



LIGA NEWS

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In the Spotlight

The Homeopathy Debate in Europe and Japan



Yehudi Menuhin

Homeopathy is the safest and most reliable approach to ailments and has withstood the assaults of established medical practice for over 100 years (Daily Telegraph, August 12, 1989)

Without any scientific proof of their effectiveness, homeopathy and homeopathic remedies remain highly disputed – not only in Europe but, as recently shown, also in Japan. In times of economic uncertainty and strained budgets, politicians and lobbyists are questioning whether the alternative treatments should be officially recognized and covered by the national health care system. An increasing proportion of patients around the globe, however, is calling for individualized care and the integrated treatment of homeopathy, alongside conventional medicine. This is what they perceive as modern medicine. To battle against this development, lobbyists and the press have been using lurid and attention-grabbing headlines: Homeopathy is slandered as “witchcraft” and “medieval quackery”, prophesying the “backslash into the middle ages”.

Editorial by LMHI President Dr. José Matuk

Dear LMHI-Members, dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to approach you through this newsletter that has proven to be a valid mechanism for exchanging LMHI information. As you all know, the last Liga Congress held in Redondo Beach California (USA) turned out to be a great success. Prior to the Congress, the LMHI International Council – with more than 40 member countries represented at the meeting – elected the new Executive Committee for 2010-2013. This newsletter issue will give you a first impression of how the new LMHI board is composed. Detailed information will follow in our upcoming annual publication “The LIGA Letter”. Important decisions were taken for the progress of the LMHI, having as main objective its continued expansion across the world – as has been achieved to date. We are now represented in more than 70 countries which is a big challenge for us all. Our most important working projects are reflected in the titles of the different LIGA Secretariats. Our website is actively visited every day and will soon provide new functions, for example the individual access with personal login for each LMHI member and the databank-coupled

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United Kingdom

The Trials and Triumphs of Homeopathy in the UK

By John Burry, Communications Officer of the Faculty of Homeopathy

Over the last six months, homeopathy in the UK has continued to come under attack. In June 2010, the British Medical Association (BMA) passed motions at its annual conference calling for the National Health Service (NHS) to stop providing homeopathic treatment and to withdraw all funding. The BMA is basically a labour union for doctors. It cannot make Government policy but only suggest positions on policies that affect doctors. However, this policy has met with considerable opposition, not least from some of the BMA's own members who criticised their leadership for adopting a policy that could affect the treatment and health of thousands of patients without consulting GPs who actually practise homeopathy.

The British Homeopathic Association and Faculty of Homeopathy is campaigning vigorously to get this decision reversed. In a meeting with BMA chairman, Dr. Hamish Meldrum, Faculty President Dr. Sara Eames discussed the impact of the BMA's policy on their membership, as many Faculty doctors are members of the BMA. Following the meeting, Meldrum suggested that an article outlining the evidence base for homeopathy could appear in the BMA Newsletter. The possibility of establishing a special interest group for Integrated Medicine to allow BMA doctors to air concerns across many specialities was also discussed.

In September 2010, the public service broadcaster BBC showed a documentary "Magic or Medicine", aired in Scotland, which presented a negative and biased view of homeopathy North of the border. This resulted in two Scottish health boards announcing their intention to stop funding local primary care homeopathy. Despite vociferous protests from doctors and patient groups, NHS Highland and NHS Lothian appear determined to deprive their communities access to a form of treatment that is available on the NHS to the majority of people in Scotland.

"We believe in patients being able to make informed choices about their treatment."

There has been good news too. In what is seen as a serious setback for the sceptics of homeopathic medicine, the new coalition Government confirmed that homeopathy will continue to be available on the NHS. This statement came in response to the Science and Technology Committee's flawed and blinkered report issued in February 2010 recommending NHS funding for homeopathy should cease. Public Health Minister Anne Milton MP said: "We believe in patients being able to make informed choices about their treatment, and in a clinician being able to prescribe the treatment they feel most appropriate in particular circumstances, which includes complementary and alternative treatments such as homeopathy."

As part of its spending review the Government has also announced a radical shake-up in the NHS that will see Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities being phased out over the next two or three years and to give general practitioners (GPs) far greater control over how health budgets are spent. This is seen by many in the homeopathic community as a positive step, for it is an opportunity to get homeopathy funded locally through GP commissioning bodies. If homeopathic services can be offered with other services to take care of a particular patient base cost effectively, it is believed GP commissioners will be on board.

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search function for past LIGA Congresses. As an important activity, our current General Secretary Dr. Thomas Peinbauer has managed to establish new contacts in countries that are now undertaking the necessary steps for their integration into the LIGA, such as South Africa, China and Thailand. Our new Prime Vice-President Dr. Renzo Galassi, is creating working groups to support and implement the initiatives of the LIGA Secretaries – and thus to make their work more efficient. Our past and beloved Past-President Dr. Ulrich Fischer is now in the process of carrying out the procedures for the certification criteria of physicians enrolled in the LMHI and of completing our new Image Brochure. Another interesting topic in this newsletter is the *Scientific Framework of Homeopathy*, an initiative developed by our Research Secretary Dr. Michel Van Wassenhoven to gain more evidence that our medicine is a genuine scientific source and to sustain the necessary support of the scientific community for the development and increase of evidence-based homeopathy. We are also proud to be able to present to you the LMHI's *Homeopathic Remedy Definition*, that was completed at the Liga Congress 2010. We all know that attacks on Homeopathic Medicine persist around the world – recent attacks have been thwarted in Europe and Japan and our responsiveness has been more immediate. The most important issue remains, however, that we have to show through you, dear LMHI members, that we are a global union of homeopaths and that we will grow together more and more to strengthen homeopathic medicine throughout the world – despite the criticism and attacks. An example of such good news has come from Spain with the adjustment and official recognition of homeopathy. The Executive Committee welcomes its new board members and expresses its heartfelt gratitude for the support of all LMHI members – old and new. We are looking forward to an effective working agenda 2010-2013. Also remember that the next Liga Congress will be held in New Delhi, India, in December 2011.

*Dr. José Matuk
President LMHI*

The Royal London Homeopathic Hospital (RLHH) has officially changed its name to the Royal London Hospital for Integrative Medicine (RLHIM) to reflect the wide range of services the hospital provides.

In mid-September 2010, the RLHH became the Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine – the RLHIM. The name change was approved by directors of the University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust following a recommendation from senior staff at the hospital. The RLHIM is now the largest public sector centre for integrated medicine in Europe and has over 27,000 patient appointments a year. As well as bringing together conventional medicine with safe and effective, high quality complementary medicine to achieve the best possible results for patients, the hospital emphasises the importance of the patient-doctor relationship and enables patients to make choices about their healthcare and lifestyle.

LMHI Reaction to the name change of the famous Royal London Homeopathic Hospital

In a letter to Hospital President Dr. Peter Fisher and Faculty President Dr. Sara Eames, LMHI Past-President Dr. Ulrich D. Fischer expressed his concern and disappointment about the name change and called the RLHH “a symbol of medical homeopathy on hospital level in the entire homeopathic world”. He called the decision to rename the RLHH “a mistake and a big loss for Homeopathy and for all homeopathic medical doctors in the entire world.” From an LMHI point-of-view, this decision against homeopathy might have major disadvantages for medical homeopathy beyond the UK.

Switzerland

Defamatory Campaign Against Homeopathy

By Barbara Bichsel, LMHI National Vice-President for Switzerland

Some weeks after the publication of the defamatory article “Homeopathy – the Big Illusion” in the German weekly magazine “Spiegel” on 12 July 2010, the Swiss press started a similar campaign in August 2010. An editorial in the weekly supplement of a leading daily newspaper in the German-speaking part of Switzerland was titled “Homeopathic Bullshit” and contained – apart from other slanderous expressions – the usual popular arguments against homeopathy, focusing on the lack of scientific evidence in particular. This editorial was followed by a newspaper article from the “expert of sects”, Hugo Stamm, who described the ineffectiveness of homeopathy by repeating the well-known slogans and by quoting articles from Prof. Edzard Ernst, the UK’s self-proclaimed homeopathy-expert. Some days later, a homeopathic doctor and former employee of the *KIKOM (Institute for Complementary Medicine of the University of Bern)* in Bern, got the possibility to write a short reply in the same newspaper. In this way she got the chance to correct some of the intolerable arguments. Homeopathic doctors and

their patients protested against the articles by sending numerous letters to the editor.

During the recent meeting of the Swiss homeopathic teachers we discussed about the origin and reasons to explain that campaign. There could be a connection between the submission of the requests for readmission of medical homeopathy to the compulsory health insurance. These requests were submitted in spring 2010 and they are currently being discussed in the Federal Office of Public Health. One sentence in the editorial mentioned above points in this direction: “It is a tragedy that in the future the compulsory health insurance can be obliged to pay that bullshit.”

At the moment we do not consider it necessary to reply to such sharp, libellous articles; emancipated citizens are able to form their own opinion about such kind of articles!

However, the board of the SVHA/SSMH/SSMO submitted a complaint to the Swiss Press Council about vilification of a profession, spreading of untrue facts and use of libellous expressions. We are now waiting for an answer!

Japan

Japan’s medical authorities call homeopathy ‘absurd’

At the end of August, the head of the prestigious Science Council of Japan and medical supervisor for Japan’s Imperial Household Agency, Ichiro Kanazawa, publicly slammed homeopathy as an “absurd” medicine, arguing that the dilution in some cases is so high that it is almost impossible to find one molecule of the original raw material. Health workers were reportedly urged to stay clear of the alternative treatment as it grows in popularity. “I cannot help but feel strong bewilderment over the recent rise in homeopathy’s use as a treatment in Japan. The reason is that it ignores science”, Kanazawa was cited. The Science Council advises the central government on promoting scientific research in Japan, and represents the Japanese scientific community. Kanazawa further argued that „because it is only water, of course it has no therapeutic effects, not to mention ‘side effects’“. Arguments supporting homeopathy have “no scientific basis and are nothing but absurd”, he said, stressing that medical workers “must exclude non-science such as homeopathy and play the role of spreading true science”. The controversy had been fueled by reports that a two-month-old baby died last year of a cerebral haemorrhage in Japan after she was given a homeopathic remedy by a non-medical homeopathic practitioner instead of the normal treatment of vitamin K. Several other groups of scientists and medics have issued statements supporting Kanazawa. „The Japan Medical Association (JMA), along with the Japanese Association of Medical Sciences, totally agrees with the content” of Kanazawa’s message, JMA president Katsuyuki Haranaka said, claiming that medical professionals risked losing the trust of patients. “We needed to send out a message to our members that homeopathy does not work and need to prevent homeopathy from spreading through Japanese medicine as it has in the West.”

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has begun investigating whether groups promoting homeopathy have infringed on the Medical Practitioners Law or Pharmaceutical Affairs Law.

In reaction, the Japanese Physicians Society for Homeopathy (JPSH) launched a counter-offensive by citing studies on the medicine's positive effects. "The stance of judging that it has no effect because it cannot be explained by conventional theories is unscientific and we are taken aback," the JPSH said in a press statement. The JPSH has made great inroads into promoting responsible homeopathy in Japan and to explain homeopathy as a medical treatment. In addition, the LMHI's National Vice-President (NVP) for Japan informed the LMHI Executive Officers about the strong movement to eliminate homeopathy entirely from Japan and requested information on the regulatory status of homeopathy in the other LMHI member countries.

Germany

Backslash into the Middle Ages?

Although the statutory health insurance regulations allow the government-subsidized German health care system to reimburse patients who seek homeopathic treatments, many medical experts dismiss the theories behind homeopathy as pure hocus-pocus. The "Joint Federal Committee", the public body with wide-ranging regulatory powers that determines which medications will be covered by the state health care system, has been trying for a long time to eliminate such payments for homeopathic care. The FJC chairman reportedly complained that "influential politicians have always hindered such efforts" making the situation "extremely dissatisfactory." The German „Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care", an independent science institute and the highest medical investigator, takes the same position: Homeopathy is "a speculative, refuted concept," with no proof yet that it has any medical benefit. Some German politicians use this argument to openly question the expenditure and the coverage of the

treatments. Such as Karl Lauterbach, the parliamentary expert for the opposition Social Democrats in the federal parliament and a prominent voice in the German health care debate in the July 12-issue of the influential German weekly "Spiegel" that was devoted to a cover story titled "Homeopathy – The Great Illusion". According to Lauterbach, "Many patients believe that their insurance only pays for things that have been proven to help. This leads many patients to believe that serious illnesses like high blood pressure and cancer can also be treated homeopathically." Also the Christian Democrats, the party of Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel, have long been looking for ways to reform an ailing and expensive health care system and to save money by cutting unnecessary treatments. But Germany's smaller political parties have expressed their opposition to changes in the law. German Health Minister Philipp Rösler of the business-friendly Free Democratic Party (FDP) and Claudia Roth of the Green Party called for the status quo to be maintained. "It may begin with cuts in homeopathy, but where will it end?"

Nevertheless, homeopathy is well established in Germany and has long become a "mass movement": A recent survey by pollster Allensbach found that 57 percent of Germans have taken homeopathic remedies at some time or other, and 25 percent consider themselves to be "convinced users." A June 2010 survey by the German medical magazine *Deutsches Ärzteblatt* found that many doctors spend as little as five minutes with their patients, thinking they have done their job once they have placed a prescription in their hands, and that only 34 percent of people in the country described health care here as "very good" or „excellent". In addition, the German Associations of Pharmacists reported that 3,000 pharmacists have been trained in homeopathy. According to the German Medical Association, there are 6,712 doctors who carry the official title of "homeopath" – a figure that has tripled since 1993. German health insurance companies have also become firmly involved: More than half of all the public-private health insurance companies that are part of the country's national health care scheme provide coverage for homeopathy.

Medical Educational Standards

LMHI Accreditation Criteria for Teaching Centees and the LMHI Diploma

After the adoption of the joint LMHI-ECH Homeopathic *Medical Educational Standards* and the common *Curriculum* by the International Council, the LMHI has started the process of developing regulations for the accreditation of homeopathic medical schools and teaching centers and of establishing criteria for a LMHI Diploma. The Diploma will be granted to individual doctors and to members of a teaching center or homeopathic medical association, who have passed the qualifying at an LMHI-

accredited teaching center. Both documents are based substantially on the ECH accreditation rules and include the procedures and fees for both issues.

Detailed information on the accreditation of Homeopathic Teaching Centers is provided on the LMHI website www.lmhi.net. For further information please contact the LMHI Office at secretariat@lmhin.net.

Spain

Good News from Spain: Spanish Medical Council recognizes Homeopathy

By Antonio Marques Arpa – LMHI National Vice-President for Spain

After adopting a resolution to recognise the practice of homeopathy as a medical act in, the Spanish Medical Council (Organización Médica Colegial de España, OMC) presented a professional statute to the Ministry of Health in 2010. In its resolution, the OMC took the position that homeopathy should fulfil the same scientific and ethical requirements as any other medical activity. "The Council assumes its rightful role in defense of society and citizens' health, based on the fundamental premise that any therapy, conventional or not, allopathic, holistic or homeopathic, is a medical act which requires a prior diagnosis of its therapeutic indication and application, and should necessarily be made by an individual who is legally qualified and authorized to do so, which means a physician." "Regardless of their results, all activities concerning a person's health are regarded as

health acts. If, in addition, they require a diagnosis, they become a medical act. Under existing law, in order to give a correct diagnosis a body of knowledge is essential which only medical doctors have acquired."

"Homeopathic doctors are trained in both conventional medicine and homeopathy, and only their diagnosis and differential diagnosis ensures that citizens will receive a correct therapeutic approach, avoiding, above all, the error of omission and the delay in necessary treatment that, regardless of their effectiveness, may endanger their lives". "Homeopathy should be subject to the same ethical and scientific criteria as any other medical activity. Thus, to prove, scientifically, its effectiveness and efficiency through the implementation of relevant studies, developed with sufficient rigour and adequate methodology".

Research

International Scientific Committee on Homeopathic Investigations (ISCHI): Urgent Request for Research Proposals

The International Scientific Committee on Homeopathic Investigations (ISCHI) invites proposals to develop clinical studies investigating the potential of homeopathy in epidemiology and general medicine. Such studies could be of various designs, including but not limited to randomized controlled trials and non-randomized cohort studies. Proposals are encouraged in the field of Homeoprophylaxis (prevention using nosodes/biotherapies) of infectious diseases, studies (prospective or retrospective) evaluating the use of homeopathy for chronic illnesses that affect large populations and have a high economic impact, such as but not limited to chronic pain, asthma, and depression, replication of previous promising studies of homeopathy that would benefit from larger sample size, and other medical conditions, including but not limited to acute and/or traumatic conditions. The proposals will be judged based on feasibility, impact on public policy, Generalizability, ability to be reproduced, economic importance, quality, innovation, and effectiveness gap (conditions for which modern medicine lacks effective treatment). A total budget

of appr. 300,000 euro is available for this funding cycle. Awards issued under this announcement are contingent upon the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications. Co-funding with other organizations is encouraged.

Applicants must complete and submit a concept proposal by February 15, 2011, to jjacobs@igc.org. After review, applicants will be notified by March 15, 2011, of whether a full proposal is requested. Full proposals will be due by May 1, 2011, and applicants will be notified of funding decisions by September 1, 2011.

The Concept Proposal Application Form can be downloaded from the LMHI website www.lmhi.net, section "In Focus".

For further information please contact Dr. Michel van Wassenhoven, LMHI Secretary for Research, research@lmhint.net

LMHI Governance

The International Council elects new LMHI Executive Committee 2010-2013

Welcome on Board! With the LMHI elections at the LMHI Congress 2010 in Redondo Beach, U.S.A., in May, new faces have come on board the Executive Committee. In this issue of the LMHI newsletter, the new board members start introducing themselves. Here are the first three. You will find a detailed report about the old and new LMHI Executive Committee in the LMHI's annual publication "The Liga Letter" which will be published in late December.



The new LMHI board is composed as follows:

Executive Officers:

LMHI President	Josè Matuk Kanan – Mexico
Prime Vice-President	Renzo Galassi – Italy
Immediate Past President	Ulrich Fischer – Germany
Prime General Secretary	Thomas Peinbauer – Austria
Treasurer	Yves Faingnaert – Belgium

Secretaries:

Secretary for Archives	Edgar Godoy – Ecuador
Secretary for Dentistry	Geraldo A. Brown Ribeiro – Brasil
Secretary for Education	Carles Amengual I Vicens – Spain
Secretary for Newsletter	Sandra Chase – USA
Secretary for Pharmacy	Fruzsina Gabor – Hungary
Secretary for Public Relations	Sara Eames – United Kingdom
Secretary for Research	Michel Van Wassenhoven – Belgium

The new LMHI board members – Part I

Dr. Fruzsina Gábor – New LMHI Secretary for Pharmacy



I am Dr. Fruzsina Gábor, pharmacist from Hungary. I completed my *Ph.D.* in the field of photobiology. I have been studying and teaching homeopathy for 15 years and was the member of the leaders group of the Hungarian Homeopathic Medical Association (*Magyar Homeopata Orvosi Egyesület, MHOE*)

for six years. After organising a homeopathic department of a retail pharmacy, I have recently been translating and editing homeopathic books. In the past ten years, I took part in ECH meetings many times, in the Subcommittee

for Pharmacy. In 2000, I was the member of the scientific organising committee of the 55th LIGA Congress in Budapest, Hungary.

As LMHI Secretary of Pharmacy I wish to continue the work of Amarilys de Toledo Ceasar. I would be happy to see more and more pharmacists at the LIGA Congresses, to study and to share knowledge and information. I hope to get the possibility to give support to the organizers and in the next years to organize pharmacy sessions. The situation of homeopathic remedies needs urgent solution in many countries, that is why the sharing of information and the status of homeopathic remedies is really important. We are organizing working groups in the fields of Education, Preparation, and Communications to help to reach our goals in the field of homeopathic pharmacy.

Dr. Geraldo Augusto Brown Ribeiro – New LMHI Secretary for Dentistry



Brief Biography:

- Graduate Degree in Dentistry (University of Rio de Janeiro, 1983).
- Master in Dentistry (American World University in 2004).
- Specialist "Homeopathy in Dentistry" in 1994, by Hahnemannian Institute of Brazil.
- Specialist in Community Health, in 1987 and in Dental Prosthesis, in 1988, both by the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.
- MBA in Health Management by Getulio Vargas Foundation in 2003.
- Formation in Implantodontology, surgical and prosthetic by SOLAIAT of Brazil, 1996.
- Formation in Acupuncture and Electric Acupuncture to clinical and surgical Dentistry, 2009.
- Invited Teacher of Hahnemann Institute of Brazil and of Brazilian Dentistry Association.

- Teaching staff of Brazilian Homeopathic Federation.
- Member of Hahnemannian Institute of Brazil.
- Member of the LMHI.
- Representative of the Forum for Integrative Therapies of Brazilian Federal Dentistry Council.

First I would like to thank the International Council of the LIGA on my proposals and I'd like to state that it is a great honor and pleasure to belong to the Executive Committee as Secretary for Dentistry. I am proud of having witnessed the beginning of the systematic teaching of Homeopathy in Dentistry in my country and am very happy to have given a little contribution for its growing and consolidation. Today, Homeopathy is recognized by the Dentistry Federal Council of Brazil as a dental practice and this can be considered a great victory for a group of professionals to which I have the honour of belonging. Besides, I think that the possibility of working as Secretary for Dentistry of the LIGA is a great opportunity to further contribute to the consolidation of Homeopathy in Dentistry, this time on a higher level and amplitude.

I think that working for Homeopathy means to work for a better human being, as well as to work for better communities, and for a better world. And it seems to me a great chance to make this dream come true. My main proposals as Secretary for Dentistry of the LIGA are the following:

- To continue the brilliant work of Doctor Feingelstein looking for the growing of learning and research of the Homeopathy in Dentistry all around the world.
- To promote the exchange of knowledge and ideas among the already organized centers in Homeopathy in Dentistry as well as to take this information to places where it is not organized yet.
- To use the LIGA's site as a reference of the scientific production in the area, as well as a tool to exchange experience among the professionals.
- To use the annual International Congress of the LIGA as an important macro regional center of spreading of new ideas and concepts in Homeopathy applied in Dentistry.
- To support the consolidation of the Homeopathy in Dentistry as a dental practice around the world and its recognition by the corporative institutions.
- To optimize the relationship between the homeopathy dentist and his fellows physicians, veterinaries and pharmaceutics.

Dr. Yves Faingnaert – New LMHI Treasurer



Born on 14 March 1946, I live in the city of Zottegem, Belgium, about an hour west of the Belgium capital Brussels. My wife Kristel, lab assistant, works as my secretary in my private practice. Our 33-year-old daughter Katrien is a homeopathic veterinarian.

Short biography:

- 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, treasurer since 1991,
- ECH, European Committee for Homeopathy, treasurer since 1997,
- Member of the LMHI since 1995, and co-organiser 63rd congress LMHI in Ostend 2008.

On the plane, coming over to the Liga Congress in Redondo Beach, I could not stop whistling in my head to the tune "If a were a rich man", the song that Roger Whittaker made into a world famous hit in 1967. The best quality you could wish for in a treasurer is that he "were a rich man". That at least is a safe guarantee for the funds of our association. Rest assured, I am a rich man! Not in euro or in dollar! As after all I am a practicing homeopathic medical man. I am rich, because I have friends and relations such as all of you. Rich because it gives me a tremendous pleasure in joining in with you, rich in seeing that our belief in the development of homeopathic medicine is growing all over the world and rich because of the trust you placed in me by electing me as your treasurer.

Doing much with little. That is what we have been doing for many years now in the European Committee for Homeopathy, where I have held the financial reins for the last 14 years now. At all times we, on the Board and especially the treasurer, have to know when to say Yes to a good idea and, regretfully, also No when the funds are not there to accomplish all that we would want to do.

I hope that I can be helpful here at the Liga, looking after our financial means. Rest assured, I shall say Yes when I feel a new idea is worth looking into, when a new activity is envisaged and when our joint passion for homeopathy needs to be promoted. But sadly also No when the funds are not there. Sometimes the funds simply are not there yet and will be gathered somehow. That is where I believe my experience as a treasurer will come in handy, judging what will be possible.

And so I hope over the coming years, to remain "a rich man", rich in serving you and our association, rich in friendship and international exchanges and rich in my heart for the great honour I received.



Past-President Dr. Ulrich D. Fischer passes the Presidential Medal on to the new LMHI President Dr. José Matuk Kanan

LMHI Homeopathic Medicine/Remedy Definition – Final Version

For two years, the LMHI Secretary for Pharmacy and the Secretary for Research have been working on a *Homeopathic Remedy Definition*. The draft version was presented to the LMHI Executive Committee and the International Council at the 64th LIGA Congress 2010 in Redondo Beach, California, U.S.A. in May 2010, where Dr. Amarilys de Toledo Cesar, Secretary for Pharmacy 2007-2010, Dr. Fruzsina Gabor, the newly-elected Secretary for Pharmacy, and the LMHI Secretary for Research, Dr. Michel Van Wassenhoven, invited all LMHI representatives to submit views and comments. The final version of this document was published in September 2010. Initiator of this project was Dr. Adele Alma Rodriguez, President of the Italian homeopathic organization LUIMO.

According to different EU directives relating to homeopathic medicinal products for human and veterinary use, the homeopathic medicine/remedy definition must take into consideration the homeopathic use as well as the homeopathic nature of the stock/raw material. A stock/raw material for homeopathic preparation has to be precisely described; the directives are related to the manufacturing methods. The wording "homeopathic remedy" means that it remedies a situation and the wording „homeopathic medicine" means a well defined/described stock/raw material to be used in homeopathy. In the LMHI-ECH 2009 document about "Medical Homeopathic Education Standards", "Homeopathy" is defined as "a method of medical practice, aimed at improving the level of health of an organism by the administration of proven and succused/triturated

medicines, which are individually selected in accordance with the law of similars." In order to arrive at a more complete definition for the homeopathic medicine/remedy, three aspects had to be considered: A/ The Homeopathic use, B/ The Homeopathic "sources" or "monographs", C/ The Homeopathic preparation of stocks/raw material

LMHI Definition of the Homeopathic Remedy

The definition of the homeopathic remedy or medicine must consider different points of view. We can synthesize this definition in the following sentences: A homeopathic remedy is prepared from a stock/raw material described in a homeopathic monograph/source, following a homeopathic method and administered to a living being according to the principle of "similia similibus curentur". It has a potential to support changes in the state of health of this living being. When such changes indeed happen and lead to an improvement in the state of health/full healing of a disease with recovery of the state of health, homeopathic medicines act as remedies.

The complete document is available on the LMHI website www.lmhi.net, Section "Programs and Projects"

Obituary

In Memoriam: Prof. Louis Rey (1931-2010)

by Roeland Van Wijk (Netherlands)



On 26 October 2010, the internationally esteemed physicist and homeopathic scientist Louis Rey passed away at the age 79. At the 60th LIGA Congress 2005 in Berlin, Prof. Rey lectured about *The challenging ice and water data banks*. Fascinated by the "memory of water", Rey's scientific life was dedicated to the understanding of chemical-physical properties of organic molecules in fluid states. His research focused on the development of procedures to protect both the activity of enzymes and other molecular structures and the life of cells when water is extracted. Rey was an acknowledged expert in the field of water-extraction

by drying or low-temperature freezing, when cells survive and enter a state of suspended animation which lasts until the initial water content is restored. As former R&D director of the global food company Nestlé, Rey realized the importance of applying this knowledge within the food industry and succeeded in stimulating new industrial developments. The researcher Louis Rey was often consulted as an expert on high decision-making, political levels in both industrialized and less developed countries, and he organized numerous international conferences in his field of research. After his retirement, Rey continued his work on lyophilization and low temperature luminescence in the private setting of his laboratory.

It is hoped that Louis Rey's technologies, that study the claim of water being able to retain the memory of substances dissolved in it, will be continued. The notion is central to homeopathy.

Evidence Based Homeopathy

2010 Homeopathic Framework of Homeopathy

The revised 2010 edition of the booklet *Homeopathic Framework of Homeopathy* – a joint publication of the LMHI and the European Committee for Homeopathy (ECH) – has just been released. The comprehensive brochure is aimed at considering all important aspects of the scientific framework of Homeopathic practice including ethical questions, evaluation of daily practice, looking at the level of scientific evidence of each of these aspects. The conclusions are that homeopathy has to remain in the framework of medical practice and it is even a necessity for public health. Of course, more research is always necessary and must be supported and amplified.

The booklet can be downloaded from the LMHI website www.lmhi.net, Section “In Focus”.



LMHI Publications

New Image Brochure and redesigned *The Liga Letter*

The new Image Brochure of the LMHI was approved by the LMHI's Governing Bodies at their meetings in May 2010 in Redondo Beach, California, U.S.A and was printed in October. It was initiated by LMHI Past-President Dr. Ulrich D. Fischer and drafted in close cooperation with the LMHI Executive Committee. One printed copy of this information brochure will be mailed to all institutional LMHI members for information and lobbying purposes, for example at the annual International Day of Homeopathy that takes place in April of each year on the occasion of Samuel Hahnemann's birthday.

The 2010 issue of the LMHI's annual print-publication “*The Liga Letter*” has been redesigned and will be published and distributed at the end of December.

Save the Date

LMHI Congresses 2011 and 2012

66th LIGA Congress, 1-4 December 2011, New Delhi / India

The LIGA Congress 2011 will take place in New Delhi, India, from 1–4 December 2011. The main theme is “Homeopathy for Public Health”. The Congress also offers a program for Homeopathy in Dentistry, Veterinarian Science and Agro-Homoeopathy.



Information about the registration procedures and the individual topics are provided on the Congress Website www.liga2011.in.

67th LIGA Congress, 14-17 September 2012, Nara / Japan

The main theme of the LIGA Congress 2012 is “Harmony”. It will take place in Nara, Japan, from 14–17 September 2012. Dr. Peter Fisher Royal London Homoeopathic Hospital (RLHH), UK, Mr. Peter Gregory College of Animal Homeopathic Medicine, UK, Dr. Steven Kayne University of Strathclyde, UK, Dr. Bob Leckridge Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital, UK, Dr. Ashley H. A. Ross Durban University of technology, South Africa, Dr. Frederik Schroyens Editor, Synthesis, Belgium, Dr. Wolfgang Springer Homoeopathische Praxismgemeinschaft, Germany, Dr. Michel Van Wassenhoven Belgian Federal Medicine Agency, Belgium



More information at www.jpsh.jp/lmhi2012

Editorial Announcement

Wanted: LMHI Correspondents from different Continents

One of the main goals of the LMHI's electronic newsletter is to strengthen the international homeopathic network by providing and by sharing information about the situation and essential developments of homeopathy in the LMHI member countries. Your help is needed in order to fulfill this purpose: If you are interested in becoming a permanent correspondent, please contact the LMHI Media Team at media@lmhint.net.