



DECLARATION OF THE LIGA MEDICORUM HOMOEOPATHICA INTERNATIONALIS

The Liga Medicorum Homeopathica Internationalis¹ hereby publicly and officially expresses its views regarding the recent unsigned report published by the British journal *The Lancet* which states that Homeopathy lacks any curative power by printing the affirmation that "doctors should be honest with their patients and tell them the truth about Homeopathy's inability to provide therapeutic benefits." Such unfounded studies result from the meta-analysis work published in the same issue of the referenced journal.²

As a response to this article the LMHI publishes the following statement:

Evaluating homeopathy or scientific studies concerning Homeopathy requires the understanding of the following prerequisites:

In regard to the published *Lancet* article, the LMHI wants to clarify the following:

1) Any work that aims at demonstrating the evidence of Homeopathy based on clinical trials designed to prove efficacy of a particular homeopathic medicine exclusively over a specific disease will fail in his intention because it ignores the intrinsic homeopathic principles. Therefore the works included in the meta-analyses which have been used to publish the *Lancet* article lack of any foundation.

2) As a careful synthesis, the weakness of the published study lies in the exclusion of a great part of the literature from the statistical evaluation, the utilisation of a unilateral base for applying qualitative criteria, and the arbitrary choice of the works to be considered. Such procedure is not in accordance with the epidemiology: the application of a typical meta-analysis calculation to very few studies which are considerably different from each other, nevertheless.³ In effect, the conclusions of this analysis are based on only 8 anonymous, clinical trials. These studies are not referenced, no information is given out them and 93 % were excluded.

¹ "The Liga Medicorum Homeopathica Internationalis, LMHI, is an international medical homeopathic association founded on September 10, 1925 under the terms of the Civil Laws of Switzerland, with headquarters in the city of Geneva and representatives in 56 countries.

² "Are the clinical effects of homeopathy placebo effects? Comparative study of placebo-controlled trials of homeopathy and allopathy," *Lancet* 2005; 366:726-732 2005, by authors "Shang A, Huwiler-Müntener K, Nartey L, Jüni P, Dörig S, Sterne JAC, Pewsner D, Egger M."

³ Prof. Dr. Paolo Bellavite, Professor of General Pathology at University of Verona (Italy)

3) It was based on this study that does not respect the homeopathic principles, which were criticised by analysts who consider it inaccurate despite the epidemiological precepts, that the Swiss government has recently banned the refunding of expenses related to homeopathic treatment to its citizens. Even though studies conducted by the Swiss government have demonstrated over seven years that homeopathic care was superior to conventional methods, that life quality rate significantly improved with Homeopathy, and that the level of satisfaction with the patient-doctor relationship was significantly higher in homeopathic treatments, and that health related costs were reduced by 50% with the application of Homeopathy, Homeopathy was excluded from the health budget. This exclusion is the result of a misjudgment of Homeopathy in an application disregarding its principles.

4) In view of the above, the LMHI raises serious concerns about the meta-analysis of homeopathy by Shang et al. as well as in regard to the Lancet article itself, because not only does the article reflect disregard towards the most important homeopathic principles, but also tries once more to rely on "selective analyses and biased reports" which are considered today as no longer up-to-date in the scientific world.

5) Additionally, the LMHI wants to make an appeal to the international scientific community simply to maintain respect and faithfulness to the homeopathic principles. When clinical trials are organized with the aim of demonstrating the efficacy of Homeopathy, this should be done with the assistance of qualified professionals capable of conducting such works in conformity with the homeopathic field that is represented by the patient with illnesses rather than of the illnesses of patients. In the light of modern anthropology and common sense, the use of a single meta-analysis. To declare "the end of Homeopathy" would be considered unscientific and dogmatic. Homeopathic medicine is spread all over the world and is fully official in 15 countries. Physicians and researchers are applying and investigating it with significative results. In any case, the last word rests with the patients.

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