

Dr. Peter Fisher

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Brief

Dr. Peter Fisher, the radiant source of knowledge and influence is no more among us. It is not only the time to mourn and mull over all that he taught through his relentless efforts, but it is also for us to resolve to finish the unfulfilled tasks of the legendary Dr. Fisher and take Homoeopathy closer to getting that global nod. His priceless publications and editorials are a legacy he has left behind, which will certainly make for an ideal guiding light to achieve that nod.



'Of all the major forms of complementary medicine, homeopathy is the most misunderstood'.^[1]

- Dr. Peter Fisher.

(2 September 1950 – 15 August 2018).

In what came as a major shock to the Homoeopathy community on 15 August 2018, a brutal road accident took away from us, a friend and guide of many, Dr. Peter Fisher, the prominent figure in the Homoeopathy circuit. The instant reaction that followed was a mix of disbelief, shock and inconsolable grief. Not a soul could imagine this evil play of destiny that took away from us a man who was a living example of Dr. Hahnemann's one of the most vital lessons '*Aude sapere*'. Dr. Fisher did Dare to be wise, held fast to his conviction to consistently enriched the scientific basis of Homoeopathy and, in turn, intrigued and inspired many.

Dr. Peter Antony Goodwin Fisher, a graduate of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, was a trained rheumatologist who served as the homeopathic physician to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II for 17 years. He was also the President of the Faculty of Homeopathy, Clinical Director of Research at the Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine (RLHIM), London, UK, and the Editor of the esteemed journal '*Homeopathy*' for more than 25 years. In 2007, Dr. Fisher was awarded the Polish Academy of Medicine's Albert Schweitzer Gold Medal.

Apart from these several hats, he adorned in his professional career that spanned over 40 years, to the homoeopathic community, he meant a lot more—a bearer of hope for the future of Homoeopathy; a well-informed, insightful researcher who could debate for Homoeopathy with absolute conviction, reaching to the core of its evidence; a leader who influenced many to take up research in Homoeopathy; a doctor of conventional medicine who practised Homoeopathy and would not exchange it for anything, no matter how odd the circumstances got.

His presentations on research trends in Homoeopathy was one of the most sought after in seminars, which was not only the synopsis of what all has been done in research, and with what

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impact, but also on what all needs to be done further. His debate on ‘Should doctors recommend Homeopathy, published in the British Medical Journal^[1] became one of the popular URLs for homeopaths across the globe, where he clearly voiced the need for more research in Homoeopathy, but not that the lack of it spelled implausibility. In one of his recent interviews,^[2] Dr. Fisher said, “we only have as many resources; so what needs to be undertaken for research has to be carefully planned and well executed”. He felt that Homoeopathy was being challenged for various reasons, the vital one of which was the lack of research, which drove him to research in Homoeopathy in the first place. At the same time, Dr. Fisher vehemently condemned the cherry picking of evidence and moving the goal posts for disregarding Homoeopathy as a science by many review committees.^[3]

In his visits to India to attend seminars and interact with the Homoeopathy scientists and practitioners of India, he would not only update the scientists on the status of Homoeopathy research in the world, but also encourage them to undertake quality Homoeopathy researches in priority areas, for he believed India could be a potential contributor in the pursuit for wider acceptance of Homoeopathy. Dr. Fisher also visited Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, an autonomous body of Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, on several occasions in the past and offered insights to the protocol designs of research studies being taken up by Council. He will also be sorely missed as one of the key Editorial Advisory Board Members of Indian Journal of Research in Homoeopathy, an Indian peer-reviewed journal on Homoeopathy research. His astute inputs on the improvement of the quality of papers, as well as journal, have been learning, both for the authors, as well as the editors.

Realising the need of moving ahead unitedly, Dr. Fisher was instrumental in exchange of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Central Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India and RLHIM, NHS Foundation Trust, Department of Health, Government of United Kingdom, which was signed on 11 November 2015. The MoU aimed at cooperation in the field of research and education in homeopathic medicine, as a result of which a meta-analysis of homeopathic pathogenetic trials published from 1996 to 2016 has been jointly initiated,

as well as Council’s research papers are being published in *Homeopathy*, as a part of the MoU.

In what turned out to be one of his last addresses from the professional forum, during the seminar ‘New Horizons in Water Science’ in the UK on 14 July 2018, Dr. Fisher hailed Indian government for creating a separate Ministry for AYUSH systems of medicine, which he always vouched as the ultimate integrated model of health that should be followed across the globe.

Concluding before mentioning how he hoped that Homoeopathy will finally overcome the inertia of prejudice will certainly be inapt. In one of his precious editorials in *Homeopathy*^[3] Dr. Fisher clearly stated that Homoeopathy has survived all odds as it helps the sick. He saw the attacks on Homoeopathy becoming increasingly shrill due to Homoeopathy approaching a tipping point where the weight of scientific support for Homoeopathy was more than ever before. Many such reflections from his pen inspired and added vigour to the work of the homeopathic practitioners and researchers. Today, when that radiant source of knowledge and influence is no more among us, it is not only the time to mourn and mull over all that he taught through his relentless efforts, but it is also for us to resolve to finish the unfulfilled tasks of the legendary Dr. Fisher and take Homoeopathy closer to getting that global nod.

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Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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