

Conference of Homeopathy Research Institute 2017 in Malta - HRI Conference

It was an amazing conference showing the reality research in homeopathy faces today. It was disillusioning to hear what problems researchers face more and more, e.g. Professors are told to lose their jobs if they support research in homeopathy, trials declined from ethic committees in countries where homeopathy is thought to be in a safe position, [e.g.in](#) Germany - just to name two examples.

So what to do and where to go with research in homeopathy? A panel discussion took place on this topic - well known researchers from different research areas gave their point of view.

There are common statements:

- 1.) The public has the strongest voice - so every single homeopath is asked to talk to his/her patients/patient owners to tell them the situation and ask them for support in order to be able to inform politicians about what is going on with homeopathy at the moment! So that politicians raise their voice for homeopathy in order that we are able to do research in this promising field!
- 2.) Basic research is needed to show/explain the mode of action as this is the most commonly used argument - as long as the mode of action is not clarified homeopathy is to be banned sceptics state.
- 3.) Clinical research including all kinds of study designs are needed to show homeopathy's efficacy/effectiveness.

Dr. Robert Mathie showed in his metanalysis of 'pragmatic' randomised controlled trials in humans that individualised homeopathic treatment used as adjunctive therapy is significantly more effective than conventional therapy alone. Studies with homeopathy as adjunctive therapy give best results. Hence this kind of research might be one way forward for research in homeopathy.

Dr. Stephan Baumgartner showed highlights from 20 years of basic research in homeopathy. His five favoured models explaining the mode of action of homeopathy are:

- 1.) A bioactivity test - metamorphosis of *Rana temporaria*, meta-analysis of 24 experiments, comparison of effects of Thyroxine 30x to water 30x, reduction of metamorphosis detected in almost all trials
- 2.) Biocrystallisation assay - results will soon be published by Baumgartner et al
- 3.) Mouse behavior test published by Bellavite et al 2012 eCAM
- 4.) Healthy duckweed bioassay published by Scherr 2007/2009 in Homeopathy, by Majewesky 2014/2017 in Homeopathy & impaired duckweed bioassay published by Jäger et al. 2010/2011
- 5.) Nanosized solvent superstructures - great work by Demangeat

Dr. Alexander Tournier gave a great overview of physics and homeopathy. Dr. Michel Van Wassenhoven showed the results of the DynHOM project which I already summarised. Many different study designs for clinical studies were shown - pragmatic trials (Prof. Michael Frass, Dr. Christien Klein), RCTs (Dr. Rajesh Shah, Dr. Emma Macías-Cortés), observational studies, prognostic factor research (Dr. Lex Rutten), trials within cohort design (Dr. Philippa Fibert) and

much more. As can be seen no studies on animals have been shown apart from one small study by Prof. Dr Cidéli Coelho although human doctors were asking for high-quality studies in animals showing the effectiveness of homeopathy in our patients.

One highlight was the "Just one drop" film which was shown to the audience. It is a film showing

- two amazing cases, one of an infection with MRSA healed by homeopathic treatment and one of a child with autism cured with homeopathy

- the history of homeopathy e.g. when homeopathy saved patients from scarlet fever - the first epidemic where homeopathy was successfully used

- the documentation of the re-analysis of the Australian report - the question what was done to show that homeopathy is not effective was answered:

e.g. the Australian overview was done twice, the first one showing that homeopathy is effective is hidden from the public

e.g. high quality trials were excluded due to a patient number lower than 150 or other not known reasons

e.g. the advisory committee was chaired by Prof Peter Brooks who is a member of a well known anti-homeopathy group

Maybe we can show this great documentation at our annual meeting in Bologna this year - it is definitely worth seeing it! Please have a look at www.justonedropfilm.com, there you can see the conditions for showing the film at a conference, seminar or wherever.

It was an amazing experience to be part of this great conference and I hope that by working together with HRI and ECH even more closely soon we will be able to present high quality clinical studies of different designs in animals as well! A great thank you to Rachel Roberts, Alexander Tournier and Simon Wilkinson-Blake for organising this great conference!

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