

# INTERNAL NEWS

MAY 2013



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## EUROPEAN STANDARD FOR SERVICE PROVISION OF MEDICAL DOCTORS

### THE CEN PROJECT HAS STARTED – WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW!



Homeopathic medicine is a system of medicine requiring a distinct qualification in addition to the standard medical qualification. Medical doctors with an additional qualification in homeopathy provide their services all over Europe, yet there are no consistent standards of education, training and practice. Additionally, there is a vast diversity of regulations governing the practice of homeopathy within Europe. Therefore, the development of a European Standard for the requirements of medical doctors with additional qualification in homeopathy and the specifications of their services by the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) is one of the most important projects for the new ECH Council and its member associations.

The European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) is an international non-profit association based in Brussels and is a major provider of European Standards and technical specifications. On 1 January 2013, a new EU Regulation on European Standardisation came into force. It provides the legal framework within which the European Standards Organisations operate.

The ECH standardisation project for the requirements of medical doctors with additional qualification in homeopathy - and the specifications of their services by CEN - is supported by the Austrian Standards Institute (ASI) and will involve all 33 CEN member countries. The ASI proposal on the creation of a new CEN Project Committee for "Services of Medical Doctors with Additional Qualification in Homeopathy - Requirements for Healthcare Provision by Medical Doctors with Additional Qualification in Homeopathy" was submitted on 6 May 2013. After two years of preparations, the official process for consultation and agreement started on 8 May 2013. Other stakeholders in the field of medical homeopathy, including the health ministries, public health authorities and patients' organisations, have also been invited to participate. Services



*Participants of the ECH CEN Kick-off meeting in Vienna*

provided by persons who are not medical doctors and the preparation of homeopathic medicines are excluded from the scope. The deadline for voting on the establishment of the new CEN project committee is 6 August 2013.

The ECH has been working on developing voluntary standards since 2001. The minimum standards of education and training in homeopathic medicine for medical doctors, pharmacists, veterinarians and dentists are stipulated in "The Medical Homeopathic Educational Standards", these were developed in close collaboration with the LMHI and published in 2009. This work will serve as the basis for European standardization.

It is envisaged that the proposed European Standard will increase patient safety, provide safe and secure homeopathic medical services in Europe and create a level playing field for medical doctors with an additional qualification in homeopathy. A European Standard can streamline the provision of homeopathic medical services and may pave the way for the inclusion of this additional qualification under Council Directive 2005/36/EC.

## KICK-OFF MEETING IN VIENNA

At an internal "CEN Kick-off Meeting" in Vienna on 26-27 April 2013, a group of ECH experts outlined the concept for a draft structure for the proposed standard. These will have until the November ECH Council meeting in Barcelona to be developed further. LMHI representatives have been invited to participate and to contribute their knowledge and expertise.

The following five working packages have been defined:

- 1) Terms and Definitions: Homeopathy
- 2) Service Preconditions: Clinical practice, core competences
- 3) Education: Educational requirements, continuing education and training
- 4) Code of Ethics: Relationship with patient, other medical professions and colleagues
- 6) Organisation: Facility and equipment requirements, quality assurance, insurance

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED: CONTACT YOUR NATIONAL STANDARDISATION BODY

We urge you to collaborate and help this process by contacting your respective National Standardisation Body to assure them that you are committed to participating and supporting the creation of a new CEN "Project Committee – Services of Medical Doctors with additional Qualification in Homeopathy". Your commitment incurs no obligation or financial contribution for the future! To facilitate this approach, all ECH member associations will receive a sample letter and a list of their responsible national representatives. Moreover, all colleagues who were unable to attend the CEN kick-off meeting in Vienna, are kindly requested to select a working package to which you would like to contribute. If you have any uncertainties, questions or suggestions, please contact with the ECH office at [info@homeopathyeurope.org](mailto:info@homeopathyeurope.org).

## ECH GOVERNANCE

### FIRST COUNCIL MEETING UNDER NEW ECH TEAM

23-25 March, Zurich, Switzerland

After the change of government at the 8th General Assembly in Brussels on 17 November 2012, the new ECH team successfully held its first Council Meeting in Zurich, Switzerland, from 23-25 March 2013. Almost 70 ECH members came together at Hotel Zürichberg (Foto) to discuss important ECH topics within their subcommittees, to listen to an inspiring presentation about the Swiss CAM Model, to take part in an Open Space CAMbrella workshop, and to enjoy an exciting tour and common dinner at the Masoala Hall of the Zurich Zoo.

Special thanks go to the kind hospitality of the SVHA and the perfect organisation of Barbara Bichsel, Franziska Bläuer, Clemens Dietrich and their team.



The new ECH Team 2013-2017



### "A hard farewell, but the right decision"

*Barbara Bichsel who has represented the Swiss Homeopathic Association (SVHA) in both the ECH and the LMHI from 2007-2013 resigned from the SVHA Executive Board on 16 May – however, she will support the preparations for the joint Austrian-Swiss Congress in May 2014 and will continue to teach and engage in the introduction of homeopathy at the hospital in her home region. We warmly welcome Barbara's successor Franziska Bläuer.*

## OPEN SPACE CAMBRELLA-WORKSHOP: "HORIZON 2020 – AND BEYOND"

u<sup>b</sup>

UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

**What does homeopathy offer  
in Europe?**

**Notes on the workshop results  
from Klaus von Ammon and  
Martin Frei-Erb, Institute of  
Complementary Medicine (KIKOM)  
of the University of Bern**

From 2010-2012, the EU-FP7-financed CAMbrella project revealed results of definition, legal issues, citizens' demand, patients' and providers' perspectives of use as well as international aspects of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM). Representatives from KIKOM were invited to run a workshop with ECH members attending the Zürich meetings. In his introduction, Klaus von Ammon, summarised these results and gave an overview of the roadmap for future CAM research in Europe. Using the Open Space Technique, which was well-proven at the 60th LIGA Congress in Lucerne, 2006, to identify fields of participants' interest, participants formed small groups of 3-5 people, each discussing a different aspect of CAM. After these small-working group discussions, the results were condensed in a plenary workshop, focusing on strategic considerations of qualitative and quantitative research. The overarching goal was to develop main features of a homeopathic research agenda to be adapted into further EU research programs 2014-2020.

### The following topics were discussed in the open space process:

1. Better understanding of homeopathy through definition of HEALTH as a self-regulating system, caring / healing as direction and stimulation towards self-healing (salutogenic principle) ending up with definition of life as a dynamic, self-organising, adapting, self-managing system. (Holder: Tomasz Kokoszczynski, Robbert van Haselen)

2. Regulation and Legislation in Europe: ECH must aim to be acknowledged as the most competent partner and first line interlocutor for EU civil servants regarding homeopathy. The future European Standardization of Service Provision of Medical Doctors with additional Qualification in Homeopathy may pave the way for the inclusion of this additional qualification under Council Directive 2005/36/EC. It is a good example of self-regulation. Tendencies to over-regulation have to be addressed and stopped. Freedom of choice (for the patient), freedom of practice (for the medical doctor) and self-responsibility have to be fostered. Regular consultations with the Homeopathic Medicinal Products Working Group (HMP-WG) and the offer for close cooperation should ensure and improve the Europe-wide ready availability of homeopathic medicinal products. Furthermore the transparency of the decision process and the regulatory framework of HMPWG should be improved. Harmonization and documentation of clinical results should be achieved, implementing CLIFICOL as a prospective observational study resembling daily homeopathic GP and specialists' practice. Projects in Horizon 2020 could deal with chronically ill or pain patients. (Holder: Thomas Peinbauer)

3. Enhancing Research in Daily Practice will make diagnosis, course and outcome of homeopathic consultations available through a prospective study, e.g. CLIFICOL: c. 20,000 doctors with ECH standard training make up to 5 cases each available for research. This would



*Presentation of Open Space workshop results*

result in 100,000 single-case studies being collected and classified, according to both conventional and homeopathic criteria, augmented by patients' and practitioners' perspective! Collaboration with experienced and established institutions, especially Universities, seems essential. This work should be rewarded by the respective national associations with ECH accreditation, internally as qualification credits, externally by e.g. CME credit points. (Holder: Anna Pla i Castellsagué)

4. Methods of Conventional Medicine Research and Homeopathic Research need definitions of classical, clinical, complex and isopathic homeopathy, and "levels" of disease: acute, chronic, epidemic, by a European network of methodology research developing models for individual homeopathic research. (Holder: Antonella Ronchi)

5. Patient Satisfaction is the most important outcome parameter in single case studies, merged into case series and surveys of severity of disease, reasons for admission, treatment satisfaction, quality of life (QoL) and cost-effectiveness. This will result in a systematic data collection of real life situation in daily practice (cf. EPI III, Paris, France). Long-term follow-up will detect reasons for „lost cases" not coming back (eg. 80 % due to full satisfaction, MvW, Swiss data). Results should be publicly available for patients and doctors, and discussed within social media. The topic "Who is a good homeopath" was discussed in respect to different approaches, but could not be finished. (Holder: Sara Eames, Michel van Wassenhoven)

6. In order to get a better view of the action of homeopathic remedies, one must take into account what is known from the results of Basic Research and promote its contribution. Such information, namely about chemical and physical properties of the mother tincture and the diluted, dynamised solutions and homeopathic remedies; the details of interactions between remedies and living cells,

may come from independent research groups performing fundamental research. As well and in parallel, it should be financed by both pharmaceutical firms and independent foundations. Indeed, a better knowledge of the fundamental processes is a prerequisite for any good evolution. We should also underline the importance of the publication of these results in scientific paper, which are cited as impact factor papers. As an example, one can refer to a recent paper by Dr. Duval (Duval E et al: Long-lived submicrometric bubbles in very diluted alkali halide water solutions. *Phys Chem Chem Phys.* 2012 Mar 28;14(12):4125-32), where is described the result of measurements of the population of nano-bubbles that are formed in diluted aqueous solutions is described. (Holder: Ilse Muchitsch)

7. The Communication group detected 10 % "friends", 40 % "followers", 40 % "interested", and 10 % "adverse people" in public discussions. Therefore, clear and simple communication in public discussions and dissemination of results is necessary to avoid different meanings and understandings. Barriers for medical students could be lowered by a push and pull strategy: implementation in curriculum including specific examinations and displaying both emotional satisfaction and financial success in private practice. Fruitful discussion are only possible in accepting "unity in diversity" leading to integrative structures. (Holder: Cornelia Bajic, Barbara Bichsel, Clemens Dietrich)

Summarising these topics, a homeopathic roadmap for Horizon 2020 was outlined. This comprised of: single case studies, case series, prospective observational studies for detecting clinical and cost-effectiveness in daily practice, and basic research for clarifying the mode of remedy action. Apart from these research topics, raising the self-consciousness of homeopaths and the self-empowerment of patients should enhance clear communication to the public, including opponents. This is especially true for ECH as the competent partner in legislation and registration issues.

## DAKOMED PRESENTATION: LEARNING FROM THE SWISS EXPERIENCE

Dakomed is the Swiss umbrella organisation of patients, family doctors, therapists, hospitals, specialist retailers and manufacturers in the field of CAM. Dakomed aims to achieve the integration of complementary and alternative medicine within the national health care system – as stipulated in article 118a CAM of the federal constitution – which obliges the Swiss government and cantons "to ensure that, within the scope of their jurisdiction, complementary medicine is taken into consideration".

As part of the new approach to meetings, Christine Keller-Sallenbach, Dakomed Managing Director, and Walter Stüdeli, director of Communications and Public Affairs, were invited to present their work and achievements to those attending the meetings in Zürich on the morning of Saturday, 23rd March.

They summarised the history of the Swiss public relations campaign, explained their finance and fundraising campaigns and described the core requirements to be put into practice:

- Promoting integrative medicine (collaboration between conventional and complementary medicine)
- Including the medical route of complementary medicine in basic health insurance, SUVA, IV and military insurance

- Promoting teaching and research at Universities
- Creating national diplomas and cantonal professional licensing for therapists (natural therapists and complementary therapists)
- Ensuring diversity of medicinal products
- integrating CAM into existing structures at hospitals

To realise these goals, Dakomed has built up a comprehensive communication system comprising e-mail newsletters to its members, articles in the publications of health associations, its own biannual bulletin, the publication of guidelines and through their website. In addition, their continuous political lobbying is of highest importance to ensure ongoing support from the population and from members of the parliament (MPs).



*Dakomed  
Executive Board  
member  
Herbert Schwabl*



*Walter Stüdeli,  
Expert for  
Communications  
and Public Affairs*



*Christine Keller-  
Sallenbach,  
Dakomed Managing  
Director*



## COUNCIL DECISION: ECH EXTENDS MEMBERSHIP TO ALL COUNTRIES IN EUROPE

At its meeting on 25 March, following the suggestion of the ECH Treasurer Yves Faingnaert, the ECH Council decided to extend the membership to all European countries. Conclusively, the membership will now also be offered to homeopathic medical associations in Armenia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine.

## NEW ADDRESSES FOR ECH HEADQUARTERS, SECRETARIAT AND ARCHIVES

### ECH Secretariat

Due to the retirement of its long-time secretary Myriam Braillard and the closing of the residence of the Belgian Homeopathic Association UHB, the ECH had to move its headquarters, archives and administrative office. Based on the GA decision of November 2012, the ECH now shares office space and personnel with the German Association of Homeopathic Physicians DZVhÄ in Berlin at Reinhardtstrasse 37, 10117 Berlin. You can reach the new office manager, Caroline Geiser directly at [office@homeopathyeurope.org](mailto:office@homeopathyeurope.org) for content-related questions including the website and newsletter (Phone: +49-30-325 97 34 12). Messages sent to [info@homeopathyeurope.org](mailto:info@homeopathyeurope.org) go to both Caroline Geiser and her colleague Stefanie Wenzel, who is in charge of updating the ECH database, membership fees and diplomas (Phone: +49-30-325 97 34 15, Tue + Thur 9-17 h, Wed 9-13 h). The office's fax number is +49-30-325 97 34 19.



*Caroline Geiser*



*Stefanie Wenzel*

### ECH Headquarters

The ECH accepted the generous offer of Dr Jacques Imberechts, the first ECH President, and moved its headquarters to his home at Avenue Leopold II, No. 134, 1080 Brussels, on 1 February 2013, after approval of the ECH Council. Thank you, Jacques!



*Dr Jacques Imberechts*

### ECH Archives

The new holder of the ECH Archives is the Institute for the History of Medicine (Institut für Geschichte der Medizin IGM in Stuttgart). Our contact is the Archivist and IGM Deputy Director, Prof. Dr. phil. Martin Dinges. The institute has a research library with more than 50,000 volumes, as well as the homoeopathic archives from the estate of Samuel Hahnemann and important pupils and successors, Clemens von Bönninghausen in particular. The archives also hold the records of other international and national homoeopathic organisations.

The IGM's website is available in English, French and Spanish at [www.igm-bosch.de/content/language2/html/index.asp](http://www.igm-bosch.de/content/language2/html/index.asp).

## UPCOMING ECH MEETINGS 2013-2014

### ECH Fall Meeting 2013: Barcelona, 8-9 November 2013

The next ECH Council Meeting will be hosted by the Medical Homeopathic Academy of Barcelona AMHB and will take place on 8-9 November 2013. In addition to the meetings of the council and the subcommittees, a symposium on "The Homeopathic Remedy" will be offered to all participants on Friday afternoon.

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

Special Event: Media workshop

### 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)

## NEW CAM REGULATION IN ITALY

### NATIONAL RULES FOR THE EDUCATION IN COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE APPROVED



On 20 December 2012, the Italian Regional Presidents approved a proposal for a national agreement on the standardisation and regulation of the service provision of medical doctors, dentists, veterinarians and pharmacists

with additional qualification in acupuncture, herbal medicine and homeopathy. It was signed officially on 7 February 2013. Italy will be one of the few European countries with national regulation on education in Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The pilot process began in Tuscany in 2007.

The legislation stipulates that regional professional associations must establish registers of professional CAM experts, based on requirements defined by Regional Law and by the Regional Committee for CAM education and to issue a specific certification. The curriculum will be offered by accredited public and private training centres. The minimum requirements are a 3-years-course of 500 hours training, including 100 hours clinical practice which can be started after passing a theoretical and practical exam and having defended a thesis. Transitional provisions were set up for professionals who are already working as CAM practitioners. Beside the basic principles and the clinical application of complementary medical techniques, teaching of medical criteria based on evidence, the capacity to conduct clinical research and knowledge about legislation and regulations on rights to information and informed consent must be ensured. The registers are open to the

public, so that patients are able to inform themselves about the competences and services offered by medical doctors.

Antonella Ronchi, President of FIAMO and member of the ECH political subcommittee, welcomes the new law on CAM, especially because homeopathy is recognised as a medical discipline. However, she voiced concern about the "ambiguous and contradictory" definition of homeopathy in article 2 of the agreement, which could have "consequences on the professional profile of medical homeopaths". At the moment, there is a clear distinction between homeopathy, homotoxicology and anthroposophic medicine. The clear definition of homeopathy in article 2, which states "*Homeopathy is defined as a diagnostic and therapeutic method, based on the law of similarity that affirms the possibility to cure a patient by the administration of one or more diluted substances, that taken by a healthy person reproduce symptoms characteristic of his illness*" is not in line with the amendment which says "*The definition of Homeopathy comprises all therapies that use diluted medicines as specified by the legislative decree n.219, 24 April 2006 and the subsequent acts.*"

The implementation of the new regulation is compulsory for all Regions within one year after the signing of the agreement and will give it the status of a National Law.

The ECH will closely monitor this implementation process to ensure that it contains all the details that were not possible to explicitly include in the Agreement itself. It has been announced that a distinction shall be made between the various therapeutic approaches that use homeopathic medicinal products, i.e. homeopathy, anthroposophic medicine and homotoxicology, and give the distinct definitions and descriptions of the respective educational requirements in the second, forthcoming part of the new regulation.

## MEDICINAL PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN USE

### ECH CONTRIBUTION TO THE REVISION OF THE EU CLINICAL TRIALS DIRECTIVE



On 5 February 2013, about twenty experts representing of ECH, ECHAMP, EPHA and HRI came together in Brussels to discuss the "Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on

on clinical trials on medicinal products for human use, and repealing Directive 2001/20/EC" (Clinical Trials Regulation), adopted by the European Commission in July 2012.

Although this Directive has brought about important improvements in the safety and ethical soundness of clinical trials in the EU and in the reliability of clinical trials data, the Clinical Trials Directive is arguably the most heavily criticised piece of EU-legislation in the area of pharmaceuticals. This criticism is voiced by all stakeholders - patients, industry, and academic research. The scope is limited to clinical research on medicinal products, but it is very wide in that it only excludes clinical studies that do not involve an 'intervention' (e.g. surveys amongst medical practitioners without additional intervention or 'data mining'). The draft regulation also applies to research in homeopathy, a treatment modality whose value for Eu-

ropean citizens has been reviewed and acknowledged under the FP7 Program as CAMbrella.

As a result of the 5 February meeting, the ECH sent a contribution to the draft report to the responsible shadow rapporteur in the European Parliament Antonia Parvanova, meeting the deadline of 27 February. However, we have yet to receive a response.

#### The following questions and aspects were raised by ECH:

If the intention is to include homeopathic research in the Regulation

- How will the participation of relevant and qualified experts on Ethics Committees be guaranteed?

Given the distinguishing specificities of HPTs ("provings")

- Are they included in the category of "Clinical Trials" as defined in the proposed Regulation?
- Do they qualify as "low-intervention clinical trials" in case that the products are not being authorised?
- Do you consider HPTs of unauthorised Homeopathic Medicinal Products low risk trials?
- Under criterion 3b for Low-interventional trial, do you consider market-authorized Homeopathic Medicinal Products that are authorised for homeopathic use without indication, used in accordance with the terms of the marketing authorisation as intended in criterion 3b?
- Do you consider the application of the rules to decide which Homeopathic Medicinal Products is indicated in a homeopathic treatment as the standard treatment?

### **ECH Background information on Homeopathic Pathogenetic Trails**

Homeopathic Pathogenetic Trials (HPT) are a specific and essential form of homeopathic research. Homeopathic Pathogenetic Trials (HPT). In HPTs healthy volunteers take an unknown Homeopathic Medicinal Product and record their temporary reactions. The recorded symptoms are the basis for prescription for patients according to the treatment principles of homeopathy. These principles are always applied in each diagnosis that is accessible for homeopathic treatment, and thus can be considered standard treatment procedure.

Some Homeopathic Medicinal Products have been authorised for the market, others are new and therefore not yet authorised. The safety record of HPT is excellent. The procedures needed to provide reliability and robustness to a HPT need further research to find the most feasible design.

Detailed information and all official Clinical Trials documents are available on the European Union website <http://ec.europa.eu/health/human-use/clinical-trials/#rlctd>.

## **ECH PRESIDENT ATTENDS LMHI CELEBRATION IN KÖTHEN**



***"Come to Köthen,  
go for Paris!"***

*In his speech at the LMHI Celebration in Köthen, ECH President Thomas Peinbauer reflects on "Returning to Hahnemann – Innovation and Renovation".*



*European Library for Homeopathy in Koethen, Germany*

A report and picture gallery is available on the LMHI website at <http://liga.iwmh.net/index.php?menuid=49&repreid=303>

## **THE NEW ECH TEAM 2013-2017**

The ECH is governed by the Council which consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Co-ordinators of the subcommittees. The tenure of office is four years and is renewable. The new Council members were elected at the 8th General Assembly in November 2012 in Brussels.

The new ECH President Thomas Peinbauer (Austria) succeeded Ton Nicolai. Ton, one of the founding members of the ECH in 1990, did not seek re-election. The new Vice-President, Karin Bandelin (Germany), takes over from Ulrich D. Fischer. Yves Faingnaert (Belgium) remains as Treasurer, a post he has held for many years. Paying tribute to Patricia Leroux, her predecessor, Hélène Renoux (France)

has taken on the role of General Secretary. The ECH has seven subcommittees involving delegates from affiliated associations and teaching centres, as well as other professionals, such as researchers, documentalists and pharmacists, whose expertise helps to enhance the scientific basis of homeopathy. The subcommittee coordinators are:

- SC Documentation: Caroline Vandeschoor (Belgium)
- SC Education: Leopold Drexler (Austria)
- SC Patients/Users' Interests: Sato Liu (United Kingdom)
- SC Pharmacy: Fruszina Gábor (Hungary)
- SC Politics: Hetty Buitelaar (Netherlands)
- SC Proving: Jean Pierre Jansen (Netherlands)
- SC Research: Günter Lang (Switzerland).

## INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES

In the following, the individual members of the new ECH Team introduce themselves and give an overview of their subcommittee working fields and aims. This presentation will be continued in the next issue of the internal newsletter.

### Dr Thomas Peinbauer, ECH President

#### Personal Background

- Born in 1969 in Austria, married and the father of 9 year-old son.
- Lives and works in Linz, on the Danube as a medical homeopath in private practice.
- I have been 'addicted' to homeopathy for over 20 years: I undertook my University education in classical homeopathy at the University of Vienna and the Austrian Society for Homeopathy. Initially, in the 1990s, I studied the Boger-Böninghausen method and later in the modern schools.
- In 1992 Austria joined the European Economic Area and the Maastricht treaty was signed giving European countries responsibilities in health protection for the first time. That year, I was one of the first 10 students from the Medical University of Vienna to participate in the EU student exchange programme, ERASMUS, studying for one year in Valencia, Spain. During that time I lived in a student's community, together with two boys from the UK and Spain, and five girls from Italy, Germany, UK and France. In Spain in 1992/1993, I became a European Citizen.
- I was LMHI Treasurer from 2004 to 2010 and LMHI General Secretary from 2010 to 2013. Dealing with homeopathic organisations worldwide and attending all the annual LMHI Congresses, I have now become a Global Citizen, a Cosmopolitan.

All this experience I would like to offer you as ECH President.

#### Aims

From my point of view, ECH is primarily a very important and a very effective think tank in the field of homeopathy. The subcommittees are the heart and the value of the organisation. The working results are a story of success. We have to be conscious of this great competence and improve on it where necessary.

There have been some complaints that personal contact and exchange between subcommittees have not been satisfying, so in Zürich we implemented a new approach to rectify this. The success of the meetings confirm that we are on the right track.

### Dr Karin Bandelin, ECH Vice President

#### Personal Background

- Board member of the Berlin Homeopathic Association (BVhÄ) for many years
- Former board member of the DZVhÄ Homeopathy Foundation, of the Hahnemann Society and of "Homeopaths without Borders"
- Former LMHI National Vice-President for Germany

We are living in a time of economic crisis and most of our member organisations are dealing with financial problems. For this reason, we have to change our structure and identify priorities.

One priority is the important project of the European Standard for Homeopathy. This officially began on 8 May 2013 and will help us to gain more political credibility.

Another priority will be the consolidation of the two major international homeopathic organisations, ECH and LMHI. The majority of European medical homeopathic organisations are members of both. So it made sense when the council decided, at a meeting held in Madrid, to move the ECH secretariat to Berlin and merge the ECH and LMHI administration, and so saving about 20.000€.

Two aspects are important for me regarding ECH and LMHI: Subsidiarity and Solidarity.

Subsidiarity means that a matter ought to be handled by the smallest, lowest, or least centralised authority capable of addressing that matter effectively. E.g.: if there is a school in a European country that applies for accreditation to the LMHI, then LMHI should refer this school to ECH. Equally, if there is a project concerning WHO, e.g. about WHO benchmarks for Homeopathy, this should be referred to LMHI.

And Solidarity means that we look over our garden fence and see if there is any need. ECH and LMHI have different purposes, but are working in the same direction. So it is wise for us to work together, harmoniously, for the greater good of homeopathy. At the International Council of the last Liga Congress, in Nara, the idea of a new, WHO-like structure was discussed in round-table talks. We will see if this could be helpful for us.

I hope that I will be able to serve ECH and homeopathy in the best way. Every one of us will have a certain task. Together we are a team, and TEAM means: together everyone achieves more.



#### Aim

I would like to use my experiences to assist the new team around Thomas Peinbauer and on the way to link ECH and the LMHI more effectively. In addition, I want to promote better communication and understanding among the various schools and homeopathic practice in the countries around the world.



## Dr H el ene Renoux, ECH General Secretary

### Personal Background

- Medical Doctor and classical homeopath since 1995 with a homeopathic practice near Paris.
- Teacher at INHF-Paris (Institut National Hom opathique Fran ais), responsible for educational provings.
- Member of the ECH since 2009: "I have become immediately fond of this European sharing of ideas, energy and efforts."
- Secretary of the SSH (Soci t  savante d'hom opathie) which aims mainly to coordinate homeopathic diplomas, relationships between homeopaths within the French medical community, and to promote unity among all the different homeopathic practices in France.

## Dr Yves Faingnaert, ECH Treasurer

### Personal Background

- Born on 14 March 1946, I live in the city of Zottegem, Belgium, about an hour west of the Belgian capital, Brussels. My wife Kristel, a trained lab assistant, works as my secretary in my private practice. Our 36-year-old daughter Katrien is a homeopathic veterinarian.
- Medical doctor, K.U.L., University of Leuven, 1972
- E.B.H., Belgian Homeopathic School, Brussels 1977
- Medical homeopathic practice since 1979
- Homoeopathia Europea: workgroup Calcarea, President since 1982
- UHB, Unio Homoeopathica Belgica, founding member 1986
- UHB Treasurer since 1991
- ECH Treasurer since 1997
- Member of the LMHI since 1995, and co-organiser of the 63rd LMHI Congress 2008 in Oostende, Belgium
- LMHI Treasurer since 2010

## Caroline Vandeschoor, Co-ordinator SC Documentation

### Personal background

- Masters Degree in Germanic Philology (Ghent University) and additional training in library science.
- Working in the field of homeopathy for 23 years: Documentalist for Heel Belgium since 1990, responsible for the company library, and support of the department of Regulatory Affairs.
- Joined the ECH when the Documentation subcommittee was established in December 1994 and became a co-ordinator in 2011.
- I also have a very busy personal life, being the mother of three children. After having lived abroad for several years, I now live in my hometown Ghent in the north of Belgium (Flanders). My mother tongue is Dutch (I also speak English, French and German). I am a passionate singer, an avid reader with a large private book collection and I love gardening and anything that has to do with plants and nature. Nearly all my holidays are spent on a sailing boat and during the summer months we make long sailing trips. Something to look forward to every year!

### Aims

With my new position, as General Secretary of the ECH, I want to use the opportunity to strengthen my commitment to homeopathy by means of European solidarity. I hope to help with the acceptance and integration of homeopathic science and art within the European health care system. To obtain some specific rules for ethical and clinical issues on homeopathic trials would be the best way to formalise homeopathic philosophy as much as homeopathic specific efficacy. Consequently, the availability of remedies should be another target, as much as the integration of educational provings inside high-quality training for homeopathic students.



### Aims

It has been my privilege to act as the ECH Treasurer since 1997. Husbanding your money in a responsible and sensible way has always been my primary objective. As it is during all those years, we have enjoyed positive year end results. I felt that now would have been a good time for me to retire. Thomas, however, felt differently and enjoined me to continue looking after our finances whilst assuring continuity for the new board. I decided to accept his request and the General Assembly of November 2012 confirmed my nomination. As an "elder person", I have accepted to serve you in the same way and join this new and dynamic team.



### Aims

- To promote accessibility to information on homeopathy that is held within libraries and documentation centres in Europe.
- To save work in documentation centres through co-operative projects: Our "Guide to Homeopathic Libraries and Information Centres" and a "Thesaurus of key terms in Homeopathy" are available online on the website of the ECH.
- Standardisation of the indexing method using the Homeopathic, MeSH and AMED thesauri, a joint Journal Holdings Database of libraries in homeopathy (will be made available shortly), a joint list of dissertations on homeopathy, a comprehensive list of links concerned with homeopathy
- The working group meets once a year at different locations.

Our subcommittee consists of people who are working in the field of homeopathic information and documentation. This can be in pharmaceutical companies, foundations, associations or private collections. Over nearly 20 years about 35 different people joined our subcommittee, a few of them are still there since the very beginning. The average group consists of 8 to 10 members. The documentation subcommittee team would welcome new members!



## Dr Hetty Buitelaar, Co-ordinator SC Politics

### Personal background

- Lives and works in Capelle aan den IJssel, near Rotterdam. In the practise I work with Physiotherapists and Haptotherapists.
- We have two children, boy and girl, studying at the universities of Rotterdam and Amsterdam.
- Since 2007, I have been working in this subcommittee as an ECH member, and I was elected as coordinator in November 2012.
- During the same time, I have been a board member of our national organisation for homeopathic doctors and also a member of the steering committee of CAM cooperation for medical doctors in the Netherlands.

Current and future activities subcommittee Politics ECH:

### Internal

- Inform the Executive committee and the Council about things happening in all member countries.
- To evaluate and comment on the projects and initiatives of the Council. Supervising function.
- Be the sparing partners of the council/president of ECH.
- Collect information from other subcommittees and report about them. For each subcommittee there is a subcommittee delegate politics, who reads the emails and minutes of one of the other subcommittees.
- On subcommittee politics page of the ECH website a database should be established with information about how problems are solved in certain countries. Database about things already done. Some discussions can already be found on the ECH website. (idea 2009)

## Dr Jean Pierre Jansen, Co-ordinator SC Proving

### Personal background

- Co-ordinator of SC Proving since 2008 and contributor to the SC's work since 1996.
- Physician for general medicine, homeopathy and neural therapy in Groningen, The Netherlands – the place where von Bönninghausen studied law and botany.
- Organised and presented postgraduate homeopathic courses locally and abroad.
- Started to do and organise provings during the 1990s, and was later supervised by Jeremy Sherr and have conducted a few provings since then. "It taught me a great deal about homeopathy, but at the same time I saw the broad variation of the nature of the symptoms coming out. Gradually the climate around homeopathy changed as well, and I decided to contribute to the combination of modern scientific methods with Hahnemannian provings, at the same time hoping that that helps to promote homeopathy".
- Co-editor in chief of the international journal "Homeopathic Links".
- Learned to integrate homeopathy with neural therapy, another regulating treatment system.
- During free time, I am a harpsichordist in a small musical ensemble.

- When topics with overlap with subcommittee Politics and another subcommittee we discuss together. For better communication we want to invite on each meeting, another subcommittee co-ordinator or a whole subcommittee to have (partly) a common meeting on a specific subject.
- In Zürich, we had a meeting with the subcommittee co-ordinator of the SC Patients/Users, Ms. Sato Liu.

### External

- Communication among national organisations in the ECH is improved, when as many delegates in our subcommittee as possible are the national presidents.
- Give feedback on the process of the CEN certification project.
- Have a delegate in the ECH working group for the HMPWG.

Other ideas for the future are:

- Bring CAMDOC alliance members to the subcommittee politics to discuss the mutual political approach within EU and to get to know each other better.
- Invite a lobbyist to share ideas on 'How to get into contact with your national government and politicians.'
- Invite someone from the chiropractic organisation or the acupuncture organisation to be informed about their experience on the CEN certification.
- Have a shared meeting with subcommittee pharmacy about trustworthy pharmacies in Europe, who can provide remedies that are not available in some other countries.



### Aims

The Subcommittee Proving (SCP) has existed for 20 years already and has a lot to offer to the homeopathic community. Our SC is a discussion forum about all items concerning homeopathic provings. Our goal is to promote well done homeopathic drug provings taking into account ethical and legal considerations.

Any person is welcome to join the subcommittee sharing his or her experience and expertise in the field of provings and cooperating to augment the quality of provings.

- It is important that the official regulatory requirements for homeopathic provings are being monitored. Therefore, SC Proving elaborated on the booklet Guidelines for a Homeopathic Drug Proving (HDP). These guidelines are based on the structure of the conventional ICH GCP Guidelines (International Conference on Harmonisation, Good Clinical Practice), adapted to the specific HDP requirements. It provides a survey of all aspects involved in the HDP elaboration. These guidelines need constant revision and adaptation and have recently been consulted also with the LMHI.
- SC Proving can give advice about every step in the elaboration of a proving protocol and the ethical and legal consequences.
- We provide consultation if information is needed to decide which remedy to prove or how to decide on the number of volunteers that you want to include in the placebo group.

- Based on the ECH Guidelines for Homeopathic Drug Proving we distilled the Minimum Standard, a checklist containing the most important items. It is a practical working tool.
- A Training Course for Proving Coordinators on how to elaborate good quality provings is available.
- A Training Course *Educational Proving or Self experience* is also available concerning specific items of provings done during the education of homeopathic physicians.
- A *Proving Database* is in the last stage of elaboration. Notwithstanding the existing proving databases the ECH decided to provide, in collaboration with Archibel, a proving database with information about their design and other characteristics on how each proving was performed. The data collected in this database are based on the Minimum Standard framework. Worldwide so many provings have been done which are only known by a limited number of homeopaths. The database is a means to find and study these valuable provings.

Several position papers and working papers are published or in publication and available on the ECH Website:

- Are HDP's clinical Phase 1 trials
- Placebos in HDP
- Clinical Verification of HDP symptoms

Currently, the attention of SCP focuses on the interface between official requirements for good medical practice and the requirements that good homeopathic philosophy poses to provings. Considerations from the area of modern research methodology can contribute to this, and new solutions that are specific for provings methodology are sought for. Provings are essential for homeopathic practice as well for the growth of homeopathy in its full range. The proving of a remedy is an important requirement for the registration of the remedy by the regulatory instances. It is the wish of the ECH Subcommittee for Provings to support this work. Members of the subcommittee participate in different roles: As experts in special subjects, as delegates from a national homeopathic medical association that is member of ECH, as general contributors, etc. Some members coordinate a part of the work or perform certain tasks. It is an honour for me as coordinator to stimulate every member to function and enjoy in an optimal way!

We welcome you, if you feel that you can cooperate in our subcommittee! You can contact me to discuss your considerations.



## IMPRINT

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