

60th Homoeopathic World Medical Congress 4-7 May, 2005, Berlin, Germany

At the beginning of May 05, Berlin played host to the Homeopathic World. The demand for complementary and alternative systems of medicine has increased all over the world. In the light of its enhanced receptivity and acceptability by people, professional organizations have taken up many research activities to put these systems of medicine on scientific pedestal. Ever since this system of medicine has demonstrated its efficacy in wide range of diseases. Now the medical fraternity has recognized the fact that homeopathic medicines are simple, safe and scientific. It uses minute doses and has blended well into the traditions and ethos of many countries. Due to several intrinsic merits this system of medicine has wide usage in several countries including India. The Congress coincided with the 250th Birth Anniversary of its founder Dr Samuel Hahnemann. In view of its growing popularity and acceptance by people all over the world, the LMHI had organized this mega event in the land of birth of Homeopathy.

HIGHLIGHTS

THE MOTTO OF THE CONGRESS: "Tradition—Experience—Vision" unites the historical, retrospective view, scientific reflection on the present situations and realistic as well as visionary outlook for Homoeopathy in the 21st century." This motto envisions more than 200 year long tradition of homeopathic medicines and tells about experiences gathered in the past and their implementation in current practice and also points to future demands in terms of further training and professional development of homeopathic doctors. The Berlin Congress lived up to its motto and expectations

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of participants.

MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

In a message sent on this occasion the *Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh* stated "Discovery of Homeopathy by Dr Samuel Hahnemann of Germany proved to be a great boon for humanity for fighting against disease by strengthening the immunity of the body. The safety and efficacy has made it popular all over the world. As a holistic system of medicine it tries to address the conditions which create disorders and therefore deals with the root of the problem. Even though homeopathy took birth in Germany, it has been accepted as one of the National Systems of Medicines in India. The widespread acceptability of homeopathic medicines among large sections of our population and its effectiveness and affordability has made it one of the most sought after systems of treatment. World over there is upsurge of interest for homeopathic medicines. It augurs well for humanity to have access to such drugs, which can provide us effective treatment without weakening our body. I am sure that this major International Conference will be an important step to promote homeopathy worldwide."

OPENING CEREMONY

The 60th Homeopathic World Medical Congress was a triumphant success !

More than 1,500 homeopathic physicians from over 50 different countries participated in the largest homeopathic world medical congress to date which took place in the Berlin Congress Center (BCC) at Alexanderplatz from May 4 to 7, 2005. Of the 90 lecturers, many introduced their latest research results. At 3 different levels 48 sessions, 90 lectures, 20 poster presentations took place. 38 papers were presented in the satellite session symposiums. The congress was a

powerful demonstration of Homoeopathy and its significance as a modern medicine.

Welcome addresses from Angelika Gutge and Berthold Fleig marked the opening ceremony of the 60th Congress of the LMHI, held at the Berlin Congress Center. After inaugurating the Congress they recounted the historical background of homeopathy in Berlin. Peter Ciche, who was singing original Berlin songs, accompanied the opening ceremony.

Under the auspices of Doris Schröder-Köpf, the German chancellor's wife, this large anniversary congress took place in Germany to celebrate the 250th birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy.

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

The Scientific sessions reflected on Homoeopathic Research, Health Care and Medical Education. Several papers were presented on each of the above areas.

SOME OF THE ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS ARE

Homoeopathy is an Evidence Based Medicine (EBM): It aims at holistic health. It considers man as a whole, both in health and disease. So it aims at preventive, promotive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative measures based on certain natural principles and administers minute doses which are safe, effective with no side effects. The need for homeopathy is greater in the 21st century in the light of adverse drug reactions, multi drug resistant diseases; high cost of medicines, recurrence of old diseases in spite of best of allopathic medication and accessibility to high tech Medicare. Several speakers had shown enough of scientific, clinical and laboratory evidences on efficacy of homeopathic medicines in diverse clinical conditions. Participants and speakers travelled to Berlin from all over the world – a lot of them bringing along their latest research results that were eagerly expected. Such as Dr Heiner Frei, paediatrician from Switzerland, who presented the results of his prospective trial on the efficacy of homeopathy in hyperactive children. More than 60 children aged 3 to 17 years suffering from attention

deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and were included in Frei's double-blind, placebo-controlled, cross-over trial with individualized prescription which thus matched the high scientific standards of conventional trials. The children were chosen at random and received an individual homeopathic treatment. Neither the physician nor the patient knew if a placebo or a medicine was given. The result: After an average therapy duration of five months, those children under homeopathic treatment proved to be more attentive, less impulsive and better able to integrate into school and family, than the children in the placebo-group. In Germany, approximately 472,000 children and teenagers regularly take the controversial drug "Ritalin" with the effect that they are calmed down for some hours. However, the future damages of this medication are still unknown. Heiner Frei cautions against this drug which falls under the Narcotics Law (Controlled Substances Legislation) and advises to prescribe Ritalin in emergency cases only.

The healing success of homeopathic treatment was also demonstrated by other studies: Dr Henning Albrecht from the German "Carstens Foundation" collected and analysed the data of more than 1,100 studies on basic research in the field of homeopathy, 340 studies with people and 140 studies with animals, carried out in the past 20 years. At the Berlin congress, he reported that 80 percent of these trials showed positive results.

Since not all of the studies were carried out in accordance with the high international standards, Karl-Wilhelm Steuermagel, president of the DZVhÄ (the central German Association of Homeopathic Physicians), called for the establishment of a federal institute for complementary medicine (BfKM, Bundesinstitut für Komplementäre Medizin) during a press conference which is supposed to be in charge of developing quality standards for studies in the field of alternative medicine and of safeguarding the pharmaceutical safety.

National Health Policy on Homoeopathy–2003: India was taken as a role model in the development of

Homoeopathy in other countries too. Several delegates had appreciated the government's patronage in introducing homoeopathy in several preventive programs in India. India has set a unique example of utilizing homoeopathy in several national health programs. This policy has paved way for other countries in implementation of several health programs. Speakers had good interaction on several public health issues in general and combating epidemics in particular.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS RESULTING FROM THE CONFERENCE

- a) An exclusive Research council for Homoeopathy was established by LMHI. The web site www.rc-lmhi.org was designed by Dr Marim, the secretary for research.
- b) LMHI Basic Teaching Guidelines in Homeopathy was prepared in collaboration with the World Health Organization for uniform training of Homoeopathic doctors in the world.
- c) Furthermore the development and finishing of the WHO Report.
 "Homeopathy: Review and Analysis of Reports on Controlled Clinical Trials" has been discussed. This WHO report was realized also in collaboration with LMHI.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE

Day one witnessed presentation by Dr Marcel Candegabe (Arg) on understanding Homoeopathic Materia Medica in the growing complexity. Dr Raef on E-learning an innovation in Homeopathic Education, Dr A Dictmar (Austria) on Cancer treatment, Prof Frass on Thromocytopenic purpura, Dr D H Chand on Iconography of Hahnemann, Dr Jorge (Cuba) on Cuba's public health system etc. Around 22 papers were presented at 3 levels in different halls.

17 speakers presented their papers on topics viz, vaccination, Theory of Miasms in 21st century, *Aurum* and its salts, importance of *Phosphoros* in cancer treatment. Homoeopathic care of dying patients.

Satellite Symposia on pharmacology. Dentistry, evidence based Homoeopathy and veterinary science took place from 4th – 6th May, where specialists in the respective branches of Homoeopathy had demonstrated the efficacy of homeopathy in handling wide spectrum of diseases.

Among the other luminaries who delivered lectures were Frederick Schroyens, Leon Sheepers, Ulrich Fischer, Carlo Rezzani, Luc Uytendove, Arlette Blanchy, Jacques Imberechts, Klaus Roman, Louis Rey, Brian Kaplan, Trevor Thompson, Bettina Baltacis Reinhard Flick and Michael Bluth etc to name a few.

INDIAN SPEAKERS AND PAPERS

Interesting papers on Medicinal Plants Research in Homeopathy, cost effectiveness, treatment of addictions, in-vitro research, Autism, Chronic Renal Failure, Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis and Homeopathic management, Homeopathy in PHC's were presented on the second and third day. 26 speakers presented their papers on application of Homoeopathy in various sessions. Dr Pawan Pareek, Agra, Dr R K Manchanda, New Delhi and Dr D P Rastogi from India, presented their papers. In the afternoon Dr G Srinivasulu, Cuddapah, A P, Dr E S Rajendran, Salem T N and Dr Rupa Kothari, Mumbai presented their posters on combating epidemics through miasmatic Prescription, Psoriasis and *Nat-mur*, Homeopathy in cancer respectively. Altogether 20 posters were displayed during the poster session. Dr Akalpita Paranjpe, a scientist from Bhaba Atomic Research Center, Mumbai presented a paper on effects of Homoeopathic medicines on the human control system. She said that Einstein and Hahnemann had influenced her thinking in carrying out research on Homoeopathy, though she was not a Homoeopath.

POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE PRESENT CONFERENCE ON INDIAN RESEARCH

To substantiate the efficacy of homeopathic drugs in various acute, epidemic, endemic and chronic diseases

apart from clinical research the in-vitro research has to be simultaneously conducted. Standard clinical trials have to be undertaken. The state of art of electrophysiological, NMR and SPECT and PET imaging studies have to be incorporated in homeopathic research too.

The International Homeopathic Council has framed new guidelines for research in homoeopathy in the new millennium. It is high time we keep in touch with this highest body for mutual development. The LMHI research council has offered its technical assistance for several research programs. The Govt of India's policy on Extramural research on Homoeopathy is a welcome step in the growth of Homoeopathy in our country. The scope of this scheme has to be enlarged and MOU's have to be signed with the international organizations for concerted research work.

A good groundwork has been done by the undersigned for research in the field of neurobiology with the help of electrophysiological studies etc with Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. Proposals are underway for collaborative research work with premier research laboratories viz, IICT, CCMB and NIN for cellular, molecular and electrophysiological research on homoeopathic drugs. There is growing need to safeguard homoeopathy from powerful allopathic lobby, which time and again sponsors/instigates some scientists to question the very basic principles of homoeopathy. It is high time Indian Homoeopathic Pharmaceutical industry creates a corpus fund to carry out original and fundamental research in homoeopathy.

EXHIBITION: More than 100 homoeopathic related organizations participated in the exhibition. Software products, books, pharmaceuticals, bottles and accessories etc were displayed. Indeed it was a very colorful, educative and interactive.

VALEDICTORY SESSION

Congress president Wolfgang Springer stated that the four-day conference was evidence of the fact that ho-

meopathy is based upon a global network and is able to contribute to solving health-care problems worldwide. He highlighted the friendly and open-minded atmosphere among the participants, who used the opportunity not only to benefit from the highly qualified lectures, but also for intense talks with their international colleagues. Everybody, he said enthusiastically, was able to return home with new knowledge and ideas to be used in the daily practice.

On the concluding day 14 papers were presented. Homeopathy on Hyperactive children, by Heiner Frai, Road map to the patient's core conflict by Beat spring, Plagues and pestilences by Will Taylor, Homeopathic Research in India by Dr Diwan H Chand etc, were enlightening. Dr Diwan Vijay Chand, National Vice President, LMHI, India proposed the vote of thanks.

There was a beautiful farewell ceremony sponsored by the SVHAE. In 2006, the 61st Congress of LMHI will be held in right in the heart of Switzerland.

Elaborate arrangements were made at Koethen, Meissen, Torgau and Oschatz for the visitors on the occasion of 250th birth anniversary of Hahnemann. The guided tours were very impressive and emotional.

The Homeopathic World Medical Congress received a high degree of attention by the media and the general public. This underlines the fact that homeopathy as a medical science is of increasing importance for the public health care system. The majority of reports published about the congress were almost all positive and sympathetic. They gave an overview on the history of homeopathic science in Germany and commented on the current status of homeopathic treatment in comparison with allopathic therapy.

This indeed was a colorful, enthusiastic warm-hearted Congress demonstrating tremendous talent and variety. The friendliness and giving nature of German people and all the participants in the Congress was heart-felt and inspiring. I will remember it for the rest of my life. Next year's Liga Congress will be held in Lucerne, Switzerland, from October 11-14.

'Homoeopath Should Strive For Progress' MP Mr Anant Gudhe

Homoeopathy is a branch of Medical Science like Ayurveda, which has originated from India, even though Germany is its birthland, as given in Vedas. The Indian Homoeopath must spread this valuable and useful Homoeopathy in India and the world, said Mr Anantraoji Gudhe, MP of Amravati, in his address at the 250th birth anniversary of Dr Samuel Hahnemann, and this is the responsibility of the new generation homoeopaths. Strive and prove yourselves, he urged. For this, everyone must be loyal to Homoeopathy and utilize the valuable time.

He inaugurated the website of College www.thmc.org and released the souvenir "Simile" at the hands of Mr Gudhe. Principal Dr R Tapadia in his introductory speech gave a brief summary of various activities in the college during the academic session 2004-05. Dr N Murky, the famous Dermatologist of Amravati

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highlighted on the greatness of Dr Samuel Hahnemann and how 250 years back, he discovered this great healing art, so valuable even today. But to succeed hard work is the only answer.

SCIENTIFIC SESSION: Dr Kamlesh Mehta and Dr Ashish Nanabhai from C M P Homoeopathic Medical College, Mumbai delivered a seminar on "Evidence based Health Care: it's Homoeopathic Perspective" with the help of LCD. They spoke about the efficacy as well as limitation of homoeopathy regarding the recent evidence based practice. The programme Co-ordinators were Dr Anju Gupta and Dr C Aswar. The programme was conducted by Dr B Nimbhorkar, Ku Needhi Aroora and Ku Radhika Gaiakwad. Dr M Haque gave the vote of thanks, after Reshma Pinjani rendered The Hahnemannian oath.

The President of Shri Mohini Homoeo Charitable Society, Mr H Hedaji the Chairman of the function, all prominent guests, And the Editorial Board members of souvenir committee, the staff and students were very happy with the programme.

Nepal's 1st Homoeo Medical College

Nepal Homoeopathic Medical College has just celebrated its Inauguration program on 28th April '05 of college building which is made on 9000 sq ft area. The stage was lighted by honorable Vice Chancellor, Dean & Examination Controller of Purwanchal University: DIG, SP, DSP & CDO. They all expressed their satisfaction about our college & advice us to develop & to promote Homoeopathic system of medicine to the whole of Nepal. The Program

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was led by honorable Chairman of our college.

The First Homoeopathic Medical College in Nepal, is Nepal Homoeopathic Medical College. Our main motto to invite around 600 guests to observe the awareness of homoeopathic system and how study is going on in the Homoeopathic Degree Course and we succeeded to clear so many doubts about the study. All guests were surprised and appreciative after seeing the different laboratories of our Lab Complex building. We hope it lives up to all the blessings which have been showered on it.