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ICH News

October 2015

Welcome to the regular newsletter of the International Council for Homeopathy, sharing views and news of the Council on all aspects of homeopathy as practised around the world. ICH was established in 2007 and currently represents the interests of ~30 national associations of homeopaths in 5 continents.

This month's topics

- Welcome and message from the Chair
- National News
 - Federal jury clears producer
 - Switzerland sets an example
- * Research News
 - Demonstrating the reality of potencies

Welcome! Dear Members and Friends of ICH,

Welcome to the second ICH News Bulletin - our



regular forum sharing international news and events. This month you are receiving the bulletin through the medium of Mailchimp, a ready-made email newsletter system which we are trialling for the time being - please let us have your feedback.

The content of this newsletter reveals success on three fronts for homeopathy - the winning of a legal battle by manufacturers in the USA, the establishment of a regulatory system for homeopaths and other CAM practitioners in Switzerland and the results of a laboratory based research project showing the dynamic reality of high potencies.

Enjoy this newsletter and do send us your feedback and your own news!

Michelle Hookham
ICH Chair

National News

Federal jury clears producer, marketer, and seller of homeopathic products in \$255m class action

In a class action of importance to producers, marketers, and sellers of homeopathic products, on Friday, September 18, 2015, a federal jury in the false advertising trial of Allen, et al. v. Hylands, Inc., et al., Case No. 2:12-cv-01150 ("Hylands") took less than a day to find defendants did not breach any express warranty or violate the California Consumer Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code sections 1750 et seq.

In a hearing that lasted two weeks the court heard testimony from a number of expert witnesses, including Dr Iris Bell and Dr Peter Fisher, on the clinical and scientific evidence for homeopathy .

Although the plaintiffs initially sought full refunds worth \$350 million, plaintiffs' counsel wrapped up closing arguments with a demand of \$255 million for allegedly tricking consumers into purchasing "simple sugar pills" that provide no medical benefit. **The jury of six women and three men did not agree, and needed less than a day to deliberate.**

For an expanded résumé of the story - read here.

<http://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=7d9b009a-e041-422c-b9cc-bb0437958523>

Switzerland sets an example for the rest of Europe in regulating CM practice

On 9 September 2015 the Swiss State Secretariat for training, research and innovation (SEFRI) approved a Higher Professional Exam for complementary therapists in Switzerland who do not already fall under the category of 'naturopath' . With about 12000 practitioners practising a range of therapies this new exam creates a new category of practitioner that will be entitled to use the recognised and protected title 'complementary therapist with federal diploma' .

Earlier in the year in April 2015 SEFRI approved the higher professional examination for naturopaths. This gives a recognised and protected title throughout Switzerland of 'naturopathic practitioner with Federal Diploma' . The profession of naturopath covers the practice of four disciplines which are discrete systems of medicine: Ayurvedic medicine, **Homeopathy**, Traditional Chinese Medicine and Traditional European Natural Medicine. Homeopaths

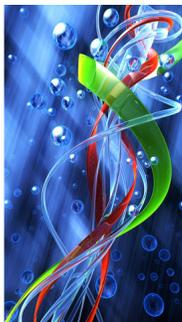
practising in Switzerland are now required to sit and pass the higher professional examination after which they can use the official title 'naturopath with national diploma specialised in homeopathy' .

Through the introduction of these requirements and standards the Swiss government has fulfilled requirements introduced as a result of complementary medicine being written into the Federal Constitution following a referendum in 2009 in which the Swiss people voted for it to happen.

The Swiss Government have acted responsibly in the interests of their citizens, ensuring the quality and safety of care offered by homeopaths and other CM practitioners. While not a member of the EU, Switzerland is bordered by 5 other European countries and has set a clear example for other countries to follow.

RESEARCH

Demonstrating the reality of the active nature of potentised medicine



One of the highlight presentations of the recent Homeopathy Research Institute (HRI) conference in Rome in May this year

<http://www.hrirome2015.org/> was given by English scientist Steven Cartwright on his research demonstrating the reality of the potencies use in

homeopathic medicines. While there is a growing body of clinical evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of homeopathic medicines there is still ongoing controversy surrounding the nature of potentised medicines once they are diluted beyond Avogadro's Constant. In this lab-based research clear evidence of activity was revealed.

Steven Cartwright undertook a systematic approach to the design of

simple, chemical systems for investigating the nature of homeopathic medicines resulting in the development of an experimental protocol in which solvatochromic dyes are used as molecular probes of serially diluted and agitated solutions. Electronic spectroscopy was used to follow changes in the absorbance of this class of dyes across the visible spectrum in the presence of homeopathic potencies.

In the published paper evidence is presented using six different solvatochromic dyes in three different solvent systems. **In all cases homeopathic potencies produce consistent and reproducible changes in the spectra of the dyes.** These results represent a major addition to the growing body of basic research clarifying the active nature of homeopathic medicines.

Solvatochromic dyes detect the presence of homeopathic potencies

Steven Cartwright

<http://www.homeopathyjournal.net/article/S1475-4916%2815%2900062-4/abstract>

Please send articles or information you would like included in our Next Bulletin to Stephen Gordon at ich@gn.apc.org. Feedback on the current newsletter is also welcome!

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