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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, 2024

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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. Full details will follow shortly but 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.



Karl Lauterbach



Dr Michaela Gieger

**HOMEOPATHIC TREATMENT
TO BE EXCLUDED FROM
GERMAN HEALTH
INSURANCE CLAIMS**

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Health Minister has proposed a ban on using public medical insurance to fund homeopathy and other services *with no proven benefit. Homeopathy makes no sense as a health insurance benefit*, wrote Health Minister Karl Lauterbach on X, formerly Twitter. *The foundation of our policies must be scientific evidence.*

DZVhÄ President, Dr Michaela Geiger, has been spearheading the campaign to protest against this ill-judged proposal. We are grateful to her for taking time out of her busy schedule to summarise the situation here.

With his press release in January 2024, the German Minister of Health unleashed a media and political storm. In just a few days, I had to deal with 80 interview requests on behalf of the German Central Association of Homeopathic Doctors (DZVhÄ). Our German press agency (DPA) article reached 140 newspapers throughout Germany. My radio interview, also posted on social media, reached even more –

<https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/wie-geht-s-weiter-mit-der-homoeopathie-interv-michaela-geiger-dlf-12696c74-100.html>

Many colleagues supported us with articles and letters to regional editors. Our Health Ministry has to date received mail from 8,000 outraged citizens.

What is the situation? It's about the cuts in statutory benefits for homeopathic and anthroposophical medicines, as well as medical services in homeopathy. Two thirds of German health insurance funds offer these statutory benefits. If our Health Minister had chosen the easy way, he would simply have to call on citizens to change their health insurance fund because one third do not offer these voluntary statutory benefits and, since they are voluntary services, this is not a burden on the community's purse. Reimbursement of homeopathic medicines in statutory benefits applies to children under the age of 12. As far as the alleged cost savings of statutory benefits for homeopathic medicines and medical services are concerned, they are truly homeopathic!

The draft bill is now available and will be submitted to Parliament at the end of April 2024. It is a small section of the Healthcare Reinforcement Act, an omnibus draft bill, i.e. part of a large draft bill containing many different proposals. We are now tackling the challenge in various ways:

1. With a parliamentary petition. Why a parliamentary petition? To obtain the right to be heard in Parliament.

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medical umbrella organization Homöopathisches, the patient association Weils Hilft, and the homeopathy patient association Bundesverband Patienten für Homöopathie (BPH).

3. With a great deal of background political work: we are supported in the scientific discourse by the Scientific Society (WissHom) and the International Federation of Anthroposophic Medical Associations (IVAA). We also have an excellent network of doctors' associations, patient associations and scientists, with whom we collaborate closely and regularly. In our European community, it is now very important to support our ECH Council in a coordinated manner by addressing MEPs from the Health, Social Affairs and Economy portfolios, together with the other medical societies in complementary medicine.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all very much for your great support!

Sincerely,

Dr Michaela Geiger

President DZVhÄ, National VP Germany, LMHI

Please send enquiries at any time to: presse@dzvhae.de



ECH SURVEY

**Please distribute to
non-homeopathic colleagues**



Dear Colleagues,

In the December newsletter we asked you to send a survey around **amongst your non-homeopathy colleagues who are NOT sympathetic to homeopathy** in order to better understand their views regarding Integrative Medicine and homeopathy. A few of you have done so – thank you.

In order for this project to become relevant, we need many more replies. The survey is part of ECH's great project to accord homeopathy its rightful place in

The ECH Academy and Integrative Medicine Working Groups will use the results to develop an optimal language aimed at building bridges with our colleagues. This is part of a strategy designed to promote homeopathy to its rightful place in healthcare.

The link can simply be pasted into any message, whether e-mail or social media. Please be creative and offer us a little of your time to turn this project into a success: we need as many replies as possible!

<https://form.jotform.com/232740673609056>

The questionnaire is an initiative of Francesco Macrì and was realised with the help of Galen Ives.

Please note:

- 1) If you open the link to have a look at the questionnaire, please don't answer any of the questions or click on "Submit".
- 2) If you would like to distribute the questionnaire in your own language, please translate the questions line by line and we will use this to make a translated version.

Send to: debeukelaer@homeopathyeurope.org



HEALTH SCIENCE LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Digitisation allows easier access

Christa Raak, based at the University of Witten/Herdecke and a long-standing member of ECH's Documentation Subcommittee, is the lead author of this interesting and helpful article about specialist medical libraries in Germany, explaining how digitisation has enabled easier access to their information.

Christa K Raak PhD MSc, [Sebastian Unger MSc](#), [David D Martin MD](#), [Thomas Ostermann PhD](#), **Information technology and changing role models in German libraries: the example of OPEN-CAM**

<https://doi.org/10.1111/hir.12514>

Germany has a long tradition of health libraries. From their origin in monasteries, they became centres of knowledge and education. In modern times, this tradition has been continued by the Central Library of Medicine. In addition, as a specialty in Germany, special collection areas and special libraries that focus on one topic were established. Those services were transformed to specialised information services and portals as part of the digital transformation process. One such project is OPEN-CAM, which provides literature on integrative medicine in a specialist library and hosts the literature database CAMbase. Based on this example, the article shows how digital transformation has influenced the library landscape and its structures in Germany.

Read the article here - <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/hir.12514>



MINISTRY OF AYUSH, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



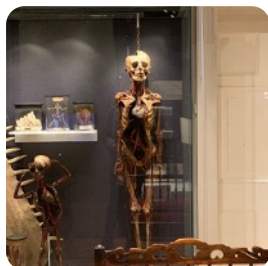
On 17.11.23, the Ministry of Ayush signed the Project Collaboration Agreement with WHO in the realm of traditional and complementary medicine in the presence of Shri Indra Mani Pandey (Permanent Representative of India to the UN), Dr Bruce Aylward (Assistant Director-General of the Universal Health Coverage and Life Course Division of WHO), Dr Rudi Eggers, Dr Kim Sungchol.

This pioneering alliance aims to propel the formulation of a global strategy, focusing on elevating the standards, quality, safety, and effectiveness of traditional and complementary medicines worldwide.

Over the next five years, WHO & Ayush aspire to create a robust framework that not only preserves the rich heritage of Traditional Medicine but also propels it into a modern, evidence-based, and globally accepted form of healthcare holding the promise of advancing health outcomes.

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<https://www.who.int/news/item/17-11-2023-new-who-and-ministry-of-ayush--republic-of-india-agreement-signed-to-advance-traditional--complementary--and-integrative-medicine>



FACULTY OF HOMEOPATHY 110th CONGRESS, EDINBURGH 21-24 NOVEMBER

No, that's not a photo of the respected Faculty President at the end of a busy Congress! It's just one of the many slightly gruesome exhibits in the Surgeons' Hall Museum in Edinburgh.

The Faculty of Homeopathy extends a very warm invitation to all ECH members to their 100th Congress. The venue is Surgeons' Quarter (near the above museum) in Edinburgh's historic Old Town, from 21-24 November. 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.

Event website: <https://www.facultyofhomeopathy.org/pages/Congress-2024>.



DO YOU HAVE CONTENT TO SHARE?

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

Please [email us](#) 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.

Thank you!

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DATES FOR YOUR 2024 DIARY



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



ECH SPRING MEETING: Future-Proofing Homeopathy, 25-28 April 2024, Bergamo, Italy
SAVE THE DATE!

There will only be one face-to-face ECH meeting next year so be sure to mark this in your diary and join us in this beautiful and historic Italian city. Registration details will be announced shortly.



Faculty of
Homeopathy

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

<https://www.facultyofhomeopathy.org/pages/Congress-2024>



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.

We're on social media – don't forget to follow us!



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