

European Committee for Homeopathy

MEETING AGENDA



DOCUMENTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting name/purpose	Documentation subcommittee meeting		
Date	16.04.2021	Time	13.30 – 16.00 CET
Location	By Zoom (Krakow meeting cancelled due to Coronavirus pandemic)		
Attendees	Daniela Hacke Evi Hartmann Susanne Rehm Beate Schleh Rienk Stuut Margaret Wyllie	Apologies	Corinne Charroin Christa Raak
Guest	Jean Pierre Jansen, (Coordinator SC Provings)	Absent	Isabella Leese
Moderator	Susanne Rehm	Minutes	Margaret Wyllie

AGENDA

Item	Time	Agenda topic	Presenter
1	13.30	Welcome & introductions Approval of minutes of previous meeting	Susanne
2	13.40	Update on members' libraries	All
3	14.00	ECH Council – feedback from meetings	Margaret & Daniela
4	14.10	Carstens-Stiftung CAM-QUEST database	Daniela
5	14.15	Current Journals list	Susanne
6	14.20	Dissertations & Theses	All
7	14.30	IGHDR update	Margaret
8	14.35	Link List	Rienk
9	14.45	Website – a) Lit Searching PP update b) shared filing	Christa, Daniela Margaret
10	15.00	Proposal from SC Provings Coordinator	Jean Pierre Jansen

European Committee for Homeopathy

MEETING AGENDA

11	15.30	Strategic Narratives (and see ppt)	Margaret & Daniela
12	15.50	AOB	All

DISCUSSION OF TOPICS

1	13.30	<i>Welcome and Introduction</i> <i>Approval of Minutes</i>	<i>Susanne</i>
Discussion summary	Susanne will retire from DHU in June; she has been a member of SC Documentation since its inception in 1993 and will be greatly missed. All wished her well for her retirement. Her replacement, Evi Hartmann, was warmly welcomed to the group, and everyone introduced themselves. Minutes of previous meeting approved.		
Conclusions			
Action items		Person responsible	Deadline

2	13.50	<i>Update on members' libraries</i>	<i>All</i>
Discussion summary	Not minuted, except to note that the CAM library at Witten-Herdecke has been closed and the contents are in storage and inaccessible. There is also uncertainty about the future of the specialist collection at Utrecht University.		
Conclusions			
Action items		Person responsible	Deadline

3	14.00	<i>ECH Council – feedback from meetings</i>	<i>Margaret & Daniela</i>
Discussion summary	Margaret had tabled a brief report and there was a short discussion. There are currently some problems which a majority of Council members are attempting to address; these prevent the Council from acting effectively and professionally. A mediator has been appointed and an initial meeting has now taken place; it is hoped that the issues can be resolved without the need for a formal procedure and that ECH can be developed into a more effective organisation.		

European Committee for Homeopathy

MEETING AGENDA

Conclusions			
Action items	Person responsible	Deadline	

4	14.15	<i>Carstens-Stiftung CAM-QUEST database</i>	<i>Daniela</i>
Discussion summary	The main Carstens database still exists, but is no longer updated and is not accessible to the public. There are 3 publicly accessible sub-databases, but it is not known if these will continue to be updated.		
Conclusions			
Action items	Person responsible	Deadline	

5	14.18	<i>Current Journals List</i>	<i>Susanne</i>
Discussion summary	This is up-to-date and a further update will be completed.		
Conclusions			
Action items	Person responsible	Deadline	
In hand	Maren Bachmann, DHU	Nov 2021	

6	14.20	Dissertations & Theses	Susanne
Discussion summary		Requires indexing, but delayed by Coronavirus restrictions.	
Christa's thesis should be added, and Ileana's once it has been published.			
Others to be added from May 2020 to present.			
Conclusions			
Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
Send updates from May 2020 to present to DHU.		Beate	asap
Send details of Christa's thesis to DHU.		Daniela	asap

European Committee for Homeopathy

MEETING AGENDA

Check with Ileana re publication of her thesis.	Margaret	asap
---	----------	------

7	14.25	IGHDR	Margaret
Discussion summary		3 entries outstanding: Greece, Spain, UK DHU entry to be updated	
Conclusions		Outstanding entries are in hand.	
Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
Update DHU entry.		Susanne / Evi	June 2021
Complete outstanding entries.		Margaret	when information available

8	14.30	Link List	Rienk
Discussion summary		There is problem with trying to have this uploaded; the webmaster does not have file transfer permission (FTP) and his predecessors, who had worked on the previous link list, are unable to help. A meeting has been organised with Rienk, the President, Secretary, webmaster and communications manager to try to resolve this long-standing issue. <i>Post-meeting: Council will set up a small working party, including Jean-Pierre Jansen and Dora Pachova in addition to those named above, to resolve the IT issues.</i>	
Conclusions			
Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
Report back on outcome of meeting.		Rienk	after meeting

9	14.40	Website – a) Lit Searching b) shared filing	Daniela Margaret
Discussion summary		a) Caroline's ppt requires to be updated. Daniela and Christa have not had time to do this yet. b) No further forward with this issue – a new server is being sought	
Conclusions			
Action items		Person responsible	Deadline

European Committee for Homeopathy

MEETING AGENDA

Update Caroline's ppt.	Daniela & Christa	when time permits
Encourage Council to appoint new server.	Margaret & Daniela	ongoing

10	14.45	Proposal from SC Provings Coordinator	Jean Pierre Jansen
Discussion summary		Jean Pierre tabled a paper and presented a ppt.	
1 Homeopathic terms in Pub Med and MeSH: JPJ asked if the ECH Thesaurus could be incorporated into MeSH. This would make homeopathy more visible and also result in more efficient research structures. SR remembered that this had been tried, unsuccessfully, when SC Doc began 28 years ago. If the homeopathy community use the ECH Thesaurus for author keywords, these will be listed at the end of abstracts and become searchable in databases like PubMed or SciSearch. JPJ suggested providing the content for a proposal and SC Doc would then put this into a professional proposal. SR pointed out that NLM will not be interested until there are more high-quality, peer-reviewed journals integrated into Pub Med; only then will there be a need for homeopathic terms.			
2 Case reporting: there is a need for a collection of case reports which could be easily searched. SR stated that very few of the above journals included case reports. JPJ said this was a long-term EUROCAM project but wondered if ECH could undertake this in the meantime. The reporting quality of new cases must be systematised to align homeopathy with conventional medicine, which is beginning to be more holistic and patient-centred. Data mining will then make searching easier. All agreed that this required complex programming and specialist IT expertise. It was thought Rienk might know of a helpful contact. (He had had to leave the meeting due to connectivity problems.)			
3 Preservation of old collections/databases: many are already in danger of being lost. All agreed that it was important to tackle this if possible. It will be added to the agenda for our next meeting.			
Conclusions		1a) The first step is to increase the number of high-quality, peer-reviewed journals. 1b) Researchers should be encouraged to use terminology from the ECH Thesaurus.	
2 This is beyond the scope of SC Documentation.			
3 We will take this forward.			
Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
Discuss with HRI the possibility of encouraging researchers to use terms from ECH Thesaurus. <i>Post-meeting: terms should first be updated to align with conventional terminology where possible</i>		Margaret	asap
Recommend an IT expert in digital mining, with knowledge of homeopathy.		Rienk	when time permits
Consider how best to begin collecting old databases.		All	as time permits

European Committee for Homeopathy

MEETING AGENDA

scanning collections, etc.		
----------------------------	--	--

11	15.45	Strategic Narratives	Margaret & Daniela
Discussion summary		Ian Wilders' ppt had been tabled. Margaret explained that the intention was to feed positive facts about homeopathy to influencers/bloggers to disseminate on social media, eg environmentally-friendly, patient choice, individualisation, effective, safe, inexpensive, holistic, etc. One suggestion was to update homeopathic terminology where appropriate to bring it more in line with contemporary medical vocabulary. Susanne recommended an excellent post from HRI, where a number of well-respected researchers countered the fallacy that homeopathy is simply a placebo - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oACBheCzE9U Margaret mentioned the UK's patient animation produced by 4H for Homeopathy Awareness Week.	
Conclusions			
Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
<i>Post-meeting: Council suggested terminology in the Thesaurus be updated where possible; Russell Malcolm and Galen Ives have begun using different terms in research papers.</i>			
Forward 4H animation to all.		Margaret	asap

12	15.45	AOB	All
Discussion summary		Evi needs log-in details for SC Documentation on the ECH website. Her details need to replace Susanne's on the list of Committee members. With Susanne's retirement, we will need a new chair. Evi agreed to take this on for the next meeting.	
Conclusions			
Action items		Person responsible	Deadline
Provide log-in details.		Margaret	asap
Change Evi's details for Susanne's.		Margaret	asap