

Editorial June 2010

Research in Homoeopathy

Hahnemann and Galileo Galilei shared the same destiny. Just as the Catholic Church refused to believe that it was the sun and not the earth was the center of our solar system, similarly Hahnemann's homoeopathy has never been acknowledged by conventional physicians and their organization. Despite the use and acceptance of homeopathy throughout the world, there is a very active group of skeptics, with significant Pharma funding, that works vigorously to attack the system of Homoeopathic medicine.

Even though there are a wide variety of serious and significant pressing issues in conventional medicine and science today, an active group of skeptics of homeopathy was successfully resurrected in October 2009 to attack homoeopathy internationally.

.A lot of people today are confused about what homeopathy is and is not, and to make this situation worse, the skeptics of homeopathy go to incredible extents to exaggerate and misconstrue what homeopathic medicine is and commonly provide misinformation about it. These skeptics that consider themselves as defenders of medicine have exhibited an embarrassingly poor scientific

attitude when evaluating what homeopathy is and what scientific evidence does and doesn't prove about it.

Because these skeptics indulge in spreading misinformation about homeopathy, this editorial is addressed at setting the record straight and is backed with an ocean of references to confirm the veracity of what is being asserted here.

Homoeopaths all over the world simply honor the Hippocratic tradition of "First, do no harm" and therefore seek to explore and utilize safer methods before resorting to more risky treatments. Let's look at some simple statistics: America a nation that boasts of its most modern conventional therapy and that has produced so much resistance in its hospital care system ranks only 37th in its health care system in the world!!!! As compared to France which stands 1st in its health care system where 45% of the population use homoeopathic medicine, out of which 60% of the homoeopathic prescription are prescribed by the allopathic doctors*.

**Murray CJL, Frenk J, Ranking 37th -- Measuring the Performance of the U.S. Health Care System. New England Journal of Medicine. 362;2 January 14, 2010.
<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/reprint/NEJMp0910064.pdf?ssource=hcrc>*

Let's look at history some hundred years ago. Homeopathy became extremely popular primarily because of its impressive successes in treating infectious disease epidemics like cholera, scarlatina, influenza, typhus etc. that raged during that time is a fact that is totally ignored by enemies of homoeopathy*.

* *Coulter HL, Divided Legacy: The Schism in Medical Thought. Volumes 2 & 3. Berkeley: North Atlantic, 1975, 1973.*

It is impossible to believe that a placebo response is the explanation for homeopathy's notable successes in treating the above epidemics.

There are more than 120 placebo controlled clinical studies, most of which have shown positive results, either compared with a placebo or compared with a conventional drug*.

* *Jonas WB, Kaptchuk TJ, Linde K, A Critical Overview of Homeopathy, Annals in Internal Medicine, March 4, 2003:138:393-399.*

* *Linde K, Clausius N, Ramirez G, et al., "Are the Clinical Effects of Homoeopathy Placebo Effects? A Meta-analysis of Placebo-Controlled Trials," Lancet, September 20, 1997, 350:834-843.*

* *Kleijnen J, Knipschild P, ter Riet G, "Clinical Trials of Homoeopathy," British Medical Journal, February 9, 1991, 302:316-323.*

* M. Weiser, W. Strosser, P. Klein, "Homeopathic vs Conventional Treatment of Vertigo: A Randomized Double-blind Controlled Clinical Trial," *Archives of Otolaryngology--Head and Neck Surgery*, August, 1998, 124:879-885.

Forget the human trials. Let's focus on several successful trials on animals, plants and cell cultures. Now here I am sure skeptics cannot argue that it was a placebo*.

* <http://avilian.co.uk/> --This site provides references and links to many high quality basic science studies.

* Witt CM, Bluth M, Albrecht H, Weissshuhn TE, Baumgartner S, Willich SN. The in vitro evidence for an effect of high homeopathic potencies--a systematic review of the literature. *Complement Ther Med*. 2007 Jun;15(2):128-38. Epub 2007 Mar 28.

* Rey, L. Thermoluminescence of Ultra-High Dilutions of Lithium Chloride and Sodium Chloride. *Physica A*, 323(2003)67-74.

* Elia, V, and Niccoli, M. Thermodynamics of Extremely Diluted Aqueous Solutions, *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 879, 1999:241-248. Elia, V, Baiano, S, Duro, I, Napoli, E, Niccoli, M, Nonatelli, L. Permanent Physio-chemical Properties of Extremely Diluted Aqueous Solutions of Homeopathic Medicines, *Homeopathy*, 93, 2004:144-150.

* *International Journal of High Dilution Research*.
<http://www.feg.unesp.br/~ojs/index.php/ijhdr>

** HomBRex - a database on Basic Research experiments on Homeopathy. <http://www.carstens-stiftung.org/> -- a database of over 1,400 basic science studies, accessed 12-31-09.*

Hormesis is one area where homoeopathy has shown wonders which the conventional physician has never ever written about or spoken about. The success stories that go along with hormesis in the following reference are worth studying by everybody*.

** Calabrese, Edward. Hormesis: a revolution in toxicology, risk assessment and medicine. EMBO 5,2004: S37-S40. doi:10.1038/sj.embor.7400222.*

** Calabrese EJ, Linda A Baldwin LA. Applications of hormesis in toxicology, risk assessment and chemotherapeutics. Trends in Pharmacological Sciences, Volume 23, Issue 7, 331-337, 1 July 2002. doi:10.1016/S0165-6147(02)02034-5.*

In the current scenario it is difficult to satisfactorily understand precisely how homoeopathic medicines work, but the hundreds of cases that homoeopaths cure every single day of the year remain too significant to ignore. The fact that so many highly respected people over the past 205 years have used and advocated for homeopathy provides additional evidence for this medical system. Some of these include

Clergy and Spiritual leaders

- All the 6 Popes of the Roman Catholic Church
- Bishop Rosando Salvado
- Emanuel Swedenborg
- Father Augustus Muller
- Florence Nightingale
- Madam Helena Blavatsky
- Mary Baker Eddy
- Meher Baba
- Mirza Tahir Ahmed
- Mother Theresa
- Pope Leo XIII
- Rabbi Manis Friedman
- Rabbi Max Lilianthal
- Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson
- Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach

- Ramkrishna Paramahansa
- Reverend Canon Ronald Upcher
- Rudolph Steiner
- Sri Aurobindo
- Swami Muktananda
- Swami Satchitananda
- Swami Vivekananda

Hollywood Actors

- John Wayne
- Catherine Zeta Jones
- Pamela Anderson
- Suzanne Somers
- Jennifer Aniston

Bollywood actors

- Amitabh Bhachan
- Ashok Kumar
- Chiranjeevi
- Lara Dutta

- Madhuri Dixit
- Manoj Kumar
- Prem Chopra
- Prem Dhawan
- Raj Mehra
- Shatrugan Sinha

Musicians

- Anu Malik
- Bappi Lahri
- Cher
- Frederic Chopin
- Ludwig Van Beethoven
- Nelly Furtado
- Pandit Ravi Shankar
- Sir Yehudi Menuhin
- Tina Turner

Artists

- Vincent Willem Van Gogh

- Tony Gaudi

Poets

- Sarojini Naidu
- Ravindranath Tagore
- Alfred Lord Tennyson

Hairstylists

- Vidal Sassoon

Politicians

- A majority of U.S Presidents including Abraham Lincoln.
- Bill Clinton
- Adolf Hitler
- Dr Manmohan Singh
- Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
- J.D. Rockefeller
- James Garfield
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Muhammad Ayub Khan
- Pandit Motilal Nehru

- Rajendra Prasad
- Sri K.R Narayan
- Tony Blair
- William Garrison.

Industrialists

- Dhirubhai Ambani
- H.J.Heinz
- J.R.D Tata
- Mukesh Ambani
- Robert Bosch

Monarchs

- Constantine Pavlovich Romanov
- Dutchess of Lucca
- Ferdinand, Duke of Anhalt
- Grand Duke of Baden
- King Edward VII
- Napoleon Bonaparte

- Prince Charles, Prince of Wales
- Prince Karl Philippe Schwarzenburg
- Queen Elizabeth

Sports

- Boris Becker
- David Beckham
- David Moncoutie
- Gabrielle Reece
- Martina Navratilova
- Nancy Lopez
- Russella Nua

Literary

- Anton Chekov
- Charles Dickens
- Dame Barbara Cartland
- Mark Twain
- Norman Cousins
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

- Sir George Bernard Shaw
- William James

I know of thousands of medical doctors all over the world have learned conventional medicine but have practiced homoeopathy. The fact that 100 million people in India take homoeopathic treatment provides additional support for this often misunderstood medical science and art*.

**Prasad R. Homoeopathy booming in India. Lancet, 370: November 17, 2007, 1679-80.*

Further, according to an A.C. Nielsen survey, 62 percent of current homeopathy users in India have never tried conventional medicines and 82 percent of homeopathy users would not switch to conventional treatments*.

** A C Nielsen survey backs homeopathy benefits. Business Standard. September 4, 2007. <http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/a-c-nielsen-survey-backs-homeopathy-benefits/295891/>*

World Health Organization has declared that infantile and childhood diarrhea represents one of the most grave public health problems in the world today because millions of children die each year as a result of dehydration from diarrhea. With this concern in mind, three randomized

double-blind trials were conducted testing individually chosen homeopathic medicines for children with diarrhea. One of these studies was published in *Pediatrics*, and another study was published in another highly respected pediatric medical journal. All three of these trials showed a significant benefit from homeopathic treatment when compared with placebo*.

* *Jennifer Jacobs, L. Jimenez, Margarita, Stephen Gloyd, "Treatment of Acute Childhood Diarrhea with Homeopathic Medicine: A Randomized Clinical Trial in Nicaragua," Pediatrics, May 1994, 93,5:719-25.*

Jacobs J, Jonas WB, Jimenez-Perez M, Crothers D, Homeopathy for Childhood Diarrhea: Combined Results and Meta-Analysis from Three Randomized-Controlled Clinical Trials. Pediatrics Infectious Disease Journal. . 2003;22:229-234.

Similarly, four double-blind placebo controlled trials has shown benefit from the homeopathic medicine, *Oscillococcinum*, in the treatment of influenza. Research has consistently found it to be effective in the treatment of influenza*.

* *Vickers A, Smith C. Homoeopathic Oscillococcinum for preventing and treating influenza and influenza-like syndromes. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2006, Issue 3. Art. No.: CD001957. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD001957.pub3.*

As for homeopathy and respiratory allergies, the reference above was already made to four studies that showed effectiveness of homeopathic treatment 2 of which were published in the British Medical Journal and one of which was published in the Lancet. Further, a review of seven double-blind and placebo controlled studies showed that homeopathic doses of Galphimia glauca were effective in treating people with hay fever*.

* *M. Wiesenauer, R. Ludtke, "A Meta-analysis of the Homeopathic Treatment of Pollinosis with Galphimia glauca," Forsch Komplementarmed., 3(1996):230-234.*

Since time immemorial homoeopaths were never credited for their success. They have been called magicians with placebo, but do conventional doctors realise that we homoeopaths also treat and cure many serious illness consistently over last two centuries for which competent double-blind studies show efficacy? Studies at the University of Vienna showed "substantial significance" in treating patients with COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease...the fourth ranking cause of death in the USA!) and severe sepsis (a condition which kills 50 percent of patients in hospitals who are inflicted with it,

and yet, homeopathic treatment has been found to cut this death rate in HALF!*

**Frass M, Dielacher C, Linkesch M, et al. Influence of potassium dichromate on tracheal secretions in critically ill patients. Chest 2005;127:936-941. (This journal is consider THE most respected journal in respiratory medicine.)*

Frass M, Linkesch M, Banyai S, et al. Adjunctive homeopathic treatment in patients with severe sepsis: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial in an intensive care unit. Homeopathy 2005;94;75-80.

In the conclusion I can only quote what Mark Twain said
“You may honestly feel grateful that homeopathy survived the attempts of the allopathist [conventional physicians] to destroy it.”

**Twain, M. A Majestic Literary Fossil, Harper's Magazine, February 1890, 80(477):439-444.*