



Research in complementary medicine and homeopathy

Research in homeopathy

'Cutting edge research in homeopathy' was the title of an event for a different group of researchers, this time in Barcelona between 31 May and 2 June, at the inaugural **International Homeopathy Research Conference**, hosted by the **Homeopathy Research Institute (HRI)**. HRI was created to address the need for reliable scientific evidence in homeopathy. The institute works to foster new projects and to improve the quality of research being carried out in this field. It is currently the only charitable organisation dedicated to homeopathy research on an international level.

The conference brought together a broad audience of about 180 participants from 30 countries, interested in improving the scientific level of research in homeopathy. The opening speech of the conference was given by a representative of the Catalan Minister of Health, who stressed the increasing openness of the Spanish health authorities towards complementary medicine, including homeopathy, in the future health policy in Spain. A basic and obvious condition for this is that the homeopathic research community brings clear evidence for homeopathy he said. In this respect he enthusiastically welcomed the event in Barcelona.

There were forty oral presentations during the event followed by intensive discussions in panel settings and with the audience. It was especially interesting to see the high level of research, in particular in the attempts to find the working mechanism of high dilutions within the human body and the complexity of its cell functions. Critical evaluation of the real scientific relevance of RCT trials and studies with homeopathic remedies published in the past was another major part of the oral and poster presentations. A large number of presentations from representatives of India and South-America showed the success of homeopathic treatment for infectious diseases which are typical for these regions. Most of these campaigns of treatment with homeopathic remedies are supported by the national governments in these countries. Very specific studies focussing on individualised homeopathic treatments were presented by a number of researchers in Europe and the United States. The high calibre of the presentations and especially of the discussions with the audience clearly showed that the best researchers in the field of homeopathy were present in this first international conference of the Homeopathic Research Institute (HRI), in line with the basic mission of the HRI: Facilitate scientific research in homeopathy.

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