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JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Issue 1, 2024



A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

Thanks to the many people who have submitted contributions for our first newsletter of 2024. This issue is packed with positive reports from Europe and beyond which allow us to begin the New Year with a sense of optimism for the future of homeopathy and its continuing and growing importance within

future of homeopathy and its continuing and growing importance within
Integrative Healthcare.



Find the newsletter in pdf form [here](#)



MICHÈLE RIVASI, MEP

1953 – 2023



We begin the year by paying tribute to Michèle Rivasi, French member of European Parliament for the Greens European Free Alliance, who died on 29 November at the age of 70.

The EU lawmaker was a combative presence in Parliament. She was a champion for numerous causes in public health, the environment and transparency in public administration and a visible campaigner across a number of issues, including the use of pesticides, pharmaceutical company practices and nuclear energy. Rivasi was known as a pugnacious fighter for transparency. She was one of the MEPs, for example, who fought to have the Commission's vaccine procurement contracts shared with the wider public.

A statement from the Greens European Free Alliance commented: *her remarkable career, her passionate political battles and her empathy have left their mark on all those who had the chance to meet her.*

And EUROCAM added: *Rivasi was a much-appreciated member and co-chair of EUROCAM's MEP Interest Group on Integrative Medicine and Health. With her death, we lose not only a great advocate for Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Healthcare in European politics but also a passionate and committed politician and supporter of health and the environment. Above all, we have lost a warm-hearted member of our Interest Group. Michèle Rivasi*

will be very much missed. Our thoughts are with her family, friends, and colleagues.

RIP, Michèle Rivasi



**KING CHARLES APPOINTS
INTEGRATED MEDICINE SPECIALIST
AS HEAD OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL
HOUSEHOLD**

And some encouraging news from the UK – Dr Michael Dixon, having been a member of the palace team for many years, has now been appointed by King Charles as head of the Royal Medical Household. There is a long history of royal homeopathic physicians, with the late Dr Peter Fisher being the last incumbent of the post.

With this appointment, His Majesty – who, as Prince of Wales, was Patron of the Faculty of Homeopathy – has signalled his strong and continuing support not for homeopathy specifically but for Integrated Medicine as a whole.

Dr Dixon is a GP in south-west England and Chair of the College of Medicine and Integrated Health, founded in 2010, which advocates for a new attitude to healthcare: one which forges partnerships across society, emphasises prevention and a multi-faceted approach and empowers a healthier, happier population. While not himself a qualified or practising homeopathic doctor, Dr Dixon is a member of the Integrated Medical Alliance, a group of organisations that have been brought together to encourage and optimise the best use of complementary therapies working towards an integrated system of conventional medicine, complementary therapies and self-care.



EU PARLIAMENTARY REPORT

IMPORTANCE OF A HOLISTIC, INTEGRATIVE, PATIENT-CENTRED APPROACH IN TREATMENT OF NCDs



On 13 December 2023, the European Parliament approved in the Plenary the Report on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). This comprehensive report, drafted by the Parliament's Public Health Subcommittee, emphasises the importance of strong prevention strategies to address NCDs, underscoring that comprehensive actions are needed to address this health issue. As a key action, the Report calls for the inclusion of Integrative Medicine under the objective to Improving NCD healthcare in Europe.

NCDs, including cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, mental disorders, neurological disorders and cancer, account for 80% of the disease burden in EU countries. Furthermore, these NCDs contribute to 90% of all deaths in the European Union, making them the leading cause of preventable premature deaths¹.

To address this critical issue, in the amended NCD report the EU emphasises the need for a holistic approach to tackle health inequalities and promote disease prevention. Along with other preventive and management strategies, the Report highlights the fact that:

scientifically recognised integrative medicine approved by public health authorities can bring benefits to patients in relation to the parallel effects of several diseases, such as cancer, and their treatment; stresses the importance of developing a holistic, integrative and patient-centred approach and encouraging, where appropriate, the complementary use of these therapies under the supervision of healthcare professionals².

Integrative Medicine can optimise health, quality of life and clinical outcomes by incorporating different medical traditions alongside conventional treatments and aligning with patient preferences.

[1] https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/overview_en

[2] https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/ENVI-PR-751761_EN.pdf



IH STEERING GROUP PAPER Published in BMJ GLOBAL HEALTH

Tido von Schoen-Angerer, Raj Kumar Manchanda, Iva Lloyd, Jon Wardle, Janka Szöke, Iracema Benevides, Natalia Sofia Aldana Martinez, Festus Tolo, Ton Nicolai, Cristal Skaling-Klopstock, Tabatha Parker, Dwi Linna Suswardany, Robbert van Haselen, Jianping Liu

Traditional, complementary and integrative healthcare: global stakeholder perspective on WHO's current and future strategy BMJ Global Health, 2023-12 Journal article

As the *WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy: 2014–2023* is entering its final phase, reflection is warranted on progress and the focus for a new strategy. We used WHO documentation to analyse progress across the objectives of the current strategy, adding the role of traditional, complementary and integrative healthcare (TCIH) to address specific diseases as a dimension absent in the current strategy. Analysis concludes on five areas. Firstly, TCIH research is increasing but is not commensurate with TCIH use. TCIH research needs prioritisation and increased funding in national research policies and programmes. Secondly, WHO guidance for training and practice provides useful minimum standards but regulation of TCIH practitioners also needs to reflect the different nature of formal and informal practices. Thirdly, there has been progress in the regulation of herbal medicines but TCIH products of other origin still need addressing. A risk-based regulatory approach for the full-range of TCIH products seems appropriate and WHO should provide guidance in this regard. Fourthly, the potential of TCIH to help address specific diseases is often overlooked. The development of disease strategies would benefit from considering the evidence and inclusion of TCIH practices, as appropriate. Fifthly, inclusion of TCIH in national health policies differs between countries, with some integrating TCIH practices and others seeking to restrict them. We

encourage a positive framework in all countries that enshrines the role of TCIH in the achievement of universal health coverage. Finally, we encourage seeking the input of stakeholders in the development of the new WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy.

Read this important article here – [10.1136/bmjgh-2023-013150](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2023-013150)



HOMEOPATHIC AND ANTHROPOSOPHIC MEDICINAL PRODUCTS IN THE EU

WHO USES THEM AND WHY?



Millions of European citizens choose and have confidence in the use of homeopathic medicinal products for their health care.

Health literacy has accelerated greatly since the Covid pandemic and patients are taking an active role in their own care, exploring health in all its forms. Patients want to participate in the decision-making process and make informed decisions. Increased interest in complementary and alternative medicine can be seen, particularly in women and in younger people. The interest in and support for homeopathy in Europe is in line with this trend.

Those who use these medicinal products do so consciously and by choice. They are eager to find partners in their healthcare practitioners to enable them to access the best information and manage their health in a holistic way.

This report provides an up-to-date profile of the users of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products in the EU.

Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicinal Products in the EU – Who uses them and why?

© ECHAMP 2023. Access the PDF [here](#).



ECH SURVEY



YOUR HELP NEEDED!

Dear ECH member,

Please find below a link to a questionnaire designed for our conventional colleagues. We need your help to disseminate this to as wide an audience as possible in order to obtain helpful feedback from those who do not know about or understand homeopathy.

The ECH Academy and Integrative Medicine Working Groups will use the results of this survey to develop an optimal language aimed at building bridges with conventional 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.

Notes

1. If you open the link yourself to have a look at the questionnaire, please don't answer any of the questions or click on the "Submit" button.

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 your translation to – debeukelaer@homeopathyeurope.org)

Many thanks for your support,
Edward De Beukelaer, Coordinator, IM Working Group



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST HOMEOPATHY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE



There is some exciting news about homeopathy from Northern Ireland regarding a Special Study Module for Queen's University Medical Students with Professor Madeleine Ennis. This will again be taking place in January 2024 and involves a 3-week training programme for a group of 3rd year medical students. The module, *Homeopathy in Clinical Practice*, covers a variety of topics, including core concepts, homeopathic pharmacy, preparation of the remedies, homeopathy in veterinary medicine, a patient's perspective on a lifetime using homeopathic remedies, research, homeopathy in chronic conditions and a rather lively debate between opposing views. It will be wonderful to once again ensure that some of the doctors of tomorrow are introduced to homeopathy at this early stage in their career.



MEDIA VIEW OF HOMEOPATHY NOT REFLECTED IN ACADEMIC DEBATE

Schulz VM, Ücker A, Scherr C, Tournier A, Jäger T, Baumgartner S. **Systematic review of conceptual criticisms of homeopathy.** Heliyon. 2023 Oct 21;9(11):e21287. doi: 10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e21287. PMID: 38074879; PMCID: PMC10700388. [Systematic review of conceptual criticisms of homeopathy - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38074879/)

Abstract

Homeopathy is the subject of frequent debates, especially in public media. This systematic review aims to give an overview of conceptual criticisms of

homeopathy in the scientific literature. The literature search was conducted in four databases (EMBASE, PubMed, Web of Science, PhilPapers) on August 25, 2020. Included were peer-reviewed articles in English or German criticising the basic concepts of homeopathy as main topic; excluded were articles criticising homeopathy primarily based on analysis of empirical clinical and/or preclinical data. The formal structure of publications included was evaluated regarding the recommended structure for scientific publications (IMRaD, acronym for 'Introduction', 'Methods', 'Results' and 'Discussion'). Arguments criticising the concepts of homeopathy were extracted and classified into groups. The literature search revealed 5139 articles, of which 15 articles (published between 1959 and 2020) met the inclusion criteria. These articles complied only partly with the IMRaD structure; just four articles considered with 8 or 9 IMRaD criteria the majority of the defined 11 IMRaD criteria. Extracted arguments against the concepts of homeopathy were classified into five groups: 'Conflict with current scientific principles and the foundations of modern medicine', 'Lack of a scientific basis', 'Arguments based on scientific theories', 'Ethical considerations and social consequences', 'Lack of empirical clinical evidence'. This classification is intended to provide a basis for future in-depth scientific analyses and discussions. Based on the number of articles found in the peer-reviewed literature, it can be concluded that the on-going discussion about homeopathy in the public media is not reflected in a corresponding academic debate.



GIFTS – AMR RESEARCH AGENDA



The International Research Conference on Integrative Medical Strategies for Infection Treatment and Antimicrobial Resistance has produced a research agenda that will help to prevent and treat infections and reduce antibiotic resistance using traditional, complementary and integrative medicine strategies.

Access the complete document here –

<https://storage.googleapis.com/b2match-as-1/C9ad3nj4FFGkP4o9eVhHSgxN>





INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY HOMEOPATHY CONGRESS

SVHD – Slovensko veterinarsko homeopatsko društvo – invites you to join us at the International Veterinary Homeopathy Congress to be held in Belvedere Resort, Izola, Slovenia on 20-21 April 2024. The purpose of the Congress is to promote homeopathy and present it as a multifaceted, multi-layered and multidisciplinary medicine.

Speakers are invited to submit an abstract of their work. Those accepted will be presented in the form of oral presentations (of 45 or 90 minutes) or posters, in English. Abstracts must be in English, not exceeding 500 words (excluding title, author's name and address) and written in a program compatible with Microsoft Word. All abstracts should include the complete title of the presentation, full name and qualifications of the author. The text should include: title, introduction, discussion and conclusion.

The speakers of the oral presentations will be automatically registered for the Congress and will not be required to pay a registration fee. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 30 January 2024. Abstracts must be sent as an attachment to: drustvo.svhd@gmail.com Participants will be notified of acceptance by 10 February 2024. The complete work must be sent no later than 30 March 2024. Further details will be provided with notification of acceptance.

We look forward to welcoming you in Slovenia,
Mirjam Blatnik, DVM, President of SVHD



**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 on social media. This can be from any part of the world.

Thank you!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



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



**ECH Spring Meeting, 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.



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

we're on social media – don't forget to follow us:



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