



## South Africa as new member country of the LMHI

*By Dr. Ulrich D. Fischer, LMHI Past President*

At the meeting of the International Council in New Dehli, December 2011, South Africa has been accepted as member country of the LMHI.

### 1. Legislative Framework of Homeopathy in South Africa

Homoeopathic practitioners have been required to hold statutory registration over the past 33 years. The first registration of Homoeopathic and Chiropractic practitioners occurred as early as 1974. Currently, registration with the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA) permits practitioners to be able to diagnose and treat any condition as well as supply (including dispensing and compounding) applicable medicines to patients as required (as per section 1 (2) of the Allied Health Professions Act, 1982 (Act 63 of 1982).

Homoeopathic practitioners are also required to be licensed to dispense and compound medicines. As such, all practitioners are required to complete a course accredited and approved by the Pharmacy Council of South Africa for such purposes (Dispensing and Compounding course) and apply for such license with the Department of Health (DoH). Homoeopathic practitioners enjoy a broad scope of practice and are included under primary health legislation such as the National Health Act, 2003 (Act 61 of 2003). Registered homoeopaths are currently not included in the public health initiatives of the country and are restricted to private healthcare services.

### 2. Education Registration Requirements

In order to practice as a homoeopathic practitioner in South Africa it is required that individuals register with the Allied Health Professions Council of South Africa (AHPCSA). In order to do so, an individual is currently required to hold a 5 year masters degree (M.Tech Hom) or equivalent thereof. At present, there are two tertiary institutions in South Africa that offer an M.Tech Hom qualification in homoeopathy: the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and Durban University of Technology (DUT).

The M.Tech Hom consists of a five year full-time medico-scientific course in classical, clinical, modern and conventional homoeopathy as well as Homoeopharmaceutics and Jurisprudence, which are legal requirements for registration. The original construction of the programme was based on the then medical programme available for medical students.

The Homeopathic Association of South Africa (HSA) is a voluntary association recognised by the Allied Health Professions Council of SA as the official representative of the Homeopathic Profession in South Africa. The HSA actively engages Government, the Department of Health, the Allied Health Professions Council and all other organisations and structures that influence our profession in constant communication with other health related bodies and institutions. The HSA represents and promotes the homeopathic practitioner, the profession and its interests including related education matters, for the better health and well-being of all South Africans.

## **Congress of the Homeopathic Association of South Africa (27 – 29 April 2012)**

The bi-annual congress of the HSA took place from 27 – 29 April in Capetown, South Africa. International (India, England, Australia) and local speakers presented lectures related to the Congress title: “Homeopathy, Medicine for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. On behalf of the LMHI the Past President Dr. Ulrich D. Fischer has been invited. In his presentation “ Timeless quality – Homeopathy”, Dr. Fischer emphasized on the TIMELESS qualities and the GLOBAL character of Homeopathy and introduced the structure and purposes of the LMHI to its new members in South Africa.

This 2012 Congress of the HSA highlighted especially the fact that the members of HSA have been become members of the LMHI. This forms part of the HSA’s vision of collaborating with colleagues across the globe from a professional and academic perspective. In his opening speech Dr. Fischer pointed out the special moment of walking together for the first time on this bridge which just has been built between South Africa and the Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the biggest world organization for homeopathic doctors, the LMHI, he brought *the warmest welcome to every single member of the Homeopathic Association of South Africa*. Dr. Fischer emphasized that the LIGA is looking forward in sharing experiences and working areas with the HSA in the field of research, clinical practice, homeopathic politics and the education of homeopathic doctors. *Mutual learning, sharing experiences and working groups, helping each other where needed, cultivating friendships on international level, means always mutual enrichment and provides the member countries with security and stability wherever needed in regard to all aspects of homeopathy.*

He insisted also on the desire that LMHI wants to have with HSA a strong partner in South Africa, being also the moving power for the promotion of our world association with the colleagues of your neighbour countries.

Prior to the Congress of the Homeopathic Association of South Africa the LMHI Past President has been invited as guest lecturer to the University of Johannesburg (UJ). In front of the advanced students of the 5 year fulltime masters degree (M.Tech Hom) he lectured about the Organon of the Healing Art of Samuel Hahnemann. The homeopathic training is completely integrated in the Health Science Departement of the UJ. The practical training takes place in the outpatients department on the ground of UJ where students see patients and practice case takings under supervision of experienced homeopathic practitioners.