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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 2025



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Dear Members,

In this month's newsletter, we bring you:

- ECH meeting in Utrecht: 10-11 May
- Austrian Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons: successful counteraction to skeptics
- Italian paediatricians learn about homeopathy
- EUROCAM: TCIH tackling AMR in Europe
- TCIH: Support their advocacy for WHO Traditional Medicine strategy
- Omeopatia33 Homeopathy in Knee Osteoarthritis
- WHO: Call for papers on Traditional Medicine
- HRI evidence summary
- Bernadini and Dei: Commentary on article on patient expectations
- Marcus Zulian Teixeira Brain Wave Oscillations and Homeopathy

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Best wishes

ECH Communications Team

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ECH MEETING – UTRECHT 10 – 11 May 2025



The venue for this event will once again be the very comfortable Hotel Mitland. There will be interesting presentations, subcommittee and working group meetings, the General Assembly and, of course, good company and an opportunity to catch up with new and old friends in lovely surroundings.

We had tried to organise this alongside LMHI's Congress but it has proved too difficult to run both meetings at the same time and we hope that by arranging ours for the latter part of the preceding weekend, this might enable people to attend both. We apologise to those members for whom this has not been possible.

Register now

PROGRAMME

Saturday 10 May

12:00 – 14:00 Registration

13:00 - 14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 18:00 Subcommittees

19:00 Dinner – plus musical entertainment!

Sunday 11 May

09:30 – 11:00 GA: ECH Focus Plan, 2025-26 Budget, Election of Council Members

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12:30 - 13:00 Gena Stoykova: Next Generation

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 15:30 Roel van Wijk: *Photons, the human light body and its meaning* for the similia principle

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee

16:00 - 18:00 Working Groups

Monday, 12 May

10:00 - 11:30 Council meeting

We look forward to seeing you in Utrecht.

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NEGATIVE ENERGY SUCCESSFULLY CONVERTED INTO POSITIVE ENERGY

On 25 November 2024, the media reported that the skeptics had nominated the Austrian Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons (ÖTK) as one of the three finalists for their *Goldenes Brett vorm Kopf* (Golden Plank in front of the Head) antiprize. As always, they argued in a nebulous, malicious and fact-contradicting way, accusing the ÖTK, among other things, of *aggressively propagating pseudomedical methods*, *questionable use of homeopathy* and claiming that it threatened critics. On 2 December, they organised an event for the presentation of the prizes at the Stadtsaal Wien. ÖTK were not prizewinners!

Serendipitously, on the very same day, the press release of the study by Professor Dr Michael Frass was published as a counteraction by ourselves and also distributed by, among others, ECH –

https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS 20241202 OTS0010/studie-zur-wirksamkeit-von-homoeopathie-bei-lungenkrebs-bestaetigt.

The ÖTK took the steps within its power to ward off the attack, and our Board worked together with the Veterinary Specialist Commission, the other homeopathic medical associations, the ÖGT Section for Holistic Medicine and

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obtain a professional correction from the Austrian Press Agency: https://science.apa.at/powersearch/11415323871113617182.

This was published by numerous media outlets, including *Der Standard*. Furthermore, an impressive statement by the President of ÖTK was posted online and should have been read by the sceptics at the award ceremony. The statement emphasised the Austrian Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons' clear commitment to complementary medicine. This was a very important step and, at the same time, a huge opportunity to turn this attack into a great success for us.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your support, mutual assistance and appreciation – together we can achieve great things for the benefit of our patients and, not least, for the benefit of all our health – One Health!

Best wishes, Petra

Dr Petra Weiermayer

President, Austrian Society for Veterinary Homeopathy (ÖGVH)
Leader, Research Section of the Scientific Society for Homeopathy (WissHom)

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HOMEOPATHY AND PAEDIATRIC SURGERY



On 10 December 2024, FIMP (Italian Federation of Primary Care Paediatricians) included the topic *Introduction to Homeopathy in Paediatric Surgery* in their weekly webinar.

FIMP, with over 5,000 members, brings together almost all Italian family paediatricians and, until now, any homeopathic attempt to be accepted by

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FIMP Scientific Activities Secretary Dr Giuseppe Di Mauro considered that those registered paediatricians who also practice homeopathy have the right to be updated about homeopathic treatment, which is recognised under Italian legislation.

The pedagogical approach aimed to provide doctors with an overview of the use of homeopathy by analysing the scientific evidence and homeopathy's contribution to the treatment of specific clinical conditions, giving practical examples such as *Belladonna*, *Apis mellifica*, *Arnica*, *Ferrum phosphoricum*, with the aim of integrating, where appropriate, homeopathic medicines into daily clinical practice to improve and personalise treatments.

The event was attended by 550 paediatricians and it is hoped that the choice of homeopathy as a topic will not be a one-off but will instead be the start of a new and broader way of considering disease in order to prevent and reduce antibiotic resistance, toxicity and alteration of the intestinal microbiota, which causes immunodeficiency.

Tiziana Di Giampietro

CB



PROMISING RESEARCH HORIZONS: TCIH'S CONTRIBUTION TO TACKLING AMR

On 21 November 2024, EUROCAM, in collaboration with the Charité Competence Center for Traditional and Integrative Medicine (CCCTIM), Charité

— Universitätsmedizin Berlin, hosted a webinar titled Promising Research
Horizons: The TCIH's Contribution to Tackling AMR in Europe. The event
brought together leading experts to discuss potential roles of Traditional,
Complementary and Integrative Healthcare (TCIH) in addressing the growing
challenge of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in a One Health framework.

Read the report

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ARE YOU READY TO ADVOCATE WITH US?

On 11 December, the WHO published the <u>last draft version of the Traditional Medicine strategy</u> which will now be presented to the **WHO Executive Board in February 2025** and expected to be formally adopted at the **World Health Assembly in May 2025**.

The strategy aims to integrate TCIH practices into global health systems, ensuring safety, effectiveness, and accessibility, while safeguarding traditional and Indigenous medical knowledge. The TCIH Coalition has advocated for civil society inclusion in the drafting process and provided feedback during the public consultation in May 2024 to ensure the strategy aligns with our signatories' priorities.

We now seek your support in ensuring the strategy's approval by the Executive Board and WHO member states. Together, we will engage with Executive Board members and country delegates to secure final adoption.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

As we move toward adoption, we need your support:

- READ THE DRAFT STRATEGY as presented for review of the Executive Board here
- IDENTIFY members of the WHO Executive Board, relevant country delegates, and other stakeholders who can support the adoption of the draft strategy.

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your outreach.

CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE TEMPLATE LETTER

KEEP US UPDATED of any developments or meetings related to this
effort. Your feedback and updates will greatly contribute to our collective
success.

KEY DATE

19-27 May 2025 - World Health Assembly (WHA)

Let's continue to work together for the benefit of all TCIH patients, providers and professions!

TCIH Coalition Secretariat

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OMEOPATIA33



Homeopathy in Knee Osteoarthritis

by Francesco Macri *Homeopathy33,* 17 January 2025

Osteoarthritis of the knee (OAG) is one of the most common musculoskeletal problems, affecting all structures of the joint (bone, cartilage, meniscus and synovium). It is characterised by cartilage loss and proliferation of the bone component and manifests in joint pain, swelling, stiffness and crepitus, especially in the elderly. In 2020, 86.7 million people worldwide were affected by this disease, with a positive correlation with increasing age.

In India, the prevalence of OAG in the elderly varies between 32% and 64%, with major consequences for the quality of life of affected patients. This explains the interest in OAG within the medical profession in India and how this represents the stimulus to develop effective treatment strategies.

Conventional therapy mainly involves topical or systemic non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs and the short-term use of intra-articular steroid injections. The incidence of side effects from these therapies has led to an increasing trend towards the use of complementary medicine therapies, so much so that,

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Despite some promising results, quality research in homeopathy is scarce and mainly focused on studies with non-individualised homeopathic remedies.

In a research study published in *Homeopathy*, (Homeopathy, 2024, **113**, (3), 158), 40 patients were enrolled in a double-blind, randomised (1:1), placebo-controlled protocol in the outpatient facilities of a homeopathic hospital in West Bengal, India, after passing the inclusion criteria: age 50-75 years, of either sex, diagnosed with OAG according to the classification criteria of the American College of Rheumatology; any therapies discontinued at least 2 weeks prior to study entry; literate patients able to read Bengali and/or English and willing to voluntarily provide written informed consent. Patients with severe degeneration and deformity of the joint and candidates for surgery or patients who were not ambulatory or had already undergone prostheses or psychiatric patients or those with life-threatening illnesses or in a state of dependency or immunodeficiency were excluded.

Individualised homeopathic remedies or placebos were administered according to a 1:1 randomisation, with identical preparation appearance, in addition to the conventional therapy already in place, permitted by protocol and in compliance with the ethics committee's requirements. The primary endpoints were the Knee Injury and Osteoarthritis Outcome Score (KOOS), together with scores derived from the Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Arthritis Index (WOMAC), while the EQ-5D-5L questionnaire and the visual analogue scale (VAS) were the secondary endpoints. All these parameters were assessed at the beginning and after two months of treatment. Between-group differences and effect sizes (Cohen's d) were estimated using an intention-to-treat approach.

The results showed statistically significant between-group differences in favour of homeopathic therapy compared to placebo in all KOOS subscales: symptoms (p<0.001), pain (p<0.002), activities of daily living (p<0.001), sport or recreation (p0.016) and quality of life (p0.002). WOMAC scores derived from KOOS were also in favour of homeopathic therapy compared to placebo: stiffness (p<0.001) and pain (p0.001). The same conclusions were reached for the EQ-5D-5L questionnaire score (p<0.001) and VAS EQ-5D-5L scores (p<0.001).

Seventeen different medicines were used but *Sulphur* (15%), *Arnica montana* (12.5%), *Natrum muriaticum* (12.5%), *Medorrhinum* (10%) and *Rhus*

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The results obtained are very encouraging and lead to the promotion of research activities using this methodology, in support of an individualised homeopathic approach.

Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)

Read the abstract

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CALL FOR PAPERS ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

The Bulletin of the World Health Organization has issued a call for high quality papers on traditional medicine for an upcoming special issue to be launched with the next WHO Global Traditional Medicine Summit, 2-4 December 2025. This special issue will explore how the nexus of traditional medicine and modern science can restore balance and catalyse essential breakthroughs for the health and well-being of people and planet. Policy, practice, and research papers may be submitted for consideration until 1 March 2025. Full guidelines for submission are available on the WHO website.

Read more

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HRI EVIDENCE SUMMARY



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Status of Homeopathy Research: from Experimental Research to Clinical Evidence



Status of homeopathy research

We are delighted to share the new <u>HRI Evidence Summary</u>. This 6-page summary spans physicochemical, biological and clinical research, offering a comprehensive overview of the current scientific evidence on homeopathy.

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WORKING WITH PATIENTS' TREATMENT EXPECTATIONS



- what we can learn from homeopathy

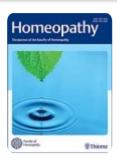
A critique authored by Simonetta Bernadini and Andrea Dei challenging Wilhelm et al's 2024 paper was published in December in *Frontiers in Psychology*. They explain that Wilhelm's statement that homeopathy is based on the placebo effect and lacks scientific support is actually a misrepresentation of homeopathic efficacy.

In fact, recent studies show that ultra-diluted homeopathic solutions contain active molecules capable of biological effects, contradicting claims of placebo-only benefits. Their critique emphasises the need for a scientifically grounded understanding of homeopathy and encourages further unbiased research.

Read the full article

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IT'S (LITERALLY) ALL IN THE MIND!

Brian Wave Oscillations as an Objective Neurophysical Biomarker of Homeopathic Subjective Well-Being Marcus Zulian Texeira
Homeopathy, 2025; 114(1)

Abstract

Background Homeopathy uses the "similitude principle" to arouse a therapeutic reaction in the body against its own disorders. For this to occur optimally, the medicinal pathogenetic effects must present similarity with the totality of the individual's symptoms. To assess if this similarity has been successfully achieved, Hahnemann states that "improvement in the disposition and mind"—i.e., subjective well-being—is the most important parameter to consider.

Aim Our aim was to perform a narrative review of the literature, exploring what is known about subjective well-being as a marker of therapeutic action, and to formulate ways in which subjective well-being might be quantifiable and applied in future homeopathy research.

Results The concept of subjective well-being has been extensively studied in the complementary and conventional medical literature. Improved well-being has been observed in clinical trials, including those in the fields of positive psychology and meditation. Positive subjective outcomes of this nature are supported by objective evidence through associated changes in brain oscillatory activity using electroencephalography and/or "brain mapping" by functional magnetic resonance imaging. Neurophysiological responses in the brain have been identified in subjects after they ingested a homeopathic medicine.

Conclusions The concept of subjective well-being is supported by a body of literature and is a measurable entity. When viewed from the perspective of electrophysiological changes, brain activity is an objective neurophysiological

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Read the complete article

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HOMEOPATHY CONTENT TO SHARE?

Do you have interesting items about homeopathy? We'll share them!

Please <u>email us</u> any interesting content such as studies, articles or news, for us to share in the newsletter or on social media. This can be in any language, from any part of the world.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY





ÖGVH-Diplomlehrgang für Veterinärhomöopathie 15 March 2025, The Park Hotel, Baden bei Wien

Next course for vets and students

Duration: 2.5 years – 13 weekends



FIAMO XXI NATIONAL CONFERENCE

28-30 March, Palazzo dei Congressi, Orvieto

See poster at end of newsletter

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(see details in main Newsletter above) 10-12 May, Hotel Mitland, Utrecht Register here:

https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/newreg.php? eventid=823202&



LMHI Congress: Joy of Homeopathy

14-17 May, Utrecht

Details and registration: https://www.lmhi2025.org



HRI GREECE 2025 20-22 June, 2025, Makedonia Palace Hotel, Thessaloniki

Book early to secure the best airline rates to this popular destination, and to <u>secure</u> your conference place as soon as possible as spaces are limited.

Discount for ECH members – PCode: HRI2025ECH Registration: https://www.lmhi2025.org/registration



ICNM 9th Integrative & Naturopathic Medicine World Congress: the Future of Medicine 4-6 July 2025 Paris

ICNM, the largest Integrative & Naturopathic Medicine World Congress

https://www.consortiumcongress.org/#

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

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12/02/2025, 10:19

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