

BRITISH HOMEOPATHIC LIBRARY

A LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE DEDICATED TO HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE

DECEMBER 2003

Library News

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first edition of the British Homeopathic Library Newsletter. The purpose of the Newsletter is to let members of the library know about the library's latest articles and acquisitions.

If there is anything you want to see published in the Newsletter, or if you want a copy of any of the articles featured here please contact us.

APPOINTMENTS

The library has recently appointed a new Library and Information Officer, Kerry Jardine. Kerry has come from the British Medical Association, where she worked as an information officer for the Tobacco Control Resource Centre.

The library, after having been on a reduced service for the summer months, is now open on a full-time basis for enquiries and visitors.

BACK ISSUES SALE

The library is selling off some surplus journal stock, including back issues of the British Homeopathic Journal. See the back page for more details and information on ordering.

FREE FACTSHEETS ONLINE

A series of factsheets, free to download, are now available on the BHL website. The factsheets cover: the BHL resources and how to search the database; a guide to online resources in homeopathy; a list of references in human healing and complementary medicine; and a contact list of complementary and alternative medicine organisations. The series will be built up gradually, if there is anything in particular you want to see, please let us know.

Health Information News

RESEARCH FREE ONLINE

A group of leading scientists are to mount an unprecedented challenge to the publishers that lock away the valuable findings of research in expensive, subscription-only electronic databases by launching their own journal to give away results for free.

A new publishing group called the Public Library of Science (PLOS) will distribute its journals free of charge and is backed by top scientists, including the British Nobel prize winners Paul Nurse and Sir John Sulston. Dr Ahringer is on the editorial board of PLOS Biology, the group's first journal that is due to be launched on October 13. The new biology journal will be available on the internet, but 25,000 print copies of the first monthly edition will also be produced. A second journal for medical research is planned for next year and more could follow.

One group of people willing it to succeed are university librarians, who have seen both the number and price of journals escalate rapidly in recent years.

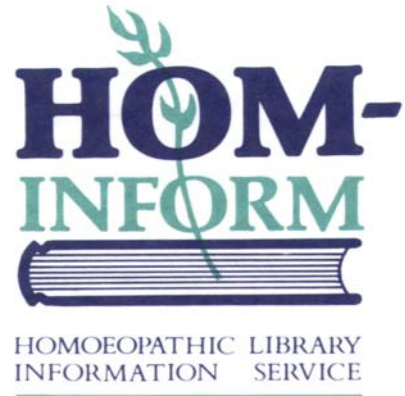
View PLOS Biology on
www.publiclibraryofscience.org

Source: David Adam, science correspondent.
Monday October 6, 2003. [The Guardian](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

WHO CALL FOR REPORT

The WHO have asked LMHI to produce a draft report containing a 'Review and Analysis of Evidence Base on Homeopathy'. This report is expected to be the product of a consensus of homeopathy experts worldwide. The report will be presented to the WHO in December 2003.

Source: ECH Newsletter, November 2003



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Reviews and abstracts

Assessing likelihood ratio of clinical symptoms: handling vagueness

Rutten et al

Clinical symptoms including homeopathic symptoms are often vague. There is reluctance to assess clinical symptoms as diagnostic instruments because they are hard to define. Still, clinical symptoms appear effective in daily practice. Expert systems and neural networks handle vague data successfully.

Theoretical considerations predict the kind of problems we may expect. There is a difference between quantitative and qualitative vagueness. Vague data cause problems if we try to prove a hypothesis because of expectation bias. We assess likelihood ratio of homeopathic symptoms only to improve the method.

Homeopathy October 2003;92(4):175-236

Homeopathy and the Quantum World — Why Bother?

Milgrom L.

This opinion piece looks at scientific research methods and their application to homeopathic research. The author believes that, 'scientifically speaking we haven't even begun to scratch the surface of what homeopathy is really about'.

He discusses the scientific methods used to look at the homeopathic remedies work, and in particular Benveniste's "memory of water" theory. Then goes on to look at subsequent obscurely reported studies which appear to support Benveniste's theory. As well as looking at bio-medical theories, he also speculates about applying complementarity, mathematical and quantum theories to throw light on homeopathy.

The Homeopath, July 2003;90:10-14

Controversy in Homeopathy: Magic or Science?

Habich et al

This article is about the current debate about the doctrine of signatures and the purity of the sources of homeopathic Materia Medica. Is homeopathy a scientific method, and what are the reasons for speculative tendencies within this method? Dr Habich compares Homeopathic anamnesis and case analysis with the work of a criminologist, looking for clues and obtain-

ing leads.

A signed declaration following the article airs concerns about introducing speculative and metaphysical elements to homeopathy and stands by the principle of homeopathy being a "rational medicine", with its guiding dictum as the treatment of the sick "on clearly comprehensible principles".

American Journal of Homeopathic Medicine Summer 2003;96(2):82-93

AIH Bioterrorism Project

Moskowitz R

The American Institute of Homeopathy's Bioterrorism Project was created after the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the anthrax attacks in the US.

Homeopathy's historical success in treating epidemic disease gave the AIH the opportunity and obligation to become involved in the efforts to protect people from the threat of bioterrorism.

This article discusses the most common symptoms, conventional treatment, homeopathic treatment and prophylaxis of the disease most likely to be employed as bioweapons—anthrax, smallpox, plague, tularemia, and botulism.

American Journal of Homeopathic Medicine Summer 2003;96(2):94-136

Potentized Mercurial chloride and Nux vomica facilitate water permeability in Erythrocytes of a fresh water catfish *Clarius batrachus* under acute ethanol intoxication.

Sukul et al

The objective of this study was to see if potentized drugs could alter the permeation of water through the erythrocytes of a fresh water fish under acute ethanol intoxication. The study concludes that because water channel proteins or aquaporins are mainly responsible for water transport through the plasma membrane of red blood cells, it is thought that potentized drugs interact with these proteins, thereby facilitating water influx in cells.

J Alt Comp Med, Oct 2003;9(5):719-725

Reviews and abstracts

Effects of homeopathic treatment on pruritus of haemodialysis patients: a randomized placebo-controlled double-blind trial.

Cavalcanti et al.

Pruritus is a frequent and difficult to treat problem in haemodialysis. This double-blind placebo-controlled randomised clinical trial assessed the role of homeopathic treatment in this situation. The code was held by the pharmacist who dispensed the medications. Pruritus was evaluated using a previously published scale. Only patients with initial values above 25% of maximum pruritus score were entered. Data were analysed after partial code break, separating the two groups of patients, but with no awareness of which one received verum or placebo. Patients were classified as responders if they had >50% reduction of pruritus score.

The research showed that homeopathic treatment may represent a worthwhile alternative to relieve pruritus in patients undergoing haemodialysis.

Homeopathy 2003 ;92(4):177-181

Evidence for complementary therapies for labour pain

Huntley AL.

This review article looks at a number of randomised control trials on the use of complementary therapies to help women through the pain of labour. The therapies included here are: acupuncture; biofeedback; hypnosis; intracutaneous injections of sterile water; and massage. Only the ISW injections and the massage appear to make any positively quantifiable difference to the pain, although the author does note that there is insufficient evidence to properly judge the other therapies.

FACT Sept 2003;8(3):297-301

Hahnemann - the real pioneer of psychiatry

Morrell P.

This article explores Hahnemann's treatment of mentally ill patients, his aphorisms in the Organon on the same subject, and the uncomfortable position 'mental illness' occupies within the conceptual fabric of homeopathy as a whole.

American Journal of Homeopathic Medicine 2003 ;96(2):164-16

Homeopathic treatment in emergency medicine: a case series

Oberbaum et al.

Following a multiple-casualty construction disaster in Israel, members of The Center of Integrated Complementary Medicine joined in the emergency activity of the Shaare Zedek Medical Center. They administered homeopathic treatment to injured patients to supplement conventional orthopaedic treatment.

Fifteen orthopaedic patients were included. They were treated by homeopathy in two phases starting 24 h post-trauma. All patients initially received Arnica montana 200CH in a single dose. Anxiety was treated with Aconite 200CH in nine patients, Opium 200CH in three, Ignatia 200CH in two and Arsenicum album 200CH in one according to type of anxiety.

At discharge patients rated the homeopathic treatment successful in 67% of the specific complaints. Several issues relating to the use of homeopathy in emergency medicine and its relation to conventional treatment are discussed. These include compliance, the conduct of rounds, shortage of time and staff, and the procurement of medicines.

Homeopathy 2003 Jan ;92(1):44-7

New book acquisitions - selection

- Chatroux SS. *Materia Poetica: Homeopathy in Verse*. US: Poetica Press, 2003
- Dinges M (ed). *Patients in the History of Homoeopathy*. Sheffield: European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Publications, 2002.
- Jutte et al (eds). *Culture, Knowledge, and Healing: Historical Perspectives of Homeopathic Medicine in Europe and North America*. Sheffield: European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Publications, 1998.
- Horrigan BJ. *Voice of Integrative Medicine: Conversations and Encounters*. Churchill Livingstone, 2003

BRITISH HOMEOPATHIC LIBRARY

A LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE DEDICATED TO HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE

We supply comprehensive library services, including borrowing access to our substantial collection of books and audio tapes, to Members and Associates of the [Faculty of Homeopathy](#) and to Affiliate Members of the library.

Our information service, Hom-Inform, is an individualised search, query and document supply service available to all. Our database of over 25,000 article and book references on homeopathy is free to search from this website.

New library charges

The British Homeopathic Library's service charges have remained at the same rate for the past three years. Unfortunately due to rising costs and decreasing budgets we have had to increase our charges in line with rising costs. However the charge increases are minimal, just 25p on article copies. The annual membership charge for Affiliate Members will **not** be affected.

Fortunately for the library users the article copies we provide are still substantially cheaper than that of British Library services, which is the only other library to provide access to homeopathic literature.

Service prices

	Members rate	Non-members
Literature searches	£5	£10
P/C per article	£1.75	£3.50
P/C per article overseas (no VAT)	£2.25	£4.50
P/C per article faxed	£3.00	£5.00
P/C per article overseas faxed (No VAT)	£5.00	£7.00
Articles ordered from the British Library	£8.00	Not available
Urgent request	£2.00	£5.00
Self-service photocopying	10p per sheet	10p per sheet
Book copies	30p per page	30p per page

All prices are subject to VAT at 17.5% except self-service & non-EC countries

Journal back issues sale

A recent stock check has revealed a number of duplicate issues of journals dating back to 1941, As the library has full bound collections of these journals we've decided to sell off this surplus stock. The journals for sale are:

- Alternative Therapies in Health and Medicine
- Alternative and Complementary Therapies
- British Homeopathic Journal
- Complementary Therapies in Medicine
- Complementary Medical Research
- Homeopathy (former Journal of the BHA)
- The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine

The journals are £5 per issue, with a 25% discount on orders over 10 issues. Please contact the library for a full stock list and ordering forms.



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