International convention on World Homoeopathy Day: Integrating Homoeopathy in health care delivery

Abstract

An International Convention on World Homoeopathy Day was held to commemorate the 261st birth anniversary of Dr. Samuel Hahnemann on 9th–10th April 2016, at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, India. The theme of the Convention was “Integrating Homoeopathy in Healthcare” for achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) as advocated by the World Health Organization (WHO). The Convention made for an ideal platform for extensive deliberations on the existing global scenario of Homoeopathy, with particular reference to India, strategy building and formulation of national policies for worldwide promotion, safety, quality, and effectiveness of medicines, evolving standards of education, international cooperation, and evidence-based practice of Homoeopathy. Organized jointly by Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRHI), an autonomous research organization of Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, and Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (LMHI), the Convention witnessed presentations of more than 100 papers during 21 technical sessions held in parallel in four halls, each named after homoeopathic stalwarts, viz., Hahnemann, Boenninghansen, Hering, and Kent.

Key words: Homoeopathy, Homoeo prophylaxis, International Convention, Nanotechnology, Pharmacopeial standards, Prognostic research, Public health, Quantum physics

INAUGURATION

The inaugural ceremony began with floral welcome of Chief Guest, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon’ble Minister of state for AYUSH (Independent Charge), Government of India, Guests of Honor Mohammed Nasim, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Mushqat Alam, Minister of State for Health, Government of Nepal, Ms. Fozia Manzoor, Counselor of High Commission, Pakistan, and Mr. Anura Jayawickrama, Health Secretary, Sri Lanka. Shri Ajit M Sharan, Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, Shri Anil Kumar Ganeriwala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, Dr. Renzo Galassi, President LMHI, Shri LM Sharma, Chief Post Master General of India, and Dr. Nandini Sharma, Chairperson, Convention on World Homoeopathy Day, graced the dais. Other noted guests included Health Ministers from Indian states of Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, Mizoram, and Sikkim. Besides key policymakers, internationally acclaimed scientists Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (LMHI), LMHI Executive members, National Vice Presidents, practitioners, and researchers participated in the Convention. As many as 2100 delegates from 23 countries including Brazil, Russia, South Africa, Italy, Netherlands, UK, Austria, Armenia, Canada, Israel, Australia, Bangladesh, Japan, France, UAE, Cuba, Nepal, Turkey, Argentina, Slovenia, Pakistan, Ghana, and Kenya attended this Convention.

Dr. Nandini Sharma, Chairperson of the Convention, welcomed all the dignitaries, resource persons, and delegates from India and abroad. In the inaugural speech, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik said that the Homoeopathic education in India is unique and imparts knowledge about core Homoeopathic and all applied medical subjects. India is contributing significantly to Homoeopathic research. He assured that Government of India is committed to further development of Homoeopathy worldwide. He expected that the discussions and recommendations of the Convention would help in the harmonization of Homoeopathic education, clinical care, research, and drug development processes. He underlined that the cost-effectiveness of Homoeopathy makes it a sustainable system for integration in health care. Shri Ajit M Sharan, Secretary AYUSH, opined that Homoeopathy is often the only hope in chronic diseases. He added that integration of Homoeopathy in health care reduces the usage of modern medicine drugs at primary and secondary care facilities. India has set an example of integration of Homoeopathy in health care, and this Convention will provide an opportunity to discuss the implementation of integration in other parts of the world. LMHI President Dr. Renzo Galassi expressed gratitude to Government of India for its support in organizing the mega event and also hoped that the Convention will help LMHI
increase its presence in India. Shri Anil Kumar Ganeriwala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, extended thanks to all the dignitaries for their gracious presence during the inaugural ceremony. The Spanish version of Dossier on Homoeopathy-Science of Gentle Healing, along with six other publications of the Council, was released during the inaugural session.

Global Scenario and International Cooperation

An exclusive session on this subject reflected upon India’s strength as the world leader in Homoeopathy and discussed the ways to promote Homoeopathy through international cooperation. Ministers/key representatives of Government from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan spoke on the status of Homoeopathy in their respective countries. The highlight of the session was signing of memoranda of understanding (MoU) between CCRH with Yerevan State Medical University, Armenia, for establishment of academic chair in Homoeopathy and College of Homoeopaths of Ontario, Canada, for cooperation in the field of research and education in Homoeopathy.

Dr. Alok Pareek, Vice President LMHI, elaborated upon various initiatives of LMHI in promoting research, education, and pharmacy in the field of Homoeopathy. Dr. Thomas Peinbauer, President, European Committee of Homoeopathy, talked about the situation of Homoeopathy in Europe and the major areas of focus for advancement and recognition of Homoeopathy in the European region. Shri Jitendra Sharma, Joint Secretary, AYUSH, presented an overview of international cooperation in AYUSH and initiatives taken by Ministry of AYUSH in this area. Mr. Mushtaq Alam, Hon’ble Minister of State for Health, Nepal, expressed his desire to sign an MoU with India in near future for the development of Homoeopathy. Dr. Raj K Manchanda, Director General, CCRH, hoped that these two MoUs and a letter of intent signed between CCRH and Instituto Politécnico Nacional University, Mexico, signed earlier will provide right kind of synergy for international cooperation in research and education. Shri Anil Kumar Ganeriwala, Joint Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, thanked all the dignitaries for summarizing the global status of Homoeopathy. Ms. Poonam Dhillon, actress from Hindi film industry, briefly joined in and shared her experience of Homoeopathic treatment saying that every household should have a Homoeopathy kit at home. The session was concluded by Hon’ble Minister of state for AYUSH (Independent Charge), Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, who remarked that it was a proud and historical moment for India and beginning of new era of international cooperation in Homoeopathy. He hoped that LMHI would continue to inspire other countries to utilize the schemes of Government of India for international cooperation.

Integrating Homoeopathy in Healthcare

This session was graced by Hon’ble Health Ministers from the various states of India, such as Goa, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Odisha, and reflected upon the status of Homoeopathy in their respective states. Dr. Peter Fisher, Clinical Director, RLHIM, UK talked about the WHO’s Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014–2023 and said that the goals of the strategy are to support member states in harnessing the potential contribution of Traditional Medicine to health, wellness and people-centered health care and promoting its safe and
effective use. While appreciating the Indian model of integrated approach in healthcare delivery Dr. Peter Fisher said that in India, Homoeopathy has the confidence of the people, a strong institutional base, well-developed training and regulatory system, and growing research base, all of which makes Homoeopathy a priority system for integration into UHC in India. Dr. Menachem Oberbaum said that not only a redefinition of the goals of medicine is in order but also an attempt to analyze our different traditions to regain those forgotten, personalized dimensions of health, and illness is the beginning of a new perspective in medicine. While talking of Homoeopathic education and training, Dr. Rajan Shankaran, an eminent homoeopath, recommended creation of “Centres of Excellence” for Homoeopathic education all over India and in other parts of the world, with the purpose to inspire, inform, and instruct for imparting practical training. These centers can function to supplement the knowledge gained during college studies and can also help practitioners to constantly improve their knowledge and skill of patient management.

A Tribute to the Founder of Homoeopathy – Dr. Samuel Hahnemann

On April 10, 2016, a floral tribute to Dr. Samuel Hahnemann was given by all the dignitaries, participants and organizers, led by Dr. SPS Bakshi, National Vice President, LMHI, Dr. Ramjee Singh, President, Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH), Dr. Arun Bhasme, Vice President, CCH, Dr. Nandini Sharma, Dr. VK Gupta, Dr. Sandeep Kaila, Dr. KK Janeja, Dr. Bhaskar Bhatt, Dr. MA Rao, Dr. MG Oomen, Dr. Renzo Galassi, Dr. Alok Pareek, Dr. Gustavo Alberto Cataldi, Dr. Amarilys Cesar, Dr. Altunay Soydemir Agaoglu, and Dr. Raj K Manchanda. While remembering his contribution, Dr. Leopold Drexler from Austria emphasized that besides being a great physician, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann was a scholar, linguist, and acclaimed scientist, who dedicated his life to reform the medical practices of 18th century and discovered Homoeopathy.

Homoeopathic Education: Indian and Global Scenario

Challenges in Education in Homoeopathy at the global level, with particular reference to India, focused on systemic improvement in education, research, and practice. Common perception of education, progress in delivery of education in Homoeopathy in the European countries, South Africa, Brazil, Bangladesh, and India in the last four decades, in both undergraduate and postgraduate colleges, were discussed at length. The concerns and challenges in global and Indian scenario of education in Homoeopathy and how there could be standardization of education for accredited curriculum for education in Homoeopathy were also seriously debated upon. Among the key participants were Dr. SPS Bakshi, former President of Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) and National Vice President (NVP), LMHI, Dr. Lalit Verma, Secretary, CCH, Dr. MK Sahani, Dr. Michael Ghanna, Dr. Martien Brands, Dr. SK Tiwari, Dr. Manilal, Dr. AK Seth, and Dr. Arvind Kothe.

Trends in Homoeopathic Research and Drug Development

Two sessions of the Convention focused solely on the key areas of Homoeopathic research. Dr. Jayesh Bellare highlighted his researches on link between Homoeopathy and Nanotechnology while Dr. Khuda Bukhsh elaborated on biological effects of homoeopathic dilutions. Dr. Lex Rutten shared the process of validation of Homoeopathic drugs according to Bayesian theorem. The discussants of the session Dr. Shailendra K Saxena and Dr. Raj K. Manchanda summarized the new perspectives being adopted in Homoeopathic research ranging from nanoscience, biomolecular research quantum physics to pragmatic clinical research designs such as prognostic factor research. Therapeutic potential of nosodes was revealed by Prof. Dr. Carla Holandino Quaresma from Brazil while Dr. Rajesh Shah from India stressed upon the need of revision in the process of preparation of nosodes. He briefly discussed the preparation and clinical efficacy of three nosodes such as HIV, Hepatitis C, and Mycobacterium tuberculosis.

Homoeopathy in Mental Health

In this session, researchers deliberated on role of Homoeopathy in mental health. Main topics of discussion were comorbidities of skin disease in psychiatric patients, efficacy of Homoeopathy in alcohol dependence, anxiety, and its impact on quality of life (QOL) among urban elderly population. Dr. Kumar Dhawale from India stressed upon the benefits of integrating Homoeopathy in the national mental health program. Dr. Ronko Itamura from Japan explained three-step strategy for treating depression patients with Homoeopathy.

Homoeopathy in Public Health

The realities of delivering Homoeopathy within public health systems were the main point of discussion of this session. Dr. Martien Brands spoke about the role of Homoeopathy in public health and emphasized on allocation of greater share of budget and cost-effectiveness of the pilot studies. Dr. Sudha, Senior physician, SOUKYA, an organization focused on alternative therapies, discussed the delivery of AYUSH model in a Primary Health Centre in Bengaluru, Karnataka, wherein over 40,000 people from 38 villages are availing integrated care. She also revealed that a Homoeopathy medical kit with 12 remedies distributed to about 1000 households, along with appropriate orientation, proved successful in treating simple conditions at home and helped the adults and children not miss their work and school, respectively. Dr. Praveen Oberai discussed integration of Yoga and Homoeopathy services in the existing National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke to make it more effective. Dr. Prashant Tamboli summarized the research work on anemia being done in tribal areas of Maharashtra and Vadodara in India: A Sustainable ASHA-based Public Health Care Model. Highlighting the importance of information technology in Homoeopathy, Dr. Jawahar Shah talked about the mobile App. with the concept “Clinic anytime anywhere.” It can be downloaded and carried in a smartphone wherever you go.

Harmonization of Pharmacopoeias and Drug Laws

Dr. Robbert Van Haselen joined the session on Harmonization of Pharmacopoeias and Drug Laws live, through an online
interface. He emphasized on widening the horizon of harmonization by exploring the Global Drug Laws dealing with Homoeopathy and specifically focused on challenges faced by Homoeopathy practice across the globe with regard to standardization, availability of raw materials and clinical data requirements. The speakers brought up many vital issues such as regulation of Homoeopathic medicines worldwide, need for a common international pharmacopoeia, need for synchronization of Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India (HPI) with other Pharmacopoeias of the world, pharmacopeial standards on Homoeopathic drugs vis-à-vis drug regulations, and need for upgrading specifications of plant raw materials in Homoeopathic pharmacy through modern equipment and scientific methods. During the session HPI, Vol. X was also released.

**Homoeopathy for Epidemics**

The technical session on Homoeopathy for Epidemics included the studies on dengue undertaken in Cuba at National Institute of Integrative Medicine, exploring evidence base of Homoeopathic prophylaxis. Dr. Isaac Golden and Dr. Natalia Marzou Silva shared their Cuban experiences during dengue epidemics, its therapeutic and prophylactic treatment, and different combinations available for it, as well as the challenges one faces in running prevention programs. Dr. JP Mishra presented his study conducted in Chhattisgarh where Chininum Sulphuricum 200 was found useful in prevention of malaria. Dr. Anil Khurana highlighted the effectiveness of arsenic album for symptoms of influenza-like illness through a study conducted by the CCRH in 2009. Dr. BS Rajashekhran presented epidemic studies on dengue and chikungunya, conducted as per a Homoeopathic prophylaxis protocol developed in Kerala, with positive outcomes with homoeopathy.

**Homoeopathy in Cancer**

In the Hering Hall, during a session dedicated to the above subject, Dr. P Banerji spoke about the Banerji Protocols in the Treatment of Cancer, according to which specific homoeopathic medicine, in specific dilution and preset dosage pattern, is prescribed for a specific disease. Four cases of cancer treated by Homoeopathy were presented by Dr. Jaswant Patil and Dr. Anwar Amir Ansari, a case of Hodgkin’s Lymphoma by Prof. (Dr.) Nirajan Mohanty, a case of glioblastoma multiforme by Dr. Pravin Beedkar and case of carcinoma of the lung by Dr. Sayed Tanvir Hussain.

**Homoeopathy on Physicochemical Research**

Different researchers shared their perspectives in the areas of physicochemical and biomolecular researches in Homoeopathy during this session. Key papers related to nanotechnology, biophotons, quantum physics, and dielectric properties of Homoeopathic dilutions were discussed in the session.

Dr. Anil Kumar Nain presented his research on physicochemical properties of Homoeopathic potencies. He concluded that molecules of Homoeopathic medicines might be present in extreme dilutions and these molecules and succussion phenomenon may be responsible for variation of physicochemical properties of these Homoeopathic formulations. Prof. (Dr.) Papiya S Nandy presented a paper on enhanced dielectric properties and conductivity of Cuprum metallicum and Cobaltum metallicum doped PVDF-HFP film and their possible use in electronic industry. While Dr. T Abdurahim presented his study on Nanotechnology perspectives in characterization of Homoeopathic drugs, Dr. ES Rajendran talked about how plenty of particles were identified in nanometer and quantum dots scale using High-resolution Transmission Microscope in his study. His slides of Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy showed the presence of iron in all potencies of Ferrum Metallicum 6C-50 M and Carbo vegetabilis 6C-CM.

**Homoeopathy – Biomolecular Research**

After elaborate presentation on basic research updates by Dr. Peter Fisher, Editor-in-Chief, Homoeopathy, during this session, presentations followed on topics ranging from homoeogenomic approach toward personalized therapy of cancer, hypertension, and oxidative stress parameters of kidney by modulating enzyme hypertensive rat model, anti-heat shock effect of Cantharis 200 transported from one plant to another through capillary water, to protective role of Rhus Toxicodendron 6c on cells of primary cell culture in relation to dengue virus infection and molecular level correlation between probable Homoeopathic medicines and biosamples of patients. Considering the promising ideas and hypothesis concerning the mechanism of action of Homoeopathic medicines, one can hope to validate the science through scientific experimentation on these lines.

**Session on Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis, Professional Associations, and International Cooperation**

A special session on LMHI, Professional Associations, and International Cooperation was chaired by Dr. Renzo Galassi. The popularity of Homoeopathy, challenges faced, regulation and opportunities for homoeopaths in France, Canada, Japan, and Bangladesh, and the role of Homoeopathic Associations in promoting Homoeopathy were discussed.

**Clinical Research and other Sessions**

The sessions on clinical research included latest research updates, and role of Homoeopathy in malaria, dengue, natural disasters, brain injuries, chronic ear infection, sciatica, multidrug-resistant pulmonary tuberculosis, leprosy, lower urinary tract symptoms with benign prostatic hyperplasia, acute encephalitis syndrome, acute bleeding management of severe hemophilia patients, chronic renal failure, rheumatoid arthritis, polycystic ovarian syndrome, renal calculi, stress-induced psoriasis, motor neuron diseases, acute episode management of deep vein thrombosis and coeliac disease.

Besides these, sessions on Homoeopathic Philosophy and its Practical Application, Homoeopathy in Veterinary Science and Disaster Management were also held.
**Poster Presentations**

Many interesting and novel works were presented through innovative posters on both the days of the Convention. The presenters were given the opportunity to highlight their work in parallel to the related technical sessions.

**Exhibition**

An exhibition was hosted in parallel to a conference where five exhibitors from pharmaceutical and publishing fields displayed their products and services. CCRH showcased its activities and achievements through its publications and other display material, which evoked keen interest among the delegates.

**Gala Dinner**

A gala dinner was arranged on the night of the 9th April at the Ashoka Hotel in New Delhi. A ceremonial cake was cut by the Minister of state for AYUSH (Independent Charge), Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, to mark the celebrations. The guests could be seen letting their hair down and socializing with each other. It was indeed a cherishable moment for those present.

**Valedictory Session**

In the valedictory address, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon’ble Minister of state for AYUSH (Independent Charge) greeted the people of India on the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day and appreciated the ongoing work in the field of Homoeopathy. He appreciated that Homoeopathy had taken major scientific leaps in the past and its body of evidence is growing by the day.

The Minister also complimented the steps taken towards international cooperation during the Convention, as it saw the signing of two MoUs in the field of education and research in Homoeopathy, between CCRH and College of Homoeopaths of Ontario, Canada; and another one between CCRH and Yerevan State Medical University, Armenia. Shri Shripad Yesso Naik expressed his hope signing of these MoUs was only the beginning, and many such bilateral cooperations will be agreed upon in the times to come. He remarked that with research becoming a prime concern in Homoeopathy, many more international collaborations are possible and highly recommended.

Dr. Raj K Manchanda, as he complimented his organizing team for successful run of the conference, also expressed that the time is right to expand Homoeopathy worldwide with appropriate international tie-ups and exchange of know-how. He said that Homoeopathy had found some major breakthroughs in the field of science and it is for the scientists and practitioners alike to tap this opportunity and translate these findings into pragmatic use by public health. The Convention concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Nandini Sharma to all the organizers, collaborators, and delegates.

**Recommendations of the convention**

- To draw consensus for formulation of national policies for promotion of Homoeopathy
- Identify areas for international collaboration and initiating international dialogue in favor of Homoeopathy
- Identifying issues related to education and training in Homoeopathy and exploring their possible solutions
- Encouraging more evidence-based studies and disseminating their outcomes for stakeholders and health policymakers.
- Fundamental research studies in Homoeopathy to be taken up more rigorously
- Individual disease conditions shall be identified and as per the available evidence, apt studies shall be taken up for drug validation
- Identify the areas for public health ventures for drug validation and drug development
- Support from various Government sectors for formulation of global strategy for the best-suited approach and designs for undertaking future researches in Homoeopathy
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures for standardization and preparation of various nosodes and take up further studies to find effect in Homoeoprophylaxis
- Training of homoeopaths to diagnose common mental illnesses under guidance of specialists
- Disease conditions relevant in terms of public health shall be identified and as per the available evidence, appropriate study designs may be suggested
- To deliberate upon constitution of an International Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Committee
- To come to conclusions about the parameters to be included in the HPI, to bring it at par with the other international pharmacopoeias
- To streamline and unify the different amendments to the Drugs and Cosmetics Act proposed by different Homoeopathic Associations and to record all those changes in the format prescribed by the Ministry of AYUSH
To address the issues regarding Nosodes and Sarcodes, especially in the light of modern knowledge in the field of microbiology and preparing them afresh starting with genetically pure lines of microbes and other pathogens

Ministry of AYUSH may consider organizing a global conference focused exclusively on standardization of drug laws and pharmacopoeias

Strategy for identifying actionable epidemic diseases may be developed as per the available evidence and prompt actions to initiate studies on those may follow

Identify the areas for public health ventures in the field of epidemics, with special focus on the diseases that have no vaccines available for prevention so far.

More data should be collected in context of different types of cancer

A website should be developed in which homoeopaths from all over the world can report their cases

In-house samples should be prepared instead for generating evidence and authenticity of physicochemical studies

The basic experiments should be replicated again and again which will enable long-term policy decisions and subsequent incorporation in pharmacopoeias

Biomolecular researches should be conducted with more quality and precision, and if designed in an integrative fashion, with the Homoeopathic experts along with microbiologists and botanists, the results may be more beneficial to the Homoeopathic fraternity.

All Homoeopathy organizations should work hand in hand for furthering the cause of Homoeopathy and aim to promote the science through international cooperation among different countries.

As per the available evidence, apt studies should be taken up for clinical research studies with rigorous designs.

Homoeopathy may be promoted more widely for improving QOL and relieving adverse drug effects, especially in the cases with limited scope of treatment.

Case reports – care guidelines, Extension of Care Guidelines, i.e. Hom-Case Guidelines need to be further worked upon for uniformity.

Homoeopathy needs to be optimally utilized in the fields of agriculture, veterinary, and disaster management.

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Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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Inhomoeopathy กิจกรรม ประจำปี: อาร์ทิสันย์ สมมุติการ ที่มี การประชุม ร่วมกับ ผู้ประกอบการ ข้อเสนอแนะ ที่มีประโยชน์

จะนิยมปฏิบัติ ในการรักษา ฝ่ายความสุข ที่มีประสิทธิภาพ และมีประสิทธิผล ในการรักษา ผู้ป่วยใน รายหมู่บ้าน ที่มีความสามารถ ในการรักษา ได้ ตามข้อเสนอแนะ

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RESUMEN

CONVENCION INTERNACIONAL EN EL DIA DE LA HOMEOPATÍA: ESTRATEGIAS PARA INTEGRAR LA HOMEOPATÍA EN EL SISTEMA ASISTENCIAL

Una convención internacional en el día de la homeopatía se celebró para conmemorar el 261 aniversario del nacimiento del Dr. Samuel Hahnemann del 9 al 10 de abril en Vigyan Bhawan, Nueva Delhi, India. El tema fue la Integración de la Homeopatía en el sistema asistencial para alcanzar una cobertura sanitaria universal (Universal Health Coverage) como propugnó el Organización Mundial de la Salud. La Convención hace para una plataforma ideal para extensas deliberaciones sobre el escenario global actual de la homeopatía, con especial referencia a la India, la construcción de estrategias y la formulación de políticas nacionales para la promoción en todo el mundo, la seguridad, calidad y eficacia de los medicamentos, los niveles de educación en evolución, internacional la cooperación, y la práctica basada en la evidencia de la Homeopatía. .. Organizado conjuntamente por el Consejo Central para la Investigación en Homeopatía (CCRH), una organización de investigación autónoma del Ministerio de AYUSH, Gobierno de la India, y la Liga Medicorum Homoeopathic Internationalis (LMHI), la Convención testigo 21 sesiones técnicas con la presentación de más de 100 ponencias. Se celebraron cuatro sesiones paralelas cada una en una sala que llevaba el nombre de los maestros de la homeopatía: Hahnemann, Boenninghausen, Hering y Kent.