

MARCH NEWSLETTER

Issue 3, 2024



Please see website for pdf version – <https://homeopathyeurope.org/media/newsletters/>



ECH SPRING MEETING, BERGAMO, 25-27 April *Future-proofing homeopathy*



With the ever-increasing costs of venue hire, accommodation and travel, members agreed with Council's proposal that there should be only one face-to-meeting in 2024 – in the Spring – with an online meeting organised for November.

So, come and join us in the lovely Italian city of Bergamo from 25 to 27 April. We are delighted to announce that top researcher Professor Paolo Bellavite, of the University of Verona, has very kindly agreed to address the meeting. He is the author of over 250 published scientific papers and a particular area of interest has been the possible scientific bases for complementary medicines, including homeopathy. Further details can be found in the link below.

Register here – <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=790204&cmid=24ddc5b2-5130-487e-9580-b47f1828907f>





AGROHOMEOPATHY WORKING GROUP



The ECH Agrohomoepathy Working Group is a spectacular group of people – an international network with brilliant interdisciplinary experience and a hub for collaboration, all integrated around the Science and Art of Healing of Homeopathy.

Our first meeting of the year was super interesting and there are already many topics to be included in our work agenda. The next meeting will be online on 20 March at 8pm CET.

Keep an eye on your mailbox. A new Zoom link will be circulated closer to the meeting. Also, within the circulated email content will be the updated agenda and the PDF file with the paper for reading before the next meeting. Finally, the work structure of this group is fluid so, as we keep meeting, we can adapt our work dynamic.

Please get in touch with any ideas or questions, or if you would like to join the group – faedo.leonardo@gmail.com

Thank you all again. I am very much looking forward to seeing you soon. It is an absolute pleasure to collaborate with you.

Best wishes and we'll talk soon,

Leonardo Faedo

Joint Coordinator, ECH Agrohomoepathy WG



PODCAST INTERVIEW WITH CRISTAL SKALING KLOPSTOCK

ECH Council member and leader of the PR and Communications Working Group, co-President of the European Federation of Homeopathic Patients' Associations (EFHPA), and Steering Committee member of The People's Declaration for TCIM Healthcare, has just stood down after many years as Chief Executive Officer of Homeopathy UK, the UK organisation for homeopathy patients. At the end of last month, she was interviewed at length on Homeopathy Health Podcast.

Listen to the podcast here – <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/homeopathy-health-with-atiq-ahmad-bhatti/id1715524908?i=1000647463991>



FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH ON INTEGRATIVE ONCOLOGICAL THERAPIES (ARTOI)



The first issue of the International Journal of Integrative Oncology (IJIO) is online! Previously published manuscripts are available on the website <https://www.edisciences.org/ijio-international-journal-of-integrative-oncology>.

IJIO is an international and interdisciplinary peer-reviewed, quarterly journal that aims to publish studies deriving from well-researched, evidence-based complementary treatments to improve patient care and quality of experience. Integrative medicine is purposed to treat patients through spiritual, emotional, mental, cross-cultural and environmental perspectives in addition to physical means.

The primary goal is to consider openly yet scientifically various treatment modalities and not to exclude natural and less invasive interventions if applicable considering effectiveness and safety. Integrative cancer therapies, which combine the conventional treatments with the application of methodologies like Ayurveda, Anthroposophy, Herbal medicine, use of medicinal mushrooms, Homeopathy, Kampo, TCM and additional traditional medical systems will be evaluated based on rigorous research.

And note also that the ECH website lists current subscription and free Homeopathy and CAM journals. This can be found on the Documentation Subcommittee pages and is kept regularly updated –

https://homeopathyeurope.org/downloads/docs/Journals%20for%20ECH%20website_Layout_2024-02-26_incl_veterinary_medicine.pdf

03

INTEGRATIVE METHODS FOR VETERINARIANS



Please note: this event will be in German

On 25 April 2024, the ÖGT Section of Holistic Medicine and the ÖGVH will once again be organising a Day of Integrative Methods at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, as a hybrid event. The theme will be the – highly topical – One Health.

Following an official welcome from the President of the Veterinary Chamber, Kurt Frühwirth, there will be a keynote speech by Professor Annemarie Käsbohrer and lectures by veterinarians Werner Hagemüller, Robert Stodulka, Michael Ridler, Petra Weiermayer, Marcus Kasper and Elisabeth Binder. In addition, you are warmly invited to attend an introductory programme for beginner's from 15:30 where there will be a presentation of integrative medical methods and their schools, as well as a book raffle and a friendly social programme. See link in Dates For Your Diary.

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GRAINS OF SAND . . .

ProHomeopathia infoletter, Feb 2024

Dune du Pilat, Gironde, France

Hardly a day goes by without the homeopathic world releasing positive news: advances in fundamental research, rigorous scientific studies, new evidence that can only be attacked by bad faith or ignorance, the WHO's openness to integrative medicine, publications, books, patient-testimonials, clinical cases presented by homeopathic doctors at numerous meetings and symposia, reports of the many organizations and associations around the world working to spread homeopathic medicine...

So, I imagined that these countless grains of sand had erected a dune high enough to change the landscape of medicine. I was thinking of the Dune du Pilat, in the Gironde region of France which, at 104 metres, creates a splendid disruption to the coastal landscape.

Hence my question: have all these achievements had an impact on the perception of healthcare? To be sure, I fed the following statement into artificial intelligence:

Now that the scientific evidence for the effectiveness of homeopathy is accumulating in scientific publications, including the most prestigious publications, what are the prospects of integrating this medical discipline into conventional medicine?

AI answer:

There are still debates about the effectiveness of homeopathy because of the difficulty of designing rigorous studies that take account of the placebo effect. In general, conventional physicians are sceptical about the efficacy of homeopathy and do not consider it a valid medical discipline. However, there is evidence that homeopathy can be effective for certain conditions, and some conventional doctors may recommend homeopathy as an adjunct to conventional treatment. Ultimately, the integration of homeopathy into conventional medicine will depend on further scientific research and recognition of homeopathy by the medical community.

The dominant discourse is subtly changing. Let's keep adding sand to the homeopathic dune... Thank you for your support!

Erik Buelens
President, ProHomeopathia



HRI Statement on Sigurdson et al. 2023

17 October 2023

Conventional scientists confirm that clinical trials show homeopathy has beneficial effects beyond placebo but dismiss the result as ‘noise’.

A recent study by Sigurdson et al.[1] selected 50 randomised placebo-controlled trials (RCTs) of homeopathy and calculated the overall size of the treatment effect detected. **They found that 80% of the trials were positive for homeopathy, and that homeopathy was twice as likely to have a beneficial effect than placebo** (mean effect size 0.36, Odds Ratio 1.94). This positive result is consistent with the findings of an earlier rigorous study which found that individualised homeopathic treatment was 1.5- to 2-times more likely to be beneficial than placebo [2].

And yet, Sigurdson et al. dismissed these positive results as simply being the result of ‘noise’ or ‘bias’, claiming that they demonstrate the level of error found in all clinical trials rather than demonstrating a real clinical effect of homeopathy.

To arrive at this position the authors made two key assumptions:

1. Homeopathy is a “null field”, i.e., *a scientific field where there is nothing to discover and where observed associations are thus expected to simply reflect the magnitude of bias* [3].
2. All placebo controlled RCTs of homeopathy essentially test placebo against placebo, i.e., there is no possibility that beneficial effects seen are genuine or attributable to treatment.

Such flawed logic by experienced conventional scientists requires further comment.

‘Bias’ refers to various sources of error that may distort the results of a study, caused by weaknesses in the study design, analysis or reporting. Bias is known to impact treatment effects detected in RCTs. Researchers are aware of this and take measures to minimise bias when planning and performing studies. Homeopathy researchers are no different in this regard, carrying out clinical trials using the same trial designs and following the same quality guidelines as those used in conventional medical research.

The *a priori* assumption of Sigurdson et al, that homeopathic medicines cannot work and therefore must be nothing more than placebos, is itself a well-recognised source of bias. This ‘plausibility bias’ [4] blinds the researcher to the possibility that the beneficial effects of homeopathic medicines detected in placebo-controlled trials are real clinical effects, occurring via a non-biochemical mechanism of action, which has yet to be understood.

It is both disappointing and ironic that a study aimed at quantifying bias, is itself built entirely on a well-documented specific type of bias. Furthermore, when one considers the body of evidence demonstrating that homeopathic medicines have biological effects, not only in humans, but also in multiple animal [5] and plant [6]species, as well as molecular studies [7], taking the stance that homeopathy is impossible, is clearly not evidence-based.

References

1. Sigurdson MK, *et al.* Homeopathy can offer empirical insights on treatment effects in a null field. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 2023;155:64-72
2. Mathie RT, *et al.* Randomised placebo-controlled trials of individualised homeopathic treatment: systematic review and meta-analysis, 2014;3:142

3. Ioannidis JP. Why most published research findings are false. *PLoS Medicine*, 2005;2:e124
4. Rutten L, *et al.* Plausibility and evidence: the case of homeopathy. *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, 2013;16(3):525-532
5. Lopez-Carvalho JA, *et al.* Highly diluted bioactive compounds in marine aquaculture: A potential alternative for sustainable production. *Reviews in Aquaculture*, 2021;14(3):1170-1193
6. Ücker A, *et al.* Systematic Review of Plant-Based Homeopathic Basic Research: An Update. *Homeopathy*, 2018; 107(2):115-129
7. Tournier A, *et al.* Physicochemical Investigations of Homeopathic Preparations: A Systematic Review and Bibliometric Analysis – Part 3. *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*, 2021;27(1):45-57

03



FACULTY OF HOMEOPATHY 100TH CONGRESS, EDINBURGH, 21-24 NOVEMBER

Further to the previous information about the forthcoming Faculty Congress in Edinburgh from 21-24 November, we are delighted to be able to announce a discount code for ECH members. When registering please apply code **ECHtake10** to take advantage of this. The venue is Surgeons' Quarter in Edinburgh's historic Old Town. The theme of the weekend is *Homeopathy: Integrative Medicine for a Sustainable Future*, and ECH President Jean Pierre Jansen will be one of the keynote speakers. See registration link below in Dates For Your Diary.

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AND MORE FROM THE ARCHIVES . . .



Necessity Meets Commerce

Wartime Homeopathy Kits as Historical Objects

We are indebted to Marion Baschin of the Robert Bosch Foundation for this fascinating account of some items from the Foundation's archive, published in *Medizin, Gesellschaft und Geschichte* 41, 2023, 45–63

Read article here – https://mcusercontent.com/4748775642562c8590f61e415/files/e9b18442-d825-f08e-5230-c553d8c1ec8d/Baschin_Necessity.pdf

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



German-speaking veterinarians, doctors, pharmacists and students are warmly invited to attend the following **free online lecture series on homeopathy**:

March 5 at 17:00 to 19:00

Homöopathie in der Kleintierpraxis Case reports & Arzneimittelbilder

Speaker: Dr med vet Barbara Wieser, specialist veterinarian in homeopathy

March 19 at 17:00 to 19:00

Homöopathie in der Nutztierpraxis, Case reports & Arzneimittelbilder/

Speaker: Claudia Frei-Freuis, veterinarian

April 9 at 17:00 to 19:00

Homöopathie in der Nutztierpraxis, Case reports & Arzneimittelbilder

Speaker: Michael Ridler, veterinarian specialising in homeopathy

April 30 at 17:00 to 19:00

Homöopathie in der Pferdepraxis Case reports & Arzneimittelbilder

Speaker: Dr med vet Petra Weiermayer, specialist veterinarian in homeopathy



INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY HOMEOPATHY CONGRESS: *Multifaceted Homeopathy: the Importance of a Holistic Approach*, 20-21 April, Izola, Slovenia

Registration now open – <https://svhd.si/kongres-2024/>



ÖGT, ÖGVH, SEKTION MEDIZIN: Day of Integrative Methods, 25 April, 17:00-21:00, with preliminary programmes at 15:30, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna

<https://www.oegvh.at/event/tag-der-integrativen-methoden-2024/>

<https://veranstaltungen-oegt.jimdo.com/tag-der-integrativen-methoden-2024/>



ECH SPRING MEETING, 25-28 April 2024, Bergamo, Italy

SAVE THE DATE!

This will be the only face-to-face ECH meeting this year so be sure to mark this in your diary and join us in this beautiful and historic Italian city.

Registration link –

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=790204&cmid=24ddc5b2-5130-487e-9580-b47f1828907f>



LMHI 77th WORLD HOMEOPATHIC CONGRESS: United to Keep Moving Forward 2-5 October, Seville, Spain

Full details and registration here – <https://lmhi2024.org>



Faculty of
Homeopathy

FACULTY OF HOMEOPATHY 100TH CONGRESS: *Integrative Medicine for a Sustainable Future* 21-24 November, Edinburgh, Scotland

Full details and registration here – <https://www.facultyofhomeopathy.org/pages/Congress-2024>

Please note: Discount code for ECH members – ECHtake10



If you would like to submit an item to be considered for inclusion in the April issue, please send it to the editor at documentation@homeopathyeurope.org by 20 March.

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