

EDITORIAL

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To commence reading, light is thrown upon the articles extracted from research protocols. A document that describes the background, rationale, objectives, design, methodology, statistical evaluation of the data and the organisation of a clinical research project defines a research protocol.^[1] Its publication helps to improve the standard of medical research and serves as a bridge between peer reviewers, scientists, readers and ultimately patients who can look into studies which are underway. The crowning feature of publishing a research protocol is making it fully citable, open access, freely and universally accessible online, permanently archived with copyright resting with the authors.^[2] A protocol on 'Homoeopathic therapy for lower urinary tract symptoms in men with Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia: An open randomised multicentric placebo controlled clinical trial' is being published inside. The practitioners often prescribe constitutional as well as organ remedies in this clinical condition. This protocol intends to evaluate both types of prescriptions in a randomised controlled setting.^[3]

With advancements in research, Homoeopathy is also evaluated by contemporary standards of conventional science. To accomplish this, homoeopathic principles and two centuries of experience should be the foundation and added value of technological advancements available be made use of, wherever appropriate. Two studies in hitherto unexplored areas of homoeopathic research, conducted in collaboration with institutes of repute are published in this issue. The first one undertaken at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) evaluates acute and sub-acute oral toxicity of commonly used mother tinctures (*Bellis perennis*, *Curcuma longa*, *Rauwolfia serpentina*, *Ricinus communis*, *Tribulus terrestris* and *Terminalia arjuna*) in experimental model. The results

demonstrate that these mother tinctures are safe when administered orally to rats. However, further chronic toxicity studies are needed to establish their long-term safety.^[4]

The second one studies the leaching behaviour of commonly used plastic vials of Low-Density Polyethylene (LDPE)/Linear Low-Density Polyethylene (LLDPE) for storing/dispensing of ethanol-based medicines. The study conducted at the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi, reveals that it is not safe to use LDPE/LLDPE plastic as it leaches out plastic polymers even in an optimal environment and further studies with High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) are desirable.^[5]

Learning disability (LD) is a neurological disorder that affects the brain's ability to receive, process, store and respond to information. It has become a growing concern in the modern world especially in children but reported to have incidence in adult populations also.^[6]

The study undertaken on 67 children at three Marathi medium schools in Mumbai aims to assess the therapeutic efficacy of homoeopathy in the management of LD, viz. dyslexia and dysgraphia and to establish verified characteristic symptoms of medicines used in the management of various types of LD. Homoeopathic intervention combined with standard remediation brought out significant change in all parameters of LD. Co-morbid conditions like attention deficit disorder and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder also proved amenable to *Calcarea* group. The study was able to report clinical symptoms for the remedies used which are still not reported in the source books.^[7] A case of borderline leprosy effectively treated with *Merc. sol* showing improvement in the clinical, immunological and

histological parameters is another highlight of this issue.^[8]

The first national conference of Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (Indian chapter) was held on 24-25th May 2014. The event held in New Delhi, India provided a fertile platform for competitive and healthy discussion on the paediatric success stories.^[9]

A glance at the old classic literature is depicted in the form of Reminiscences highlighting the clinical condition of bronchial asthma with several papers of international repute of that time.^[10] An array of researches like 'Contribution of the ROS-P53 feedback loop in Thuja-induced apoptosis of mammary epithelial carcinoma cells' and 'Extreme sensitivity of gene expression in human SH-SY5Y neurocytes to ultra-low doses of Gelsemium sempervirens' provides food for thought.^[11]

NEW BEGINNINGS

Short-term studentship in Homoeopathy programme (www.ccrhscholarship.in)

In India, there are about 183 undergraduate homoeopathic medical colleges with admission capacity of 12,728 imparting Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS) degree. It is a regular full-time 5 ½ course with well-structured curriculum wherein the students are imparted training in pre-clinical and clinical subjects. However, the focus on research is somewhat lacking. With the objective to inculcate research aptitude among the undergraduate homoeopathic students, the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy has initiated this programme. Under this programme, the students shall get an opportunity to familiarise themselves with research methodology and techniques. The Council will provide scholarship of Rs.10,000/- (ten thousand only) as an incentive to the selected candidates. The programme has been launched and the online registration for submission of the proposal is open till 20th July 2014.

Guidelines for Homoeopathic Practitioners for Management of Dengue Fever

The World Health Organisation identifies dengue as the most rapidly spreading mosquito-borne viral disease in the world with over 40% of world population at risk. In India, every year, epidemics of dengue fever are

reported. As no specific anti-viral treatment is available, patients often approach homoeopathic practitioners. Council has developed these guidelines to acquaint the practitioners with the progression of dengue, its management and homoeopathic perspective. The guidelines are available at the Council's website: <http://ccrhindia.org/dengue1.asp>. This website will provide an opportunity to the practitioners to share their experiences which shall help in developing future research strategies. The contributions of each one of them will be duly acknowledged.

I hope this issue will enlighten the readers and encourage them to undertake many more researches in the unexplored areas of Homoeopathy.

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