

# ECCH news

The Newsletter of the European Council for Classical Homeopathy  
November 2006



## Homeopathy for victims of war in Israel

The conflict that took place along the Israel-Lebanon border in July and August this year, resulted in the death of 1500 civilians, thousands injured and 1.2 million homeless people. The suffering of the civilians prompted Israeli homeopaths to voluntarily offer homeopathic treatment. A lot of people, mainly in refugee camps, received help for problems such as emotional shock, fright and fatigue, and aggravation of many chronic complaints. Israeli ECCH Representative Yanai Lev-or, who was one of the volunteers, says "The most frustrating aspect was not being able to treat acutes within hospitals, where there were countless badly wounded people, knowing how much we could have helped them with homeopathic treatment. Nevertheless, it was gratifying to see people respond quickly to our treatments and to bring homeopathy into this unusual setting." The Israeli homeopaths' efforts are applauded by ECCH and its by all its member associations.



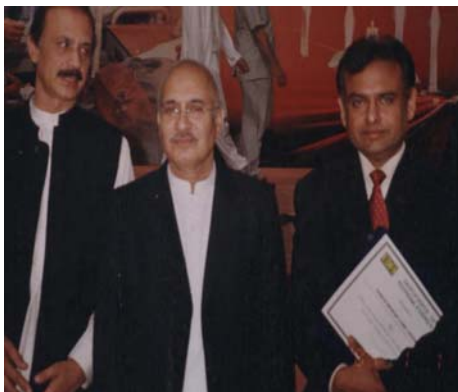
## Homeopaths recognised by Belgian Ministry of Health

It is now clear that Belgian homeopaths are officially recognised as the Ministry of Health has approved the national homeopathic association's dossier. The Ministry is currently issuing the Royal Decree to legalise the recognition of the Belgian ECCH member association, the Liga Homeopatica Classica (LHC). Based on the 1999 law for CAM therapies, the Ministry will establish Chambers for each of the four recognised disciplines; homeopathy, acupuncture, chiropractic and osteopathy. Homeopaths and homeopathic doctors will be members of the same Chamber.

The consequence of these changes is that eventually homeopathy will only be able to be legally practised by homeopaths who are registered with the Chamber for homeopathy. Doctors can be members of the LHC or the doctors' association, UNIO. Members of the LHC will be eligible for membership of the Chamber. The members must fulfil certain requirements, including a specific level of education, liability insurance and all must use the same consultation fees.

This brings an end to the very restrictive legal situation that existed in Belgium up until a few years ago, where homeopaths and other CAM practitioners were persecuted simply for treating patients. Some were ordered by the court to stop practising and had their patient files removed. The new legal framework positively regulates the four mentioned CAM therapies and contributes to ensuring the safety and freedom of choice in healthcare for Belgian patients.

## Volunteer treatment of victims recognised in Pakistan



Dr Tariq Khan receiving the award (R)

A year ago survivors of the major earthquake in North Pakistan needed urgent help to get over the physical and emotional trauma and loss they had suffered. A small team of Pakistani homeopaths, supported with a grant from ECCH and money from WHAC members, quickly established an emergency treatment centre in the earthquake area and offered homeopathic treatment to all who needed it.

In recognition of their efforts, a certificate has been presented to them by the Pakistani authorities. The Anterior Ministry Government of Pakistan and Capital Development Authority in Islamabad also awarded the World Homeopathic Awareness Committee with a certificate of recognition on the eve of the first anniversary of the devastating earthquake.

## Third World Homeopathy Awareness Week!

The third World Homeopathy Awareness Week (WHAW) is in its planning stages. It will take place on 10 to 16 April 2007. The theme will be 'Homeopathy for women's health'. ECCH is contributing by developing a homeopathy brochure for women's health. Key points will be to focus on the effect of homeopathy in balancing the hormonal system, reducing PMS symptoms, regulating the menstrual cycle, helping through menopause and in infertility. Homeopaths all across the world are expected to participate in order to inform larger parts of the public.



## Dutch health insurers reimburse homeopathy delivered by homeopaths

A Dutch insurance company now covers expenses for treatment provided by homeopaths who are members of ECCH national member the Nederlandse Vereniging van Klassiek Homeopaten (NVKH). NVKH members can also benefit from a 10 percent discount on their own health insurance. A number of other insurance companies have approached the NVKH with similar offers. "This is a situation that has never occurred in the past", says ECCH Representative Annemieke Boelsma, who also points out that up to 750 Euro can be claimed for homeopathic treatment.



## EMA hosts a symposium on homeopathic medicines

**For the first time in its short history the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA) hosted a one-day symposium on the regulatory situation facing homeopathic medicines in Europe on 27 October 2006 at its headquarters in London.**

The large meeting of some 50 people included representatives from the medicines agencies of most EU Member States and officials from the EMA together with representatives from the various stakeholder groups such as ECCH, the European Committee for Homeopathy (ECH), the European Federation of Patient Associations (EFPA), the European Council of Doctors for Plurality in Medicine (ECPM), the International Committee of Homeopathic Pharmacists (CIPH), the European Coalition of Homeopathic and Anthroposophic Medicine Producers (ECHAMP) as well as groups representing anthroposophical doctors, patients and pharmacists. Also in attendance were representatives of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Department for the Quality of Medicines (EDQM) who are developing the European Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia.

The day-long meeting allowed everyone to have their say and adequate time for questions and answers on various points as they arose. Carl Classen, ECCH Pharmacy Coordinator and Stephen Gordon, ECCH General Secretary jointly presented a brief powerpoint outlining the concerns of homeopaths to do with the loss of access to remedies occurring in some countries and contributed to the ensuing discussion.

Significantly Thomas Lönngrén, EMA Executive Director took the time to sit in on the first and last sessions of the day thus bidding everyone welcome and goodbye. He and the meeting Chairman Tony Humphreys listened intently to the discussion and were clearly making a real attempt to understand the issues.

Currently the Heads of Agencies Homeopathic Medicinal Products Working Group (HMPWG) is tasked with dealing with the harmonising of member states' regulation on homeopathic medicines and the EMA has no direct influence. However homeopathic medicines are now part of the revised EU medicines directive and in view of the differences in national approaches it may not be too much longer before the EMA does take a more active interest.

## **Research news**

### **Asthma and hypersensitivity patients do better on homeopathy than conventional treatment**

A study of 200 patients suffering from hypersensitivity illnesses, including asthma, eczema, urticaria, hayfever and other allergies, showed that homeopathy was at least as effective as conventional treatment. The study, which was retrospective and comparative, looked at the experienced effect in everyday clinical practice of general practitioners and classical homeopaths. Where most patients who were treated by medical doctors experienced an aggravation of their symptoms when stopping conventional drugs, only 1/3 of patients in the homeopathy group experienced such an aggravation ( $P=0.002$ ). Only one patient on conventional treatment experienced improvement of symptoms after stopping medication, compared to improvement in 2/3 of homeopathy patients. Patients in the homeopathy group reported a larger improvement in their general state of health, with 57 percent improving, compared to 24 % in the conventional group (difference  $P=0.004$ ). Homeopathy patients also experienced more positive change in their psychological state ( $P<0.0001$ ). For quality of life 53 % in the homeopathy group improved, compared to 15 % in the conventional group.



Reference: Launsø L, Kimby CK, Henningsen I, Fønnebo V. An exploratory retrospective study of people suffering from hypersensitivity illness who attend medical or classical homeopathic treatment. *Homeopathy* (2006) 95, 73-80.

### **Swiss researchers confirm the effectiveness of homeopathy**

The effectiveness of homeopathy can be supported by clinical evidence and treatment is safe. This is the conclusion of the Program for Evaluation of Complementary Medicine (PEK), the same program which in August 2005 resulted in the publication of an article by Shang et al, where the conclusion was that the effect of homeopathy is placebo. Researchers found results in favour of homeopathy in 20 of 22 systematic reviews on the effect of homeopathic high-potencies on cells or living organisms. For upper respiratory tract infections and allergies six out of seven studies were in favour of homeopathy.

Reference: Bornhöft et al. Effectiveness, Safety and Cost-Effectiveness of Homeopathy in General Practice – Summarized Health Technology Assessment. *Forsch Komplementärmed* 2006;13(suppl 2):19-29.



Samueal Hahenmaann from a bust on his grave at the Pere Lachaise Cemetary in Paris

### **Will provings prove that homeopathy works?**

A recent placebo-controlled homeopathic pathogenic trial, more commonly known as a proving, clearly demonstrated that provers who took the substances in C30 potency experienced significantly more symptoms than a placebo group ( $P<0.001$ ). Provings were developed by Samuel Hahnemann 200 years ago as a safe means of investigating the healing properties of any natural substance plant, animal or mineral. In this trial provers were given either Etna Lava C30, Hydrogenium peroxidatum C30, or placebo. Where the placebo group experienced some symptoms, they were more short-lived compared to the verum group which experienced persistent symptoms for the first 30 days. Provers in the verum group also experienced more 'old symptoms' returning. A weakness of the survey is that it only included 21 provers. Researchers have now called for more data from more provers.

Reference: Dominici G, Bellavite P, di Stanislao C, Gulia P, Pitari G. Double-blind, placebo controlled homeopathic pathogenetic trials: Symptom collection and analysis. *Homeopathy* (2006) 96, 123-130.

# European Council for Classical Homeopathy

## National Association Members of ECCH

### ARMENIA

Organisation for Classical Homeopathy  
Website: [www.homeopathy.am](http://www.homeopathy.am)

### BELGIUM

Liga Homeopatica Classica  
Website: [www.ligahomeopatica.be](http://www.ligahomeopatica.be)

### BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Society of Homeopaths of B&H  
E-mail: [homeopatijabh@yahoo.com](mailto:homeopatijabh@yahoo.com)

### BULGARIA

Homeopathic Society of Bulgaria  
Website: [www.bghomeopathy.org](http://www.bghomeopathy.org)

### CROATIA

Croatian Association of Homeopaths of Classical Homeopathy  
Email: [elvira.smoje@st.hinet.hr](mailto:elvira.smoje@st.hinet.hr)

### CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Association of Classical Homeopathy  
Website: [www.homeopathy.cz](http://www.homeopathy.cz)

### DENMARK

Dansk Selskab for Klassisk Homøopati  
Website: [www.homeopati.dk](http://www.homeopati.dk)

### FINLAND

Suomen Homeopaatit ry  
Website: [www.homeopaatit.org](http://www.homeopaatit.org)

### GERMANY

Verband Klassischer Homöopathen Deutschlands e.V  
Email: [office@vkh.de](mailto:office@vkh.de)

### GREECE

Homeopath's Association of Greece  
Website: [www.ikko.gr](http://www.ikko.gr)

### IRELAND

Irish Society of Homøopath  
Website: [www.ishom.com](http://www.ishom.com)

### ISRAEL

Israeli Association for Classical Homeopathy  
Website: [www.homeopathy-israel.co.il](http://www.homeopathy-israel.co.il)

### ITALY

Federazione Nazionale Omeopati  
Email: [afilar@libero.it](mailto:afilar@libero.it)

### NETHERLANDS

Nederlandse Vereniging van Klassiek Homeopaten  
Website: [www.nvkh.nl](http://www.nvkh.nl)

### NORWAY

Norske Homeopaters Landsforbund  
Website: [www.nhl.no](http://www.nhl.no)

### POLAND

Krajowe Towarzystwo Zwolennikow Homeopati  
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### PORTUGAL

Associação Portuguesa de Homeopatia  
Website: [www.homeopatia-aph.pt](http://www.homeopatia-aph.pt)

### SERBIA

Association for Classical Homeopathy "Hahnemann"  
Website: <http://homeons.50megs.com>

### SPAIN

Asociación Espanola de Homeopatas Unicistas  
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### SWEDEN

Svenska Akademin för Klassisk Homeopati  
Website: [www.sakh.org](http://www.sakh.org)

### SWITZERLAND

Homöopathie Verband Schweiz  
Website: [www.hvs.ch](http://www.hvs.ch)

Verband Klassischer Homöopathen/-Innen  
Website: [www.vkh.ch](http://www.vkh.ch)

### UNITED KINGDOM

Alliance of Registered Homeopaths  
Website: [www.a-r-h.org](http://www.a-r-h.org)

Homeopathic Medical Association  
Website: [www.the-hma.org](http://www.the-hma.org)

Society of Homeopaths  
Website: [www.homeopathy-soh.org](http://www.homeopathy-soh.org)

### **Applicants for ECCH membership**

### MACEDONIA

Association for classical homeopathy DENICA  
Email: [deltaproekt@mt.net.mk](mailto:deltaproekt@mt.net.mk)

### There are ECCH Contact Persons in

Austria, France, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg.

## Officers of the Council for 2006

<b>Chairman</b>	Petter Viksveen (Norway)	<b>Vice Chair</b>	Zofia Dymitr (UK)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Michael Smith (Ireland)	<b>General Secretary</b>	Stephen Gordon (UK)

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