

# INTERNAL NEWS

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## ECH COUNCIL MEETING BARCELONA 7-10 NOVEMBER 2013

The European Committee for Homeopathy (ECH) held its second Council Meeting 2013 from 7-10 November 2013 in Barcelona, Spain. It was hosted by the Medical Homeopathic Academy of Barcelona (Academia Medico Homeopatica de Barcelona – AMHB) and took place at the Official Medical College of Barcelona (Collegi Oficial de Metges de Barcelona – COMB). The organisational team was led by Anna Pla i Castellsagué. After the successful start at the Spring Council Meeting in Zurich, the ECH board decided to introduce a new approach for enhancing and enriching its biannual meetings with an expert symposium and workshops. Hence, in addition to the actual meeting of the ECH Council, composed of the executive officers and the subcommittee coordinators, and the meetings of different ECH Subcommittees, side-meetings were held dealing with the harmonisation of ECH-LMHI proving guidelines and the CEN standardisation project on services of medical doctors with additional qualification in homeopathy. To help move the provings harmonisation effort forward, Ashley Ross (LMHI Proving Committee Coordinator – South Africa) met with SC Coordinator Jean Pierre Jansen (The Netherlands) and members of the ECH Proving Subcommittee. Todd Hoover (LMHI – USA) was also included in this group to provide information related to his role as the Chair of the Proving Committee for the Homeopathic Pharmacopeia of the US (HPUS), which recently published new proving guidelines in 2013.



*AMHB organisers and ECH President Thomas Peinbauer*



*ECH President Thomas Peinbauer thanks Anna Pla for the kind hospitality and excellent organisation of the Barcelona meeting*

## SYMPOSIUM: THE AVAILABILITY OF HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

The ECH symposium on Friday, 8 November, focused on the "Availability of Homeopathic Medicinal Products in Europe". In addition to internal ECH experts, invited speakers included the rapporteur of the sub-working group on the justification of homeopathic use in the Homeopathic Medicinal Products Working Group (HMPWG), LMHI President Renzo Galassi, ECHAMP Past-President Nand de Herdt, and Pharmacist Jack Hendrickx from the Remedy Bank. Todd Hoover moderated the concluding round-table discussion. The Symposium was followed by a common dinner with almost 80 participants.

### Symposium speakers and their topics:

- Introductory presentation (Thomas Peinbauer, ECH President)
- The Justification of Homeopathic Use in the Context of EU Legislation on Homeopathic Medicinal Products: A Challenge for the Future of Homeopathy and the Protection of Public Health (Marie-Anne Mouyart, HMPWG)
- The LMHI Definition of the Homeopathic Remedy (Renzo Galassi, LMHI President)
- The Homeopathic Remedies' Availability (Nand de Herdt, ECHAMP Past-President)
- Remedy Bank – A Model to Ensure the Availability of Homeopathic Medicinal Products in Europe? (Jack Hendrickx, Pharmacist)
- Contribution of Basic and Clinical Research to the Registration of Homeopathic Medicines (Michel van Wassenhoven, Past ECH Coordinator of SC Research)
- The ECH/LMHI Harmonization Project on Homeopathic Proving (Jean Pierre Jansen, ECH Coordinator of SC Proving)
- ECH's Contribution to HMPWG in 2013 (Fruzsina Gábor, ECH Coordinator of SC Pharmacy)
- The Patient's View on the Availability of Homeopathic Medicinal Products (Sato Liu, ECH Coordinator of SC Patients/Users)
- Future Visions for Homeopathic Medicinal Products in Europe (Round table with all lecturers chaired by Todd Hoover, HPUS)

Saturday, 9 November, was fully dedicated to Subcommittee meetings (SC Politics, SC Research, SC Proving and SC Education). The Council Meeting was continued on Sunday, 10 November.

All symposium presentations and reports of the side-meetings, as well as the agendas of the individual subcommittees, are available for members in the login area of the ECH website at [www.homeopathyeurope.org](http://www.homeopathyeurope.org) > Subcommittee Docs > ECH Council Meeting Barcelona.



Marie-Anne Mouyart



Jean Pierre Jansen



Renzo Galassi



Fruzsina Gábor



Nand de Herdt



Sato Liu



Jack Hendrickx



Todd Hoover



Michel van Wassenhoven



Symposium Participants



## LMHI AND ECH PROVING GUIDELINE HARMONISATION PROCESS

### Update from the November 2013 European Committee for Homeopathy Meeting

By Todd A. Hoover, MD, DHT

The LMHI and ECH are currently working to develop harmonised guidelines for homeopathic provings. To help move this effort forward, Ashley Ross (LMHI Provings Committee Coordinator – South Africa) met with SC Coordinator Jean Pierre Jansen (The Netherlands) and members of the ECH Provings Subcommittee between 7-9 November 2013. Dr Todd Hoover (LMHI – USA) was included in the group meeting to provide information related to his role as the Chair of the Provings Committee for the Homeopathic Pharmacopeia of the US. (HPUS), which republished new proving guidelines in 2013.

Both the ECH and LMHI have current guidelines on homeopathic provings, but there are multiple points that differ between the two sets of guidelines. Multiple areas of the guidance were discussed including investigational medicine dosage, duration of provings, handling of adverse events, and the utilisation of blanks within the proving. Perhaps the most important discussions involved the scope and audience of the documents.

#### Conclusion: How to conduct a homeopathic proving

Agreement and common ground were found in all areas under discussion. The purpose of these guidelines will primarily involve the description of how to conduct a homeopathic proving in a manner consistent with historic proving methodologies and recent provings that have been published. All members were agreed that the guide-



Dr Todd Hoover



Ashley Ross



Dr Jean Pierre Jansen

lines should not limit other types of provings or research into new proving methods, but there needs to be a "core" set of parameters used in most provings so that future comparisons of proving results can be conducted and so that external regulatory authorities and scientific investigators can more clearly understand how provings fit within the homeopathic paradigm. "Transparency" of proving method was another important theme that came through the discussions.

While the meeting showed that harmonisation looks to be possible on the points that were covered, there is still a great deal of work to be done to adjust the individual documents. Both Dr Ross and Dr Jansen hope to have updated and harmonised versions of their guidelines available after an open consultation round in January and February 2014.

Proving experts who wish to make comments to the guidelines should send an e-mail to [subscribe@proving-guidelines-LMHI-ECH.org](mailto:subscribe@proving-guidelines-LMHI-ECH.org) for an account on our comments website. The final guidelines will be presented for discussion at the 2014 LMHI meeting in Paris.

## IN FOCUS: RESEARCH – INTERNATIONAL EXPERT DISCUSSION ON NANOPARTICLES AND HOMEOPATHY

### Possible ways of action for homeopathic medicines: Photons versus nano-bubbles – or both / or others?

The link between homeopathy and nano-medicines has been broadly disseminated in recent times and is often mentioned at international research conferences by different speakers, or published in peer-reviewed journals. Small sized nano-particles have been shown to be present in homeopathic medicines (Chikramane et al., 2010) and that succussions can mechanically reduce the initial particle size of plant extracts in homeopathic manufacturing processes into the very small nano-particle range. Some experts support the theory that the bioavailability and biological activity of nano-forms in any material suggests the therapeutic potential is intriguing, other experts, however, argue that "nanoparticles are not part of the game".

This discussion was taken up by Günter Lang, ECH Coordinator of the Research Subcommittee, and put on the agenda of the research meeting in Barcelona. He invited Biochemist Karin Lenger from the German-based Institute of Scientific Homeopathy and longstanding SC member to give a lecture on this topic entitled "Photon research in homeopathy applied quantum physics". Her theory is that the potentization steps possibly produce the magnetic field, increasing from low to high potencies".

Lenger, who demonstrated the physical efficacy of homeopathic high potencies in papers published in 2006, 2008 and 2013, start-

ed to discuss the link between nanoparticles and homeopathy in more detail with her colleague, Iris Bell, Director of the Research Education at the Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine in the USA, a few months ago. The SC Research meeting was also attended by Alexander Tournier, Executive Director of the Homeopathy Research Institute (HRI), who holds a completely different view. Iris Bell herself was not present but is known to support the view that "homeopathic remedies are individualised signals, not even trying to act in high potencies as conventional bulk drugs with suppressive effects. Rather, they are acting as discrete danger signals of salience to that individual." During the ECH Symposium on the previous day, ECH Past-SC Research Coordinator Michel van Wassenhoven had already presented his lecture about the possible mechanism of nanobubbles. In the subsequent subcommittee discussion, the following questions were raised, among others:

- Prohibit the use of the word 'NANO-MEDICINE' linked to homeopathy?
- Are nanoparticles explaining the mechanism of action of homeopathy?
- Could Nanoparticles play a role (interaction with the solvent) in the production of the specific homeopathic medicine 'information-signal'?
- Is the potentisation process essential?
- What is the role of photon (light) emission as an 'excited' state (electro-magnetic field) of the homeopathic medicine?
- Could a databank of cases possibly linked to proving' symptoms help different research projects to be defined (e.g. on the basis of the existing CLIFICOL project)?

The nanoparticles discussion is based on a paper published in 2010 entitled 'Extreme Homeopathic Dilutions Retain Starting Materials: A Nanoparticulate Perspective', authored by a team from the Chemical Engineering Department of IIT Bombay, headed by PhD research scholar, Prashant Chikramane. Describing it as a "fascinating observation", the paper provides a key insight into the possible basis of Homeopathy, a scientific explanation of which has so far eluded researchers due to its use of extreme dilution, well beyond that predicted by atomic theory, by which the presence of any active starting active ingredient is ruled out. "Let's remind ourselves that in the nanoparticle hypothesis the homeopathic dilution/succussion process creates a new type of nanoparticle, specific to the original substance. To summarise the results above and to put things in perspective, nanoparticles prepared using the homeopathic dilution/succussion process would have to be 10 000 000 times more potent than the most potent conventionally prepared nanoparticles studied to date", concludes SC Research Coordinator Günter Lang.

However, HRI Executive Alexander Tournier remained sceptical of the nanoparticle hypothesis. Clarifying his position, he agreed with 'nanoparticles' as a nascent field of research around the idea that they could be implicated somehow in the homeopathic dilutions bio-effects. What worries him is that many people not familiar with the

research are jumping on this idea as if it was going to solve the problem of homeopathy. "I find this dangerous as the research in this field revolves quasi exclusively around two papers from the same group (Chikramane). Not only does it hinge heavily on these two papers – which would in itself need serious validation/replication before going to the media and starting to announce that this is the solution – but these two papers have in themselves a certain number of caveats which make it difficult to see how they could be generalised to homeopathy as it is practised."

As a result of this meeting, the expert debate about nanoparticles and the various models of homeopathic remedy action has continued to spread to almost all continents, involving scientists worldwide, including Raj. K. Manchanda, Director General of the Central Council of Research in Homeopathy (CCRH) and LMHI's Secretary for Research (India).

ECH supports and tries to consolidate the different approaches and invites all researchers to contribute, collaborate and also to undertake further research.

Contact: Dr Günter Lang, ECH Coordinator SC Research, [research@homeopathyeurope.org](mailto:research@homeopathyeurope.org).

Reference: Adaptive network nanomedicine: an integrated model for homeopathic medicine (Iris R. Bell, Gary E. Schwartz, published in: *Frontiers in Bioscience* 2013; 5(2):685-708). See ECH website [www.homeopathyeurope.org/subcommittee\\_area/basic-research-papers/](http://www.homeopathyeurope.org/subcommittee_area/basic-research-papers/)

## ECH EVENTS 2014

### **ECH Spring Meeting 2014: London, 4-6 April 2014**

Special Topic: Homeopathy 2020

### **ECH General Assembly 2014, Brussels, 21-24 November 2014**

The simultaneous sessions of the ECH sub-committees will begin on Friday at 15:30 h. Closure and departure of participants on Sunday at 13.30 h. (Venue: Hotel Bloom)

## ECH STRATEGY: HOMEOPATHY 2020

Homeopathy 2020 is the working title for a new ECH strategic programme. The motivation has come from the new ECH Council which is undertaking various projects in the future, such as the new ECH congress in 2016 in Vienna, the ECH/LMHI cooperation, the clinical data collection project (Horizon 2020, Clificol, as well as having to deal with a financial crisis. Therefore, they want to establish a strategy for the ECH for the years 2015-2020 in a co-creative vision process. In order to measure the need and potential for implementing new projects and strategies, an overview of the opportunities and challenges facing Homeopathy Europe- and

worldwide is needed. As an internal process, Homeopathy 2020 will include all members of the ECH council and Subcommittees, its national organisations and employees. As an external process, it will involve invited experts from organisations ECH is dealing with such as Ton Nicolai (EUROCAM), Sasha Marshang (EPHA), and other stakeholders in the field of homeopathy and EU advocacy. A professional advisor will accompany and instruct this process. ECH President Thomas Peinbauer emphasised that it is unavoidable to set priorities for the moment: "We need both vision and structure. Vision comes first." He has already made contact with an expert who has experience with such projects.

More detailed information will follow as soon as available.

## ECH MEETS WITH HMPWG STAKEHOLDERS IN BONN, GERMANY



On 20 November 2013, shortly after the ECH Symposium focusing on the Situation of Homeopathic Medicine Products in Europe, ECH President Dr Thomas Peinbauer and General Secretary Dr H el ene Renoux were invited to a hearing of the Homeopathic Medical Products Working Group (HMPWG) in Bonn, Germany. It was organised by the German Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (Bundesinstitut f ur Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte, BfArM).

In 2004, the Heads of Medical Agencies (HMA), a network of the National Competent Authorities responsible for the regulation of medicinal products for human and veterinary use in the European Economic Area, agreed to establish a Homeopathic Medicinal Products Working Group (HMPWG) to coordinate the implementation of EU Directive 2001/83/EC (amended by Directive 2004/27/EC). HMPWG acts as a forum for the exchange of regulatory and scientific expertise regarding the assessment of homeopathic medicinal products in Europe. Moreover, it provides guidance on the assessment and registration of homeopathic medicinal products. It is currently chaired by Madame Laurence Girod (ANSM, French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety).

Other invited stakeholders at the November HMPWG hearing in Bonn were the Association of the European Self-Medication Industry (AESGP, i.e. Boiron), the European Central Council of Homeopaths (ECCH), the European Coalition on Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products (ECHAMP), the European Federation of Homeopathic Patients' Associations (EFHPA), the European Scientific Cooperative of Anthroposophic Medicinal Products (ESCAMP), the International Association of Anthroposophic Pharmacists Goetheanum Medical Section (IAAP), the International Association of Veterinary Homeopathy (IAVH), and the International Federation of Anthroposophical Medical Associations (IVAA).

The hearing dealt with the latest HMPWG documents related to homeopathic use, first safe dilution and terms used in homeopathy and focused on the following key issues:

- What stops the Mutual Recognition Procedure?
- Availability of Homeopathic medicinal products in Europe
- Suggestions of topics which might be treated by HMPWG
- General expectations about HMPWG in the future

### Conclusions

Laurence Girod collected and summarised the main concerns of the stakeholders. However, she herself as well as BfArM representative Dr Werner Kn oss qualified this list as a kind of "Christmas wish list" in the sense that most of the requests are unrealisable at the moment:

#### 1. The mandate of HMPWG should be extended to include Article 16.2 as well as article 14.

Article 14 is about simplified registration procedure for homeopathic remedies without indication, and Article 16.2 is about the specific national requirements that can be added.



*ECH HMPWG Working Group, led by H el ene Renoux*

(Coming from directive 2001/83/ce of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6th November 2001 on the community code relating to medicinal products for human use:

<http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:311:0067:0067:EN:PDF> )

#### 2. The need for new documents such as a guide for best practice on Mutual Recognition Procedure (MRP) specific for Homeopathy

It appears that the MRP is difficult to apply so companies are reluctant to use it and would need a clear document explaining and facilitating it.

#### 3. More transparency on the HMA website

Including the preparatory draft documents, the name of the members of the commissions involved and the names of the rapporteurs.

#### 4. Some clarifications about **potentization = dilution+ succession**

#### 5. Specific procedures above C12 allowing to skip module 4

#### 6. Nosodes

This is a difficult subject: how to assess the origin of these biological materials? We are still working on a MM written two hundred years ago, at a time when the virus safety requirements did not exist. This is not a priority for HMPWG

#### 7. Closer cooperation with EDQM

EDQM is the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines, part of the Council of Europe.

EDQM is responsible for the European Pharmacopoeia and the European biological standardisation program. Many HMPWG members are actually also representatives in the EDQM, and the homeopathic use list is linked to the EDQM.

#### 8. Improve the work sharing

Among the different European countries: this is an important goal of HMPWG!

#### 9. The patients' request to all stakeholders and the HMPWG : work together.

The HMPWG wants to stress that this is also their wish for cooperation and mutual understanding

#### 10. A wider mandate for HMPWG meaning more budget allowed

The creation of an HMPWG sub-group dedicated to anthroposophic medicine

## CEN – STATE OF AFFAIRS / FIRST PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING IN JANUARY



After being accepted as "Project Committee – Services of Medical Doctors with additional qualification in Homeopathy", the first "CEN/TC 427" meeting will be held in Vienna, Austria, on 09-10 January 2014 to specify the

title, scope and structure of the European Standard, its timeline and to allocate further tasks.

In the past months, the CEN expert group within ECH discussed and finished the first four working packages and will, after a one-month review period by the ECH council members, send the discussion papers to the Austrian Standards Institute which supports the ECH standardisation process.

Participants of the CEN/TC 427 Vienna meeting will be the experts from the national mirror committees, such as Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey and UK. Due to the high national financing costs of the standardisation process running up into the five figure range, Germany did not succeed in establishing such a mirror committee. France and Spain are having the same problem. Representatives from ECH and ECCH (European Central Council of Homeopaths, the international association of non-medical practitioners) will attend the meeting as observers and will not have voting rights. Both associations have applied as liaison partners; at this forthcoming meeting, CEN TC 427 will decide if they support granting the liaison status for both organisations and the final decision to grant the liaison status will then be taken by the CEN Technical Board.

## NEW ECHAMP REPORT CONFIRMS ECH CONCERNS ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

A new report from the European Coalition for Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products (ECHAMP), including data from two independent surveys, provides an up-to-date and objective analysis of the status and deficits concerning the availability of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products in the EU. This report confirms the concerns raised by the ECH and concludes that there is significant and high demand for homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products in at least two thirds of EU Member States.

You can download the summary report from the ECH website > section "News". Detailed information and the full-length report are provided on the ECHAMP website at [www.echamp.eu](http://www.echamp.eu) > Publications/special-reports.

## FOURTEEN NEW HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINES AVAILABLE IN SLOVENIA



On 23 September 2013, the Slovenian Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices (JAZMP) issued five-year permits for 14 new homeopathic medicines produced by the Austrian homeopathic manufacturer Remedia. The license holder is the Ljubljana-based company AdriaPharm. The permits have been issued under the simplified registration procedure. Since March 2011, the agency has issued five-year permits under this procedure for a total of 77 homeopathic medicines produced by Remedia. The complete list is available on the website of the Central data bank of medicines (Centralna baza zdravil) at [www.cbz.si](http://www.cbz.si). CBZ is a public electronic data bank of all medicines registered in Slovenia managed by the Health Ministry, the Agency for Medicines and Medical Devices, the Institute for Public Health, and the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia. The users are mostly physicians.

In 2010, the ECH provided support, in close cooperation with the LMHI, to the development of homeopathy and its position in the Slovenian health care system by celebrating, for the first time in its history, an "International Homeopathy Day" (IHD 2010) in Ljubljana. The event, organised by the Slovenian Homeopathic Society, succeeded in promoting public and political awareness of homeopathy in Slovenia.

You will find more information at [www.shd.si/default.asp?mid=en](http://www.shd.si/default.asp?mid=en) or directly via e-mail to [info@shd.si](mailto:info@shd.si).

## HORIZON 2020 WORK PROGRAMME NOW AVAILABLE



Horizon 2020 is the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme ever with nearly 80 billion Euro of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020) – in addition to the private investment that this money will attract. It promises more breakthroughs,

discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.

The draft official work programme for 2014-2015 for Horizon 2020 is now available. Horizon 2020 is the EU's new programme for research and innovation. It will run from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of just over 70 billion Euro. Although not yet formally adopted by the Commission, the papers are being made public to provide potential participants with what is currently expected to be the main focus of the work programmes.

CAM stakeholders were unsuccessful in their campaign to secure specific reference to CAM in the work programme; however this is a broad reaching programme that may nevertheless offer opportunities to researchers from the CAM sector.

The full scope of the programme can be seen here: [www.ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020](http://www.ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020)

## CAM REGULATION IN TURKEY



During the past year, the Turkish Health Ministry, in cooperation with Universities and NGO's, has been working on a regulation for Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine (T/CAM) including homeopathy, acupuncture, chiropractic, osteopathy, and other T/CAM therapies. As reported by Dr Altunay Söylemez Ağaoğlu, President of the Classical Homeopathy Association in Turkey, homeopathy will be one of the therapies in this regulation that can only be performed by medical doctors (MD) and dentists (chiropractic doctors from abroad with a Turkish nationality will be accepted). All other T/CAM therapies can be practiced by medical personnel under the auspices of an MD or dentist. The education is different in each branch, but all the courses will be held in Universities. For most of the T/CAM methods, the tutors are required to have at least 3-5 years' experience in their field and to have published several publications and/or research papers. After the participants finish their course programs, a scientific council in the Health Ministry will evaluate the application and issue a certificate and licence to work as a T/CAM expert. The final regulation with some smaller modifications will be released in January 2014. As soon as the regulation is published, it will be translated into English and sent to the ECH.



## REMEDY BANK

For a number of years, dispensing pharmacies and small laboratories have experienced a drastic decline in the available number of certified homeopathic raw and starting materials. The available brands develop only a limited variety of raw materials, or don't certify at all.

Remedy Bank tackles this problem and ensures the preservation and availability of original classic homeopathic medicines.

Remedy Bank is a project initiated by Jack Hendrickx, the ECH's long-standing Coordinator of SC Pharmacy. The aim is to develop an exhaustive collection of certified homeopathic raw and starting materials for the preparation of homeopathic medicines. ECH acknowledges the efforts of the Remedy Bank as an important, stakeholder-driven way to secure the availability of homeopathic remedies in the future."

Philippe Devos, President of the Belgian homeopathic association Unio Homeopathica Belgica (UHB; 7-fold shareholder) visited the laboratory and botanical garden facilities in Alkmaar, NL, at the beginning of September 2013 together with ECH President Thomas Peinbauer and Treasurer, Yves Faingnaert. Devos' short film is currently available on the Remedy Bank website at <http://remedy-bank.com>.



## LMHI CONGRESS 2014 IN PARIS

**16-19 July 2014: Early-bird registration ends 31-01-2014**

The French Homoeopathic Medical Doctors are both honoured and pleased to invite all ECH members on the occasion of the 69th LMHI Congress from 16-19 July 2014 to Paris – the City of Light and Enlightenment and the last residence of Samuel Hahnemann. The central theme of this esteemed annual convention of homeopaths from all over the world is "Homeopathy on the Move. Strategies and Criteria for Healing." It will focus on the clinical practice of homeopathic doctors and will offer an exciting exchange of experiences taking into consideration the variety of different approaches and strategies around the world. The venue chosen for the Congress is particularly special: the Palais des Congrès, an exclusive location centrally situated in the heart of the city.

Detailed information about registration, the scientific and social program, the topics, and much more is available on [www.lmhi2014.org](http://www.lmhi2014.org).

## EFHPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The European Federation of Homeopathic Patients' Associations (EFHPA) represents the voice of homeopathic patients in Europe. The EFHPA General Assembly in Naples, Italy, celebrated its 10th anniversary on 19th October 2013. It was coorganised by Sato Liu, ECH Coordinator of SC Patients/Users. ECH President Thomas Peinbauer gave a presentation on the CEN/TC Project, and ECHAMP General Secretary Christiaan Mol discussed aspects relating to the difficulties of availability for homeopathic medicines in various European countries. Cristal Sumner was elected new EFHPA Vice-President.

A video of Dr Peinbauer's presentation is available to view on: [www.apoitalia.it/video\\_audio.html](http://www.apoitalia.it/video_audio.html)



*f.l.t.r.: Thomas Peinbauer (ECH), Vega Palombi Martorano (APO), Enid Segall (EFHPA), and Christiaan Mol (ECHAMP).*

## PRESENTATION OF ECH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Continued from Newsletter No 1

### SATO LIU – PATIENT/USER SUB COMMITTEE



#### Personal background

My involvement in the field of complementary medicine extends over 30 years – initially working for a manufacturer of anthroposophical and homeopathic medicines. In the 1980s I studied homeopathy and gained a working knowledge of anthroposophic medicine. By 1985, the availability of homeopathic, anthroposophic and herbal medicines came under threat due to regulatory changes, which led me to work for The Natural Medicines Society (NMS), as its Executive Director, for many years.

This was a national consumer charity which campaigned on behalf of patients and users.

During this time I was administrator and later chair the NMS Medicines Advisory Research Committee (MARC), which gave the first ever presentation of these systems of medicine to the government's medicines licensing authorities as well as to members of the UK Parliament.

In the mid 1990's, in response to the EU Report put forward by Paul Lannoye, a member of the European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, I established the UK Forum for Alternative and Complementary Medicine. The forum brought together organisations which represented the interests of consumers, practitioners, manufacturers and retailers in the areas of education, research and supply for the majority of 'non-conventional' medicines and therapies to present a unified approach to ensure that the freedoms already existing in the UK were retained. As its Chairman, I represented the forum at the European Parliament and arranged meetings for M. Lannoye in the UK which included him giving a presentation to UK Parliamentarians.

Since then, I have worked for the Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health and, for the past 6 years, with the Friends of the RLHIM, a patient charity for the Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine, which campaigns for patient choice and access to complementary treatments on the National Health Service.

I have represented patient and consumer interests on the advisory board of the UK's Parliamentary Group for Alternative and Complementary Medicine 1989 and do so still, although it has since been renamed the Parliamentary Group for Integrated Health.

In 2010, I stood in for the Secretary at meetings of the Patient/user Sub Committee and the EFHPA GA in Brussels and, shortly after, took over that position when elected onto the Board of EFHPA in 2011.

There are no qualifications specific to this function, but my activities and involvement in, and my commitment to representing patients over many years provides a good foundation for my task as coordinator of the ECH's patient/user subcommittee..

#### What is the way forward?

In 2003, the patient/user subcommittee established the European Federation of Homeopathic Patients' Associations in order to present an effective and credible consumer voice to parliamentarians and policy makers, making a far more useful tool for the ECH.

In order to support the work of the ECH our aim for the future has to be to develop a strong patient and user support base and actively represent their voice in Europe – to become the homeopathic consumer's champion and assist the ECH achieve its goals.

#### Where do you see a special need for action?

- Good working relationships with other sub committees could be mutually beneficial, but particularly those where patient support and action would be particularly helpful, such as the political, pharmacy, education and documentation sub committees
- Working at European level with the national patient groups, and to help them to campaign for the issues that matter to them

#### What will be the first steps?

- Building relationships, both within the ECH and with other organisations and policy makers
- To be a strong presence and empowered patient voice in Europe, we need to encourage more of the existing European homeopathic patient organisations to join EFHPA
- One of our major tasks for the future is to assist in the establishment of a patient group in the EU Member States where currently none exists
- With a strong patient voice, we can represent the aims of the ECH in the European Parliament and also add our support to the national patient organisations and campaigns

## Dr Leopold Drexler MSc, ECH Subcommittee Coordination Education



- Born 1949 in Vienna, Austria
- Medical doctor since 1976
- 1973 first contact with homeopathy
- 1977-1980 homeopathic outpatient clinic under supervision of Dr Mathias Dorcsi. Teacher in homeopathy for MD's and pharmacists since 1979 in Austria, Germany, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Latvia.

- Since 1999 suggestopedic courses.
- Since 1992, Austrian representative in the ECH education subcommittee
- Since 2012, Coordinator of SC Education
- 2001-2007 Secretary of Education in the LMHI
- 2009 MSc.degree of political education
- Lectures and publications in homeopathy
- Since 1982, homeopathic practice in Feldkirch / Austria
- Contact: [education@homeopathyeurope.org](mailto:education@homeopathyeurope.org), [www.dr-drexler.at](http://www.dr-drexler.at)

My aims as ECH Coordinator of the SC Education Subcommittee:  
My aim is to keep the high quality of medical education in Europe and to implement the new technics into our education standards.

### History of the European common education

In 1990, the ECH was founded.

In 1994, the "Programme of Basic Teaching Standards" was published in the booklet "Homeopathy in Europe". After the meeting in Loosdrecht, Holland, in 1994, I became a member of an expert group to develop fixed European common sense education standards. Later, in 1996, we had several meetings and another two in-

ternational teacher meetings in Crief, Scotland, and Vienna, Austria (1999). In 2001, we succeeded in presenting our „Medical Homeopathic Education in Europe“ for ECH-allied schools in which we defined the curriculum for homeopathic medical students (200 hours of theory and 150 hours of practical studies). From 2001-2007, as Secretary for Education of the LMHI, I developed, together with Carles Amengual (Spain), the model „Guidelines for Homeopathic Education“ based on the ECH booklet. Many parts were equivalent, but some were not so concrete because of the diversity in the world. In Europe, we established the ECH Diploma to establish the high level of education in an exam, in which the medical student has to show his/her theoretical and practical knowledge. In addition, it was decided that a school which wants to be accredited and to give out ECH diplomas has to fulfil certain, fixed criteria.

### Main topics for the future?

In the last years, new technics such as e-learning, i-learning, blended learning, learning by DVD, internet, skype, live-streaming, etc., have to be implemented. We want to determine how much „face to face – education“ is obligatory and to what extent new technics can be used.

### What is suggestopedia?

Suggestopedia is one of the most effective ways of learning remedies. It is a method for teaching and learning based on the research work by Dr Lozanov (Bulgaria). The learning material is presented holistically and at the same time structured. It is fun to learn new information in this interactive, group dynamic way. In the process of learning the material, is not only stored in our brains easier and faster, but can also be retrieved for a longer period of time. Images and stories are very effective ingredients. The new information is absorbed in a creative, humorous way where all the participants are personally and emotionally involved in the learning process.

### IMPRINT

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