



INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON WORLD HOMEOPATHY DAY:

Defining the Role of Homeopathy within Ontario's Health-Care System

CONFERENCE REPORT

On April 22 and 23, 2017, an international convention to commemorate the 262nd anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann's birth was held at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, Brampton, Ontario. The theme of the convention was 'Defining the Role of Homeopathy within Ontario's Health Care System.' This event was organized by the Homeopathic Medical Association of Canada (HMAC) together with Liga Medicorum Homeopathica Internationalis (LMHI), the North American Society of Homeopaths (NASH), Ontario Homeopathic Association (OHA), and the Syndicat Professionnel des Homéopathes du Québec (SPHQ).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed last year in India between the College of Homeopaths of Ontario



(CHO) and India's Central Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH). In order to facilitate the implementation of the MOU, the Indian Delegation including, Mr. P.N. Ranjit Kumar, Joint Secretary Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, and Dr. Raj K. Manchanda, Director General, Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, Ministry of AYUSH, participated in the convention, as well as workshops and discussions that followed with the

CHO. The Consul General of India, Mr. Dinesh Bhatia, provided important technical support for the MOU, and presented his address to the convention.



The event was inaugurated by Dr. Gustavo Albert Cataldi, MD, Vice-President, Liga Medicorum Homeopathica Internationalis (LMHI) together with dignitaries including Mr. Dinesh Bhatia, Mr. P.N. Ranjit Kumar, and Dr. Raj K. Manchanda. Also present were Mr. Basil Ziv, Hom, Registrar & CEO, College of Homeopaths of Ontario, and Prof. Bhupinder Sharma, Hom, NVP, LMHI, the Conference Chair.

Other noted guests at the conference panels included Ms. Cathy Hecimovich, CEO, Central West Community Care Access Centre, Dr. K.M. Dhawale, MD (Psych. Medicine), D.P.M. M.F.Hom. (London), Memorial Homeopathic Institute, Mumbai, India, Dr. Gulam Murtoza, MD, CCFP Family Physician, Mr. Louis Klien, Hom, FS Hom, (B.C.), Dr. Nazia Nighat, MD, CCFP Family Physician, Mr. Robert Field, RSHom (NA) Vice President NASH, U.S.A., Dr. Jawahar Shah, M.D. (Hom.), Homeopathy Software Developer, and Martine Jourde Hom, SPHQ (Quebec).

Internationally acclaimed researchers from all over the world participated in the conference. More than 175 delegates, including practitioners, teachers, researchers, and students, attended this convention, arriving from various provinces in Canada and many countries including India, Argentina, -and the U.S.A.

Prof. Bhupinder Sharma welcomed all the dignitaries, presenters and delegates. Dr. Cataldi gave his keynote address and spoke about the role of LMHI in the support and advancement of homeopathy in the member countries of the world.

Mr. Dinesh Bhatia, Consul General of India, Canada, spoke in his address about the introduction of homeopathy in India more than 200 years ago, and the substantial benefits that have flowed to the Indian public, and which have made India the world leader in the homeopathy profession. He emphasised the need for patients have freedom of choice for primary and chronic health care.



Mr. P.N. Ranjit Kumar, Joint Secretary of AYUSH, spoke about altruistic efforts towards the globalization of AYUSH systems and the signing of MOUs with various countries, including Canada via the CHO, reflecting the willingness of the Ministry of AYUSH to offer support globally, as requested, to homeopathic regulatory bodies for the benefit of their patients. He offered full support to the College of Homeopaths of Ontario for the development of homeopathy in the province.

Dr. Manchanda, Director General of the CCRH, spoke about the importance of the MOU and the relationship developed with the CHO. He emphasized that successful relationships were key to successful projects. Mr. Basil Ziv offered a vote of thanks, followed by a lighting of candles in front of Hahnemann's portrait.

In preparation for the panel discussions, a questionnaire seeking stakeholder input about obstacles and future opportunities for the homeopathy profession had been circulated to CHO registrants. It included questions about potential strategies to shape the future participation of homeopathy within mainstream health care in Ontario. Respondents focused on a number of priorities, including standards of education, international co-operation and evidence-based practice. Panel discussions focused on clinical and practical aspects of integration, as well as the need for a common understanding of inter-professional collaboration in light of growing emphasis on patient choice.



Ms. Cathy Hecimovich, CEO, Central West Community Care Access Centre, spoke about the practical implications of Bill 41, the *Patients First Act*, and considered opportunities for homeopaths and their patients within the broader health-care system. One of her suggestions was to explore the possibility of including a homeopathic facility in the new phase of the Peel Memorial Integrated Health and Wellness Centre in Brampton, Ontario. She emphasised that the homeopathic community itself would need to work proactively in order for this to become a reality.

The Honourable Harinder Malhi, Member of the Provincial Parliament (MPP) for Brampton-Springdale, addressed the conference and congratulated those present for establishing the College of Homeopaths and the self-regulation framework for the profession. She encouraged homeopaths step up to the plate and to become more involved in playing a role in health care in the Brampton-Springdale community. As a supporter of homeopathy, Ms Malhi believes that homeopaths will bring more opportunities for health care for the benefit of the community. She later presented honours to Prof. Bhupinder Sharma, Conference Chair, and to other presenters, including Dr. Gustavo Albert Cataldi and Dr. Raj K Manchanda in appreciation of their continuous support in the promotion of homeopathy in Ontario.



The Honourable Linda Jeffrey, Mayor of Brampton, spoke about the Peel Memorial Centre and how it will benefit the entire Brampton community, noting that many people in the community are already familiar with homeopathy. She recognized the cost advantages and effectiveness of homeopathic treatment, especially in home care and among members of an aging community. Mayor Jeffrey was proud that Phase 1 of Peel Memorial Facility had already opened in Brampton, and said that this would not have happened without the support of the SE Asian community. She encouraged homeopaths to negotiate to participate in the second phase of the Peel Memorial Integrative Health Centre, due to open soon.



The conference included a number of clinical presentations. Topics included mental health, proving of new remedies, case studies and evidence-based research in dermatology.

The Conference concluded with closing remarks from the Chair, Prof Bhupinder Sharma, who offered thanks to the Liga Vice-President and Secretary (Research) for their support, and to everyone who participated, including panellists, dignitaries and attendees, for their contribution to the huge success of the convention. He emphasized that there is a real possibility for homeopathy to play a more significant role within Ontario's health-care system provided all stakeholders work together in the best interest of patients.

Prof Sharma said that Bill 41, the *Patients First Act*, offers a unique opportunity for homeopaths to become integrated and to be able to work together with the other health professionals. He thanked the Indian government for sending an delegation to the convention and for providing guidance for mainstreaming homeopathy. He also thanked the College of



Homeopaths and the registrar for their participation. The convention provided an ideal platform for discussing opportunities for homeopathy within the broader health-care system and activities that support professional self-regulation.

Media Coverage: Asian Television Network and P.T.V. covered the event.

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Prof. Bhupinder Sharma and Dr. Naveed MPP arranged for a meeting between the officials at the Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness, the College of Homeopaths of Ontario and the Indian delegation from Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India. The group toured the facility to understand how homeopathy could fit within the existing



health-care framework. Members of the delegation shared their experience of successfully offering integrated health-care services with homeopathy, yoga and other Indian systems under one roof.

A lunch meeting followed with Mr. Dinesh Bhatia, Consul General of India. Participants discussed a number of items, including the International Convention, Terms of Reference of the

Joint Working Group for the implementation of the MOU, various possibilities for the exchange of experts, ways to strengthen homeopathic education, and joint research projects on provings.

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Dr. Raj K. Manchanda conducted a workshop on evidence-based homeopathy with 20 people in attendance from the Ontario homeopathic community. Participants appreciated the workshop and there was a demand to organise more programs such as this in future in collaboration with CCRH.

Feedback and recommendations arising from these discussions will be shared with Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.



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