European Committee for Homeopathy

MEETING MINUTES

COUNCIL

Meeting name	**Council, by Zoom**		
Date	10.02.22	**Time**	19.00 - 21.00 CET
Attendees	Jean Pierre Jansen (JPJ) Natalia Tzima (NT) Ileana Rîndașu (IR) Edward De Beukelaer (EB) Susann Buchheim (SB) Tiziana Di Giampietro (TDG) Ilse Muchitsch (IM) Dora Pachova (DP) Cristal Skaling-Klopstock (CSK) Joan Vidal (JV) Margaret Wyllie (MW)	**Apology**	Neli-Kinga Olah
Minutes to be written by	Margaret Wyllie	**Moderator**	Natalia Tzima
Next meeting	**17 March 2022, 7.00-9.00pm (CET)**	**Version**	Draft 1

DISCUSSION OF TOPICS

1	*19.10*	*Welcome; amendments to agenda*	*Margaret*
Discussion summary		The meeting opened with news of the death of Luc Montagnier. All expressed sympathy and it was agreed to write a tribute to be published through social media, the website and the next newsletter.	
Conclusions		*Post-meeting: Jean Pierre wished to write the tribute.*	

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2	*19.08*	*Approval of Minutes of 13.01.2021*	*Margaret*
Discussion summary		The Minutes were approved, with an amendment to Item 7 re CEN standards NT apologised for having circulated this item to SC Politics, not realising it had already been agreed. DP stated it would be helpful to have the feedback in order to improve the document.	
Conclusions			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Send MW wording for Item 7	DP	asap

3	*19.15*	*Spring Symposium proposals (paper tabled)*	*Jean Pierre*
Discussion summary		Introduction: To enable the development of ECH's long-term strategy, JPJ had identified key areas on which to focus and to involve all our members	

1. Important to extend our network into the wider community and find and connect to people who will speak up for homeopathy. We have to provide information packages to support them to do this, eg Avogadro's number, lab tests, homeopathy in General Practice, RCTs, etc. (SC Research)

We must break away from the tendency to speak only to older people and work to encourage young students and healthcare professionals, eg Summer School, ECH Academy. (SC Education, JPJ, EB)

HRI is building a network of researchers; ECH can build a network of educators – exchanging speakers, encouraging positive cooperation and creating a stable academic environment in which ECH has influence. (SC Education)

2. Must be able to show what homeopathy can do and is especially useful in, eg immunological problems, long Covid, post-chemotherapy weakness, Arnica in emergency medicine – provide a starting point for discussion rather than talking about constitutions, which is not a familiar concept to non-homeopaths. We have to enable/excite people to speak up for homeopathy. (SC Research)

We already have 3 examples of case-reporting to begin to establish a registry – Clificol, extensive casework (Robbert van Haselen), likelihood ratio project (Lex Rutten). We cannot wait for absolute proof of how/why homeopathy works but must make a case registry to show what it can do. Other professions which have done this have seen huge improvements in public awareness. (SC Research – supported by Robbert van Haselen, Lex Rutten and Frederik Schroyens.)

3. 21st terminology and concepts (joint project: SCs Research, Education, Documentation, Joseph Schmidt)
   a) list of terms and definitions – SC Research
   b) thesaurus – SC Documentation
   c) share terms – SC Education, via ECH Academy, Ian Wilders

It was noted that some compendiums already exist so we can begin from those.

4. Be prepared to apply for EU subsidies beginning in 2027 (SCs Research, Politics) – see paper

5. Integrative Medicine – we must focus on homeopathy first and then Int Med, of which homeopathy is already a form. What skills/knowledge can we share to have homeopathy in treatment plans and integrated with allopathic medicine? This is applicable to EuroCAM, politicians, allopathic doctors etc. If we can support this with the proposed registry then patients will know about different choices, and it will become a shop

window for homeopathy and a bridge between homeopathy and allopathy. (SC Politics, EB)	
6. Availability of threatened remedies (nosodes, Mercury) and other important remedies (IORs) (SC Pharmacy) – see paper	
7. PR: this is the central working group required to communicate our ideas and strategy, establishing goals and tactics. Who are we targeting? Who do we want to influence? Should we engage a professional? Andrea Blazquez and Rebecca De Beukelaer should be introduced to members at a future Council meeting.	
JPJ proposed that two Council members should take on a topic and begin to develop a good plan, identifying objectives, content, timeline, costs, etc. JPJ will meet with them to support their preparations for presenting their ideas to the Symposium. Each topic will be the subject of a 10' presentation plus 10' Q&As. Members will be invited to join projects in which they are particularly interested; the projects are inter-disciplinary and may attract people from different SCs, and also external experts. Each group will then further develop their ideas ready for Council to compile a presentation for the GA in November, when approval will be sought for any necessary funding.	
Conclusions	JV offered to set up a structure for registries and databases. CSK offered to prepare a PR presentation for the Symposium. JPJ was thanked for setting out this vision for ECH's future development.

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Introduce JV to Schroyens, van Haselen and Rutten	JPJ	asap
Arrange for Andrea and Rebecca to meet Council	MW	when suitable
Arrange meetings to discuss topics with appropriate SC teams	JPJ	asap

5	*20.15*	*BREAK*

4	*20.20*	*Cooperation with Boiron*	*Jean Pierre / Ilse*
Discussion summary	EuroCAM has received a request from Boiron offering funding in exchange for having a representative on the Board and a speaker at conferences. The tendency for EuroCAM has been to not accept money from commercial companies. ECH has been asked to provide an opinion. ECH has encountered hostility from Boiron attacking classical homeopathy in some countries. However, IM stated that there had been a change in the senior management and she was confident that this would no longer be the case and Boiron are interested in supporting ECH. She felt it was important to find a diplomatic way to cooperate with them and with other companies. It was stated strongly that hostility towards some of our members is not acceptable and this should be made a condition of both membership and acceptance of sponsorship. JV pointed out that Boiron should be regarded as our customers: we can charge them for our research. We need to put a policy in place for dealing with the industry; Boiron, like all commercial companies, use their influence to increase their profits.		

	We will accept sponsorship and membership but companies cannot be speakers as this is a potential conflict of interest and a risk to ECH's independent reputation. All agreed. EB suggested ECH might be a point of contact for smaller pharmacy companies. JV: Lobbying organisations cannot accept more that 30% of their funding from a commercial company. This should be checked with regard to ECH.
Conclusions	Sponsorship from commercial companies (including Boiron) is acceptable but not having a representative on a Board/Council or as a speaker at an event. Draw up a set of guidelines for interaction with commercial companies. All agreed with Edward's idea of bringing smaller companies together.

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Draw up guidelines as above	JPJ	not immediate
Check rules for accepting funds from companies	?	not immediate

6	*21.20*	*WHO Benchmark project – updates*	*Jean Pierre*
Discussion summary	Deferred to March meeting, due to lack of time.		
Conclusions			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Agenda item for next meeting	IR	15 March

7	*21.20*	*Agrohomeopathy project*	*Ileana*
Discussion summary	IR had contacted two key researchers who are happy to help – Radko Tichavsky (Mexico) and Giovanni Dinelli (Italy). She is arranging a date for an online meeting where they will each make a presentation. Their students will also be present and IR invited Council members to attend. This provides a possibility to start SC Agro and would give ECH an important position in this new field. However, IR intends to be careful to let this grow organically.		
Conclusions			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Agrohomeopathy meeting: 26 Feb or 5 March, 6.00pm CET	IR	asap

8	*21.35*	*AOB*	*All*
Discussion summary	EB has been invited to speak for 5 minutes on behalf of ECH at the Belgian Homeopaths Congress at the end of March. He invited members to let him know what they would like him to talk about.		
Conclusions			

Action items	**Person responsible**	**Deadline**
Send ideas for ECH topics to EB	All	beginning of March

9	*21.40*	*Close of meeting*	*Natalia*