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HOMEOPATHY – ITS POSITION IN THE WORLD

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Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues and friends,

„The physician´s high and *only* mission is to restore the sick to health, to cure, as it is termed.“

These are the words of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homeopathy, in the first paragraph of his most important publication, the *Organon of Medicine*.

The homeopathic medical world celebrates exactly this year, the 200th Anniversary of the *Organon of Medicine* of Samuel Hahnemann. Since its first publication in 1810, the *Organon of the Healing Art* has been the most essential instrument for the homeopathic education of innumerable medical doctors in the world.

The reason why this book has never lost its importance in the homeopathic medical world and the reason why this book never experienced changes in its **fundamental statements**, is precisely the timeless character of the eternal laws of nature described by Hahnemann in his *Organon*.

Through his years of therapeutical experience Hahnemann was able to define the naturally existing relation on which his method of cure is based, as a *law of cure* or even as a *natural law* – following the famous German philosopher, Kant. (1810).

Already, in the 1st edition of the *Organon* (1810) he relates **experience** with **natural laws** and writes in the introduction to his 1st edition of the *Organon*, about **the eternal homeopathic law of curing**, in regard to the law of similars.

And in the § 31, of the *Organon*, 1st edition, Hahnemann continues:

*"The big homeopathic law of curing, ...is based on the law of the human nature drawn on careful trials and pure experience...that a disease can be eradicated and cured **only** by a similar disease".*

That way Homeopathy can be defined as a method of medical practice, aimed at methodologically improving the level of health of an organism by the obligatory administration of proven and potentised medicines, which are individually selected in accordance with the law of similars, as described by Samuel Hahnemann in its *Organon of the Healing Art*.

In many experiments Hahnemann discovered that a substance, capable of provoking symptoms in a healthy organism, acts as curative agent in a diseased organism in which the same symptoms are manifested. The Law of Similars, *"let likes be cured by likes"*, is the most important fundament of Homeopathy.

In his *Organon* of Medicine, Hahnemann writes in the § 25:

„Pure experience teaches us.... that we will remove rapidly, permanently and radically the totality of the symptoms of the whole disease present, and change it into health, by choosing a remedy which in its action on the healthy human body has demonstrated its power of producing the greatest number of symptoms SIMILAR to those observable in the case of disease under treatment....“

Homeopathy is rooted in experiment and careful observation. In fact, the earliest systematic study of the action of medicines in medical history is the Homeopathic trial, called **proving**. Homeopathic pathogenetic trials are a type of research, in which compounds are tested on healthy human volunteers in order to observe as many effects as possible, at a non-toxic level.

In the original words of Samuel Hahnemann (§ 108, *Organon* of Medicine)

„There is, no other possible way in which the peculiar effects of medicines on the health of individuals can be accurately ascertained –there is no sure, no more natural way of accomplishing this object, than to administer the several medicines experimentally, in moderate doses, to healthy persons, in order to ascertain what changes, symptoms and signs of their influence each individually produces on the health of the body and of the mind.“

If finally the similarity is great enough between the patient's symptoms and the symptoms found in the drug proving on healthy human beings, the original disease or complaint does not recur after discontinuing the administration of the remedy.

Individuality of the patient and of the selected homeopathic remedy constitute two more essential corner stones of Homeopathy due to the fact that life, health and disease are in their „essence“ unique. Everybody experiences grief, joy, anger and of course all pathologies, diseases and symptoms individually – being always different from those other individuals might experience.“ In other words: *“...every human being has to be seen and understood in his whole reality he is living every day. Because it is exactly this reality which is essentially different from every other reality we know.“*(Heidegger)

In the same way *„Every medicine exhibits peculiar actions on the human organism, which are not produced in exactly the same manner by any other medicinal substance of different kind“* as Hahnemann writes in his *Organon*.

Homeopathy considers the individual patient *as an integrated whole* and a homeopathic diagnosis is a systemic one including information, not only about the patient's actual complaint, but also about *the patient's constitution, emotional and mental make-up, and the way he deals with physical, emotional and mental influences/stress in his/her life.*

Homeopathy, considers further a disease as something that shows itself directly in the patient's symptoms and belongs to our real world, that it is something that we are living, experiencing and suffering. *The homeopathic physician takes the patient's symptoms **in the sense that what shows itself is the disease itself.*** To the contrary, conventional medicine tries to find the cause of disease in the area of something that does not show itself directly, that is, in the area of that which is measurable and calculable.

As homeopathy stimulates the self-regulation mechanism, it is easy to see that, in principle, all illness can benefit from homeopathic treatment. The therapeutic possibilities, of course, depend on the extent to which the organism is able to recover.

Homeopathy is unique and is clearly distinguished from other branches of medicine such as Anthroposophic Medicine, Homotoxicology, Phytotherapy and others.

LIGA MEDICORUM HOMOEOPATHICA INTERNATIONALIS

The LIGA founded in Rotterdam 1925 has 2 main purposes:

1. The development and securing of homeopathy worldwide and
2. The creation of a link among licensed homeopaths with medical diplomas and societies and persons who are interested in homeopathy

THE LMHI REPRESENTS AT THIS MOMENT 75 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE AND HAS APPROXIMATELY 10.000 MEMBERS

The LMHI has as members national homeopathic medical organizations and institutions, as well as individual members that are physicians, veterinary surgeons and dentists with a full medical, veterinarian or dental qualification of a state university or any other licensing authority duly recognized by the government of the country in which they practice and who have had special education in homeopathy and hold any kind of diploma recognized by the association.

What are the LIGA´s purposes?

The aim of the LIGA is to unify every homeopathic physician and all homeopathic medical associations of the world under one nominal head. With the help of a LIGA representative in every country as a link between the national association and the LIGA, the main purpose of the LIGA can be realized:

The development of good quality homeopathy worldwide and the creation of a link between homeopaths with medical diplomas and also between societies and persons who are interested in homeopathy.

The goals of the LMHI have international interests

- Contacts and common working projects with International Health Organizations (WHO, UNICEF, Red Cross)
- Contacts and common working projects with other International Homeopathic Organisations (European Committee for Homeopathy, GIRI, Homeopaths without borders and others)
- **Political support and mutual assistance**, respectively, in political and legal challenges to homeopathy in those countries where the Liga´s aid is solicited by the representatives of the national homeopathic organizations.

- Educational help is offered through the **LMHI Homeopathic Medical Education Standards, Examination Standards and a LMHI Diploma**
- The LMHI is further acting as coordinator for the international dissemination of homeopathically pertinent media items and for international communication among homeopathic and allied researchers and research projects. Using for these purposes the new **LMHI website, the Liga-Letter and the electronic LMHI Newsletter, as well as the communication through the National Vice Presidents, the connection between LIGA and the member countries.**

In the area of **Research** a working committee promotes high-quality scientific homeopathic research presentations at the LMHI Congresses worldwide. Recent publications are: "Research in Homeopathy" and "Evidence based Homeopathy".

Homeopathy requires special knowledge and skills to be mastered. It takes considerable training because the therapeutic objective as well as the practical approach to illness differs widely in homeopathy as compared to conventional medicine. Furthermore, homeopathic doctors should be able to combine the knowledge and skills in homeopathic practice with the knowledge and skills in the practice of conventional medicine. Since homeopathic treatment often needs to be prescribed within a broader care plan including an awareness of the need for conventional medical diagnosis, prognosis and treatments, qualifications should be at the same high level as in conventional medicine. A full medical education ensures the necessary clinical competence required, especially if homeopathy is applied as an alternative to conventional treatment.

Good quality of homeopathic practice has to be ensured by good teaching guidelines according to Hahnemann's Organon. For this purpose, LMHI and ECH developed a common curriculum. The document provides a consensus framework of training requirements for a safe and effective practice of medical, veterinarian and dental homeopathy.

The LIGA considers it as one of its most important challenges to have the function of being **the preserving institution of the timeless qualities of homeopathy**. The LIGA achieves this by promulgating excellent Homeopathic Medical Education Standards and by encouraging all schools and homeopathic medical associations worldwide and all of their members to provide the best possible homeopathic education to their members.

What is the position of Homeopathy in the National Health Systems?

In many countries all over the world homeopathy has gained official status. It has been officially recognized by the governments as a system of medicine or medical speciality in countries in Central and South America (Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico), Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) and Europe (Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Portugal, Romania, Russia, United Kingdom). In some of these countries homeopathy has been integrated into national health care systems, namely in Brazil, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom.

In India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Mexico, the legal standing of homeopathy is equivalent to that of conventional western (allopathic) medicine, many practitioners are certified in both, homeopathy and allopathic medicine, and the primary care provider for many patients is a homeopathic doctor. In India alone there are around 180.000 homeopathic doctors working.

Several National Medical Associations have recognised homeopathy as a therapeutic medical method (Germany, Austria, Latvia, France, Italy, Switzerland, United Kingdom). In Germany, e.g. homeopathic remedies, as well as the consultation fees of homeopathic medical treatments are reimbursed by public and private insurances.

In conclusion, homeopathy is a low-cost treatment, suitable for all ages, which offers help and cure in acute and chronic diseases and considering the whole person homeopathy improves physical and emotional health. Being a gentle system of healing, homeopathy acts without drug dependency and as a non toxic therapy without chemical side effects.

Despite all attempts to isolate homeopathy, to weaken or to attack her, **the eternal fundamentals of homeopathy survived the last 200 years** and continue to be applied by hundred of thousands of homeopathic physicians around the world for the benefit of millions of patients. Especially for the benefit of patients living in difficult economical and social conditions worldwide.

I would like to finish my presentation insisting about the fact that **Homeopathy is part of medicine**. It is our deep desire to participate in a positive relationship with conventional medicine, characterized by mutual respect and tolerance.