



LIGA NEWS

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International Homeopathy Day 2013

LMHI promotes homeopathy in Bogotá, Colombia



LMHI President Dr José Matuk, Dr Carlos Riveros Gomez, NVP for Colombia, and LMHI Secretary for Archives Dr Edgar Godoy (f.l.t.r.)

The International Homeopathy Day (IHD) 2013 was celebrated with an International Symposium on “Homeopathy in the 21st Century” in Bogotá, Colombia, on 13 April 2013. The conference was organized by the LMHI member association “Fundación Instituto Colombiano de Homeopatía Luis G. Páez”, a university college foundation of homeopathic medicine that looks back on more than one hundred years of tradition and has trained generations of homeopathic physicians and veterinarians. The academic symposium dealt with theoretical and practical aspects of clinical homeopathy and took place in the presence of National Government delegates, Health Authorities, and representatives from Colombia’s Medical Education Associations and Homeopathic Medical Schools, such as FUNHOM, ASCOHOM, AMHUS, Institute Dr. Juan de Dios Hahnemannian Pinzon, and Fundación Universitaria Juan N. Corpas. The LMHI was represented by its President Dr José Matuk Kanan (Mexico) who spoke about the “Homeopathic Principles of the LIMHI” and by Dr Edgar Godoy, LMHI Secretary for Archives (Ecu-

Dear LMHI Members,
Dear Friends,

Another term of office in our dear and beloved LMHI is almost completed and it fills us with satisfaction and pride to have served with unconditional devotion to the purposes of our association in this past triennium. Behind us lies a period in which we have been faced with important challenges in different parts of the world. Despite positive and negative developments, we can draw a positive balance. Many countries in Latin America have achieved official recognition of their schools from their national governments. We know of others that are on track to be recognized, such as Mexico, Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia. This recognition not only applies to teaching but also to the inclusion of homeopathy in the national health systems. In Mexico, we now have the refurbished National Homeopathic Hospital, which for us is an example of the development of homeopathy in our country. On the global level, we have realized major changes. The LMHI moved its official address to the City of Köthen in Germany and has its new home in the internationally famous Hahnemann House at Wallstraße 48. The constant updating of our

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dor), whose lecture was titled "Homeopathic Integral Clinic". Among the national speakers were Dr Adriana Osorio, Dr Isabel Cristina Finch, Dr Fabio Gonzalez, Dr Nestor Calderon, Dr Mario Acosta, Dr Alberto Zarate, Luis Fernando Vargas and Dr Carlos Rugeles.

Matuk highlighted in his remarks that "the fusion of different organizations for this 'World Day of Homeopathy' has demonstrated the binding commitment of homeopathic physicians in Colombia." The ceremony was broadcast in the media and Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos supported the IHD celebration, which culminated with a music presentation and a wine reception, by sending a message of greeting.

The IHD 2013 program overview can be downloaded from the LMHI website-section "In Focus" at <http://liga.iwmh.net/index.php?menuid=93&repreid=304>.

Developing and Securing Homeopathy Worldwide

The LMHI International Homeopathy Day (IHD) takes place every year on the occasion of Samuel Hahnemann's birthday on 10 April 1755 to promote homeopathy in the public awareness. It was initiated by the LMHI in association with the European Committee for Homeopathy (ECH) and held for the first time in Slovenia (2010), followed by Croatia (2011), and Turkey (2012). The personal presence of executive LMHI representatives and their political support have proven an important tool in gaining respect from the national governments. "In these projects, the LMHI fulfils its purpose of developing and securing homeopathy worldwide – as stipulated in its *Statutes*".

Back to the roots of homeopathy

LMHI has new seat in the house of Samuel Hahnemann in Köthen



Dr. Karl-Heinz Gebhardt, Chairman of the Hahnemann House Society, recalls the history of the Hahnemann House



Köthen's Lord Mayer Klaus-Jürgen Zander receives LMHI Plaque

High-ranking Germany officials, among them the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Science and Economic Affairs of Saxony-Anhalt and Köthen's Lord Mayor Kurt-Jürgen Zander, and more than 50 guests from all around the world, including India, Bangladesh, Japan, Turkey, and Serbia, as well as from Belgium, Austria and the Netherlands, attended the ceremonial event on 16 March 2013 that was hosted by the LMHI.

Lord Mayor Zander proudly characterized Köthen as "homeopathic hub" and emphasized that "Köthen is proud and honoured to be, from now on, the statutory seat of the LMHI". Köthen once provided Samuel Hahnemann with the freedom to develop his doctrine. The city's particular affiliation with homeopathy was reinforced in 2010 when Köthen took part in the International Building Exhibition on "Urban Redevelopment" and the guiding principles of homeopathy were successfully applied to town planning for the very first time.

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website has contributed to enhancing our global presence and the image that we enjoy in the public. We proudly highlight the strong increase in website traffic as an indicator of the interest in our network. The hardwork of our Executive Committee and National Representatives has enabled progress in the LMHI. The important activities in the area of Research, Education, Outreach, Publications, Dentistry and Pharmacy have made this organization a challenge and an example to many in the world.

The celebration of the International Homeopathy Day 2013 in Bogotá, Colombia, has not only shown once again how LMHI countries can contribute to the strengthening of our medical science, but also that such joint events have a binding effect by uniting different national organization and may thus be helpful for a positive development on the national level. Congratulations Colombia!

The upcoming elections at the International Council Meeting in Quito will lead to changes in the Executive Board and make it even more cosmopolitan. With candidates from all continents – Europe, America, Africa and Asia – the LMHI remains the pillar of many global partnerships and will be able to perform activities in the different parts of the world and to provide guidance and support to our members' organizations.

Enjoy reading this newsletter and hope to see you in Quito!

Dr. Jose Matuk
LMHI President



*LMHI Past President
Ulrich D. Fischer welcomes
the guests in his opening
speech*



*LMHI President
Dr. José Matuk came all
the way from Mexico*



*DZVhÄ President
Cornelia Bajic*



*Dr. Thomas Peinbauer,
ECH President (Austria)*

The joyful celebration attracted an extraordinary media interest with headlines ranging from “Small Koethen becomes world capital of homeopathy” and “Koethen – the new mecca of homeopathy”. Inside and outside the Hahnemann House, an LMHI memory plaque was mounted to remind visitors of this special historical date.

From 1821 to 1835, Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy, lived and practiced in “Wallstraße 47” and it is here

where he wrote his work “Chronic Diseases” in 1828. The Hahnemann House Society has extensively restored his former residence.

A picture gallery and press review of the LMHI Celebration in Koethen on 16 March 2013 is available at <http://liga.iwmh.net/index.php?menuid=49&reporeid=303>.

Homeopathy under attack I

United States: Lawsuits against homeopathic products

Homeopathic medicines are protected as legal drugs under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C) at the federal level in the United States. However, the attempt to eliminate them is coming at the state level. Unlike conventional drugs, homeopathic medicines do not have to undergo the Food and Drug Administration’s new drug approval process. Pre-market authorization for homeopathic medicines comes from the *Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States (HPUS)* monograph, which involves clinical verification of the efficacy of the substance. Despite federal law, however, the presence of an *HPUS* monograph has not protected homeopathic products from several lawsuits filed under California’s consumer protection law. This is creating an environment of uncertainty and could threaten the marketing of these products in California and other states.

In 2012, the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, approved a settlement agreement in a class action lawsuit against Boiron Inc. The agreement has provided \$5 million in refunds to consumers who purchased certain homeopathic products, including Oscillo, Arnicare, Chestal and Coldcalm. Boiron also agreed to change its labeling and add a disclaimer, as well as provide additional information on homeopathic dilution to its customers. The suit “Gallucci v. Boiron” alleged the world’s leading homeopathic manufacturer made false claims regarding more than twenty-four homeopathic products, that they could effectively

treat ailments such as the flu, arthritis, sore joints, joint pain, aches, fever, coughs, insomnia or sleeplessness. Ignoring the principles of homeopathy, the plaintiffs also argued that Boiron’s products are so diluted that they are “effectively nonexistent” and are thus like placebo or sugar pills. “This is similar to saying that because homeopathic preparations are not like standard drugs, they are fraudulent – exactly the kind of claim that federal protection under the FD&C Act was designed to prevent”, critics of the settlement argue. Two other class actions in California were filed against Hyland’s and Standard Homeopathy, alleging the companies marketed their homeopathic products as having health benefits while knowing the products had no active ingredients in amount sufficient enough to cause any beneficial actions. The suits also accuse the defendants of violating the Consumer Legal Remedies Act, the Unfair Competition Law and the Unfair Advertising Law, as well as breach of express warranty, implied warranty of merchantability, and money had and received, money paid and unjust enrichment. The companies successfully won dismissal of the unjust enrichment charge, but the others were kept up. According to the American Association of Homeopathic Pharmacists (AAHP) cases like these are unlikely to damage the reputation and viability of the homeopathic industry, and settling such lawsuits does not give allegations such as “no active ingredients to deliver benefits” any weight or credence.

Homeopathy under attack II

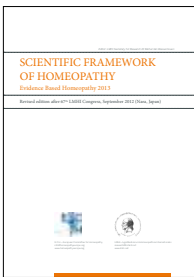
Brazil: “Media Circus” about homeopathy

Brazilian homeopaths have to deal, once again, with an attack from the media. On 30 April 2013, the popular magazine *Revista Época* published a full-page article titled “The Madness of Homeopaths” (A loucura dos homeopatas) by Walcyr Carrasco, a journalist and author of popular books, plays and television soap operas, in which he called homeopaths “irresponsible” and even “lunatics” because of their position against mass vaccination. Homeopathy, Carrasco concluded, is not a science. Dr Francisco Vilella,

President of the Brazilian Medical Homeopathic Association (AMHB) and the LMHI’s National Vice-President (NVP) for Brazil, and Dr Geraldo Ribeiro Brown, LMHI Secretary for Dentistry are now working with the LMHI on strategies how to react to such popular press attacks. Sara Eames, NVP for the UK and head of the LMHI Public Relations Team, emphasized that evidenced-based argument is the best way to deal with such “media circus”.

LMHI Research Publications

Scientific Framework of Homeopathy - Evidenced Based Homeopathy 2013



The revised edition incorporates the update information after the 67th LMHI Congress in September 2012 in Nara, Japan. The joint publication of LMHI and ECH (European Committee for Homeopathy) is aimed at considering all important aspects of the scientific framework of homeopathic practice including ethical questions, evaluation of daily practice and looks

at the level of scientific evidence of each of these aspects. The important conclusion is that homeopathy has to stay in the framework of medical practice and is a necessity for public health and therefore calls for more research.

The importance of clinical verification of homeopathic is historical but even more important to validate “modern” homeopathic practice, the similarity law and the individualization rule including a global view on the patient. An unconfirmed proving symptom that never was verified by clinical data cannot yet be considered as useful for homeopathic practice. We want to stress that this kind of research is meant first to improve homeopathy. Our proposal aims to gather data without interfering with daily practice accepting a lack of control mechanisms. Participants in this research should realize that biased observation has a negative influence on the quality of the data.

Second edition of LMHI Guidelines for a Homeopathic Drug Proving



Homeopathic drug proving is essential in the development of the homeopathic art of cure. After clinical verification of the collected symptoms, it provides a necessary tool to find the most appropriate remedy for the patient. Many theories, methods and protocols have been established. Meanwhile ethical and legal requirements have become more and more

important (Declaration of Helsinki, ICH Guidelines January 1997). A homeopathic drug proving (HDP) is nowadays considered to be a clinical trial, as such these Guidelines are based on the ICH “Note for Guidance on Good Clinical Practice” (CPMP/ICH/135/95). Guidelines are not strict rules but will ensure that all relevant items necessary for a homeopathic proving respecting Good Clinical Practice (GCP) are taken into account. It will help also to obtain comparable results from provings of a same medicine in different places in the world.

Third edition of LMHI Guidelines on Clinical Verification of Homeopathic Symptoms

Systematic clinical data collection must match contemporary reality as a whole. The aim of these guidelines is to promote convergence in the publications on verification of homeopathic symptoms. The proposed data collection system has to be flexible and accessible manually or by information technology. The ultimate objective of this proposal is to use an automatic information system allowing collection, recording, extraction, processing, interpretation, evaluation and communication. This system must allow verification of symptoms from remedy provings as well as clinical symptoms, which will never originate from pathogenetic trials. Clinical data collection and classification systems must respect the ‘essence’ of homeopathic practice, the law of similars.

The publications are available on the LMHI website at <http://liga.iwmh.net/index.php?menuid=95>.

Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, India

CCRH publication provides reference of homeopathic research conducted by Indian scientists

A new publication entitled "Homoeopathy – Science of Gentle Healing" by the Indian Government, Department of AYUSH/Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, traces the development of homeopathy and its successful institutionalization in India. The chapter on research and development provides a ready reference to the studies of some published clinical and basic research studies conducted by Indian scientists. The publication has been developed through a consultative process involving

numerous experts and peers in the field and would be a useful resource for policy makers, researchers, academicians, practitioners and students. Your valuable feedback is welcome, please respond to Dr. R.K. Manchanda, CCRH Director General, rkmanchanda@gmail.com.

The E-book is available in html-format on the CCRH website www.ccrhindia.org\dossier\index.html free of charge.

8th annual ICCMR Congress: New results of research on homeopathic medicines

Can water possibly have a memory?

Report by LMHI Secretary for Research, Dr Michel van Wassenhoven

Homeopathic medicines are currently used in medical practice, despite controversy about their effectiveness. The preparation method is based on extremely high dilutions of many substances in water, far beyond any detectable level. For this reason, it has been suggested that water could retain a 'memory' of substances that have been dissolved in it before the successive dilutions. As early as in 2007, Joao Teixeira and his colleagues stressed the fact that this idea is not compatible with our knowledge of pure water. The researchers concluded: "If an explanation on physical grounds is to be found, research must focus in other aspects of the preparation, such as the presence of other molecules and dissolved gases." Teixeira and col-

leagues published their study under the title "Can water possibly have a memory? A sceptical view". His idea has been followed by Prof. Montanier in 2009. Based on his research results, he hypothesized that the nature of this "material" can only be found at a nanolevel.

Homeopathy is emerging as nanomedicine

In April 2013, this hypothesis was discussed at the 8th International Congress of Complementary Medicine Research (ICCMR 2013) in London and begins to be confirmed by other independent research teams. Homeopathy is emerging as nanomedicine. Due to the dynamization process during the manufacturing of homeopathic medicines the final product contains nanoparticles and conglomerates of them. After a first phase of homeopathic stock dilution they are simply transferred from one dilution to the other without further relevant dilution. These nanoparticles are stabilized by silicon and other elements. This breakthrough is important for the future of homeopathy; it can explain all previous laboratory results and is able to avoid *a priori* criticism due to a plausibility bias that "there is nothing in these medicines".

Further research is always needed, but we have now a sound thesis, and a very promising hypothesis that needs more confirmation.



More information at www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/17678811

68th LMHI Congress, 04-07 June 2013, Quito (Ecuador)

An Encounter for Homeopaths



The 68th Congress of the LMHI, hosted by the Ecuadorian Homeopathic Medical Society (SOMHE), will focus on "The paradigm of Homeopathic Medicine" and deal with Quantum Physics in Homeopathic Medicine, Homeopathy and Modern Philosophy, and the Standards and Legality in Homeopathic Medicine. All interested homeopaths are invited "to share the efforts, doubts and progress achieved with a new paradigm... May this encounter allows us to enforce, renew shared ideals and will keep us together forever." As in every LMHI Congress, special guests from around the world will give an insight into their experiences. Among the invited speakers are the following: Maestro Eugenio Candegabe (Argentina), Dra. Gloria Alcover Lillo (Italy), Dr. Marcelo Candegabe (Argentina), Dr. Mario Draiman (Argentina), Dr. Matheus Marim (Brazil), Dr. Alok Pareek (India), Dr. Antonio Sánchez Caballero and Dra. Rosario Sánchez Caballero (Mexico). In addition, enjoy the wonderful scenery of Ecuador and its capital, claimed to be the first world's heritage side, and to glimpse the beauty of the jungle, beaches and the Galápagos Islands.

LMHI Governance

International Council Meeting 2013 will be held on 3 June 2013, 9 am-5 pm

The IC Meeting will take place all day at the Congress venue "Swissotel Quito". In addition to the important topics on the IC agenda, such as the LMHI foundation,

constitution and new seat, accreditation procedures and membership fees, a new Executive Committee will be elected. The invitation, agenda, country and executive reports, as well as the applications are available for members of the International Council on the LMHI website in the login-protected IC section. The short versions will be made available to the public in the next issue of the *Liga Letter*.

3rd meeting of the LMHI Working groups on 4 June 2013 during lunchtime

Renzo Galassi, LMHI Vice-President and initiator of the LMHI's Working Group (WG) Project, invites all National Vice-Presidents and Contact Persons to the third WG Meeting. It will be held on 4 June 2013 during lunch time at "Swissotel Quito". Thanks to the help of Dr Xavier Godoy, member of the organizing Committee, we will meet on 4 June during lunch time from 01:00 to 03:00 p.m.). "I invite all of you to come to the meeting with clear ideas about the work achieved until that date and proposals for a short and long term work", Renzo Galassi expressively states in his invitation. The meeting will take place after the election of the new Executive Committee and every working group will be led by the new elected Secretary for the specific working field. "It's time to give new impulse to the work and to invite more people to join", say Galassi. The room of the meeting will be announced in the lobby of the Swissotel.

Reminder Online Survey

Homeopathic Pharmacy and Dentistry in the World

As reported in the December 2012 issue of the *Liga News*, LMHI Secretary for Pharmacy Fruzsina Gábor and LMHI Secretary for Dentistry Dr Geraldo A. Brown Ribeiro started an online-survey last year about the status of homeopathic pharmacists and dentists and the situation of homeopathic remedies in different countries: Are there basic introductory courses and postgraduate courses in homeopathy and/or homeopathic pharmacy in your country? Are pharmacists allowed to dispense homeopathic remedies without any prescription and to consult with the patients? Are there homeopathic laboratories in your country and do they produce/prepare locally? Are classical homeopathic remedies available in pharmacies or in others places instead of pharmacies? How many homeopathic dentists are working in your country and is there an association representing homeopathic dentists? Are there any specific courses in homeopathy for dentists and is homeopathy

included in the curriculum of the Dentistry University? Not all of the LMHI's member countries have responded, yet.

Please support our work in the LMHI! The more information from experts is available, the better we can help each other to be much more effective in our homeopathic society! More answers and input are needed to complete the survey in the three relevant fields and to cover as many countries and as many questions as possible. The online survey is available at the following web site: <http://homeonet.blogspot.hu/2012/06/dear-friends-of-homeopathy-please-help.html>

The partial results of the survey are published in the International Council section of the LMHI website.

LMHI Accreditation of Homeopathic Teaching Centres

Turkish Classical Homeopathy Association becomes first LMHI accredited school

After the successful completion of the accreditation process in February 2013, the Turkish Classical Homeopathy Association (TCHA) has become the first school accredited by the LMHI and is now entitled to issue LMHI Diplomas to its homeopathic students who have successfully completed its homeopathic educational course.

To guarantee the highest possible level of homeopathic education, the LMHI carefully examines every application for accreditation, with attention to the teaching program and the examinations of students, and issues a certificate once the process of accreditation is completed.

LMHI Diploma

The LMHI Diploma is closely linked to the joint LMHI/ECH Medical Homeopathic Education Standards and was approved at the 2010 IC meeting in Los Angeles. Both the LMHI and the ECH Diploma are based on the LMHI-ECH curriculum which has been adopted by ECH, the LMHI and all affiliated schools worldwide. It is one of the most essential functions of the LMHI to secure education standards in homeopathy and therefore encourages all schools and homeopathic medical associations to provide the best possible homeopathic education to their members.



Save the Dates

69th LMHI Congress: 16-19 July 2014, Paris (France)

Central Theme: Homeopathy on the Move: Strategies and Criteria for Healing

Organizing Committee: Claude Binard, Philippe Servais, François Gassin, Yves Maillé.

Congress Flyers: Available on the LMHI website in five different languages (English, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish) at <http://liga.iwmh.net/index.php?menuid=47&reporeid=288>.

Congress website: www.lmhi2014.org

"We would like the French LMHI Congress to be an opportunity to reflect on the questions and to share experiences. Are there various levels of healing for homeopaths? If so, which ones? Do they differ from the ones identified by allopaths? A last but fundamental question is: which strategies are applied in your practice? They are manifold depending on the teaching you received, on the experience and on the knowledge you acquired, on the opportunities offered by your consultations, even on the ideology of some. We rely on all of you for carrying on this debate and continuing to open the horizon of the future. The central theme of the Congress will therefore be: Homeopathy on the move. Strategies and criteria for healing.

National Events: 7-8 September 2013, Maringá-PR, Brazil

2nd International Conference on Agriculture in Homeopathy – Registration Open

The 2nd International Conference on Homeopathy in Agriculture (ICHA II 2013) will be held on 7-8 September 2013 in Maringá in the state of Paraná in southern Brazil. The ICHA II 2013 aims to highlight and discuss the recent progress in the field of Homeopathy in Agriculture. Academics, producers, researchers and professionals in agriculture and biology have the opportunity to become aware of the importance of homeopathy as a scientifically founded alternative with a reduced environmental footprint, disseminate the results of scientific research and academic practices, spread knowledge of homeopathic science as a tool for all segments of agriculture, and to exchange experiences and information among participants (students, professionals, teachers, and interested producers) promoting the development and diffusion of new technologies developed in several areas of homeopathy.

Information (in English and Portuguese) and registration at www.homeopatiavegetal.com.br

