeopathic organisations have applied to use it or use resources developed by 4Homeopathy. Keen to ensure homeopathy's place in healthcare in Europe and worldwide, 4H is happy to share useful information with countries in need.

The website – www.findahomeopath.org.uk – provides a valuable source for patients to find a homeopathic practitioner. Another innovative social media initiative has been Homeopathy Worked for Me, which has given patients a platform to communicate their experiences of homeopathy. A growing number of celebrities have supported this initiative by talking openly about their positive experiences.

The NHS and decision-making bodies in the UK respond to patient pressure. Some Members of Parliament feel practitioners have a vested financial interest in continuation of homeopathy treatments being offered in the UK. Therefore it is vital that leadership comes from patients' organisations and that practitioners support patients' campaigns to retain services. Within 4H all stakeholders share information and ensure the widest response possible to public consultations.

The NHS as a whole is in financial crisis and homeopathy is not the only target for attacks. GPs are leaving in large numbers, and junior doctors are currently preparing to strike. Everywhere health budgets are facing cuts. But against this background, defence of NHS homeopathy is vital. If patients were to be deprived of access to treatment within the NHS, only those who can afford to pay would be able to receive treatment privately. The stakes are very high, but there is now a united approach to working together to maintain homeopathy where it belongs – in the NHS.

Jennifer Hurstfield, EFHPA

Cristal Sumner, Chief Executive BHA & Faculty of Homeopathy

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSOCIATION OF HOMEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS IN BULGARIA

On 7 and 8 November 2015 our association celebrated its 20th Anniversary. The Managing board decided to mark the occasion with a special event, which would be memorable.

'Homeopathy through the Time' was chosen as the slogan, as it provides a link between the success and durability of the AHPB and the longevity of homeopathy itself. Similar reasoning was used in selecting the Haberlea Rhodopensis as our symbol – this is a unique flower, which can only be found in the Rhodope Mountains (in Bulgaria and Greece). It is known more commonly as the Orpheus flower and can survive for more than three years without water. (www.iucnredlist.org/details/165162/0)

We deemed it necessary to have a colour to signify AHPB's events from now on, so opted for turquoise, a colour which is symbolic for creativity, energy, emotional balance and tranquillity. AHPB have also produced a calendar for 2016, featuring images and quotes of renowned homeopaths and revered Bulgarians who spoke in favour of homeopathy in the 19th century. We hope this will provide a continuous source of inspiration throughout the year.

As far as the event itself is concerned, the first day was dedicated to the success of Bulgarian homeopathy – research, scientific and practical papers in human, veterinary and dental medicine; provings, done in homeopathic students groups. On the second day, we were joined by our special guest, Dr. Bettina Baltacis, a neonatologist and homeopath from Vienna, Austria, who kindly shared her experience with Bulgarian homeopaths, paediatricians and neonatologists.

The event was attended by a large number of homeopathic doctors (GPs and paediatricians) as well as all individuals who have been a part of the AHPB for the past 20 years and helped us along the way. We were delighted that our guests represented a broad range of professions, including dentists, veterinarians and pharmacists, from renowned hospitals and university clinics.

For the first time we had a great deal of sponsors, but we owe a special mention to Dr Nonna Petrova, the DHU representative in Bulgaria and member of ECHAMP. DHU's support during the last nine years has allowed us to provide educational and informational seminars for doctors and the general public about classical homeopathy and we are pleased to continue working together.

Proceedings were concluded with cocktails, birthday cake, and a concert performed by a famous Bulgarian singer, giving everybody

the chance to dance together; a fitting way to end the celebrations. It capped one of the best conferences we have organised so far in terms of quality of presentations, organisation, mood, and number of participants (with excellent overall feedback). Many participants gave us feedback saying that they received very useful and inspiring information during the two days, which is extremely satisfying to hear.

We would also like to thank our colleagues from ECH Politics and Education Subcommittees for sending us our congratulations, with individual congratulations and respective logos. We had a special place for them and everybody had the chance to read the letters of congratulation and well-wishes. The official letter we received from ECH, signed by all members of ECH, was greatly appreciated. Thank you, Hélène, for organising it.

The conference was widely and successfully publicised beforehand, with all credit owed to Vania Slavova, who oversees PR for the Association.

About the Association of Homeopathic Physicians in Bulgaria

AHPB unites medical doctors with additional qualification in homeopathy – medical doctors, dental doctors and veterinary doctors. It was founded in 1995 and in the same year it became a member of ECH. AHPB has been a member of LMHI since 2002 and associated member of the Bulgarian Medical Association since 2010. There is active communication between the Association and the Health institutions in Bulgaria – Ministry of Health, Bulgarian Medical Association, National Centre of Public Health and Analyses, as well as with the patient's organisations. The members of the Association are participating in international clinical and scientific research projects.

AHPB is actively promoting homeopathy to the medical practitioners as well as the general public and has been organising annual Homeopathy Awareness Weeks since 2008. Throughout the years there have been public lectures in different Bulgarian cities, free consultations for patients, press conferences and participation in TV programs. AHPB has achieved very good media coverage.

AHPB is an active member of ECH, involved mainly in educational and political issues. We very much appreciate the valuable help we have received from Jacques Imberechts, Michel van Wassenhoven, Ton Nikolai, Ulrich Fisher, Thomas Peinbauer, Sara Eames, Leopold Drexler, etc. in dealing with our authorities on a number of occasions.

Last, but not least I would like to thank the members of our managing board who worked wholeheartedly for this 20 years anniversary.

Sofia, 12.01.2016, Dora Pachova



Photo left: 160 Participants; Photo right: The Managing board of AHPB: From left to right on the picture Dimitrina Atanasova, Miroslava Pepeldzhiyska, Kalina Devetakova, Marinela Kornel, Georgi Hadjiev, Iskra Kapincheva, Dora Pachova, Desislava Nikolova – homeopathic student and her child – may be a future student.

SYMPOSIUM OF THE SPANISH MEDICAL COUNCIL ON HOMEOPATHY



*Vicente Baos, Juan Martínez Hernández, Sergio Aabanades, Juan Antonio Alonso y María Esmeralda Cuaresma.
photo: Cristina Cebrián. Madrid*

The Spanish Medical Council (OMC) organised a one day Symposium on Homeopathy in Madrid on 30 October. It was chaired by the President of OMC and included presentations on homeopathic history, research, legislation, clinical practice and ethics. All Spanish medical homeopathic associations were represented as well as sceptics. Some of the key topics raised and contributors during the day included:

- Dr Abanades León, pharmacologist and member of the Barcelona Medical Homeopathic Academy (AMHB), presented an overview of homeopathic research and referred to body of more than 1,800 scientific papers published of in vitro, in vivo and epigenetic effects of homeopathic medicines.

- Dr Cuaresma Lasheras, Professor of the Master of Pharmaceutical Drugs Registration of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, highlighted the contribution of toxicology and clinical research to homeopathy.
- Dr González-Carvajal, President of Spanish Federation of Homeopathic Medical Doctors, reviewed the history of homeopathy in Spain from 1829 to present. She mentioned the homeopathic hospitals of Madrid and Barcelona, the large number of prestigious medical doctors who have embraced homeopathy and the numerous scientific publications on homeopathy.
- Dr Fernández Quiroga, Director of the Homeopathic Medicine Master of Barcelona University, stated that there is only one medicine which should have as its main aim the wellbeing of the patient. He underlined that homeopathy is a medical practice and that there is need for professional and training standards. He also invited the audience to browse the ECH website and informed them of the WHO Strategy on Traditional Medicine.

The President of the OMC, Dr Rodríguez Sendín, reminded participants that medical doctors have a duty to treat their colleagues with respect. He stated that one of the main roles of the OMC is to protect all medical fields and their respective professionals. The President of the OMC concluded that openness of mind and doubt are the prerequisites for the progression of all sciences, including medical sciences.

More information can be found at:

- www.amhb.org/noticias/videos-jornada-debate-sobre-homeopatia-omc/
- www.cgcom.es/sites/default/files/u183/Jornada%20Homeopat%C3%ADa_30_10_15.pdf
- www.redaccionmedica.com/noticia/los-mdicos-homeopatas-piden-respeto-al-resto-de-sus-colegas-89419

CATALAN MEDICAL SCIENCES ACADEMY WELCOMES HOMEOPATHY

The Medical Sciences Academy of Catalonia and the Balearic Islands (ACMCB), which is the umbrella organisation for many medical scientific societies, accepted the Medical Homeopathic Academy of Barcelona (AMHB) as an associated member last April.

This represents an outstanding achievement for AMHB, which, for 125 years has been promoting the values of excellence and professionalism in medical homeopathy. It is also the culmination of long and intense lobbying, resulting in the medical scientific societies voting in favour of homeopathy by a narrow margin of 13-12. The letter from Dr Thomas Peinbauer, President of the ECH, to the President of the ACMCB expressing support for homeopathy was very well received.

The AMHB has set up a programme of lectures to disseminate homeopathy among the members of the ACMCB. The first one on *Accident and Emergency Medicine and Homeopathic Remedies* was given by Dr Mateu Ratera, former president of the AMHB



and author of the book *First Aid with Homeopathy*, which has been published in English, French, German, Spanish and Catalan.

More information available at:

- www.academia.cat/
- www.academia.cat/Portal/societats-adherides/Llistat_Societats_adherides/_EPAGONEFmqOQi8-iRvgWA#
- www.amhb.org/noticias/inici-cicle-sessions-cliniques-acmcb/

HOMEOPATHY IN EUROPE – THE NEW ECH ANNIVERSARY BOOK



Since 1990 the European Committee for Homeopathy (ECH) has carved out a role as a leading think tank and patron of medical homeopathy at European level. In celebration of its 25th anniversary, ECH has gathered contributions from a total of 30 guest authors with the aim of assessing the current situation of homeopathy in Europe and its practitioners. This book traces the remarkable evolution of a lobby group which, true to the motto of "United in Diversity," has brought together people from many different linguistic and cultural backgrounds in pursuit of a common goal: building a shared future for homeopathy in Europe.

As well as examining the recent history of homeopathy, the publication investigates its possibilities, opportunities and successes, and identifies the key issues which have dominated recent public debate in the field. The historical development of the ECH and the successes and challenges it has experienced since its establishment are considered alongside the strategic goals which this lobby group has set for its future, while the diversity of the authors provides a variety of perspectives on the science of homeopathy and opens up potential avenues for future action. This exploration of homeopathy as it is practised in the various European countries is aimed at both professionals and interested laypeople. A selection of articles can be downloaded from the new ECH website (homeopathyeurope.org/media/publications/homeopathy-in-europe).

The book can be ordered from the ECH secretariat (info@homeopathyeurope.org).

NEXT LMHI CONGRESSES



71ST LMHI CONGRESS 24-27 AUGUST BUENOS AIRES – ARGENTINE

Sheraton Libertador Hotel, Av. Cordoba 690 (1054) Buenos Aires – Medicine of Microcosm

In the history of knowledge there is a rich tradition regarding the representation of man as reflection of the Universe. Therefore, man is substantially a "small world" in his psycho-physical constitution and carries within himself the information of the three kingdoms. The disease is expressed in the human microcosm, which gives voice to the substance. Homeopathy is the therapy that uses substances from each kingdom and is capable of achieving the balance of the human microcosm.

<http://lmhi2016.com.ar/>



72ND LMHI HOMEOPATHIC WORLD CONGRESS LEIPZIG 2017

**Networking in Medical Care –
Collaboration for the benefit of the patient
14–17 June 2017, Leipzig Congress Hall, Germany**

The German Association of Homeopathic Physicians takes great pleasure in inviting you to the 72nd Congress of the Homeopathic World Medical Congress of the Liga Medicorum Homeopathica Internationalis, LMHI. The LMHI Congress 2017 will be the next homeopathic world medical congress held on the European continent.

www.lmhi-congress-2017.de/

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