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Austria 2011

Annual Report to the LMHI by the National Vice-President

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LMHI Annual Report Austria 2011

Summary

Higher administrative court confirms homeopathy to be delimited for medical reservation only.

In the moment in Austria 228 medical doctors, medical students, pharmacists and veterinarians visit the basic education programs and 79 doctors gained the diploma in 2010 and 2011.

A survey about CAM by a motivation research institute showed good references on the attitude of the Austrian population towards homeopathy. This makes positive sense referring to heavy attacks on homeopathy in public media proclaimed through events as campaign 10:23 which took place in Vienna in February 2011. Both societies ÖGHM and ÄKH answered critically in press and TV. Medical students, members of SIH even organised a contra protest action. ÖGHM organized a week of homeopathy on the topics of "Women diseases" in April 2011.

ÄKH, the younger Austrian homoeopathic society celebrates its 20th anniversary. The patient association VHG started an initiative called "Homeopathy helps" for a better cooperation between convention medicine and homeopathy.

The Peithner Award 2010 went to Dr. Rosemarie Brunnthaler -Tscherteu for her contributions to Calcium Muriaticum.

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Legal situation of Homeopathy in Austria 2011

In Austria practicing Homoeopathy is reserved to physicians only. Practice of alternative non-medical practitioners is prohibited by law. Since the lifetime of Samuel Hahnemann, Homoeopathy always has been a medical method in this country.

In 1975 the first training courses for physicians were held by Mathias Dorcsi, former president of ÖGHM and later president of LMHI.

In 1994 Homoeopathy was recognized by the Austrian Medical Chamber with the ÖAK-Diploma. Although Homoeopathy is not yet acknowledged as a scientific method by the Supreme Counsellor of Health, it is regarded as a method of medical treatment by the Austrian Government since 2007.

In 2010 the Higher Administrative court stated that the delimitation of medical reservation depends on whether the practised method is scientifically founded and part of the medical science or not. The concept of “medical-scientific knowledge is not to be equated with conventional medicine. Scientific founded can also be methods, which have not (have not yet) become established in conventional medicine.

At present about 500 physicians are practising Homoeopathy in Austria, which represents 3.2% of the total number of medical doctors in Austria.

There are numerous outpatient departments offering homoeopathic treatment in Austrian hospitals. Seminars on homeopathy are offered in universities.

Although 48% of patients choose Homoeopathy as their favourite alternative medical method by poll, the national health insurances do not yet pay for the treatment and only in exceptional and severe cases do refund the costs of remedies.

Four homoeopathic associations, ÖGHM (founded in 1953), ÄKH (founded in 1991), SIH and ÖGVH, offer education as well as advanced training programs and show attempts of networking and collaboration amongst them. Increased efforts in research, publications and public relations result further more spreading and establishing the homoeopathic idea in Austria.

Austrian homoeopaths keep contact with national societies worldwide. Our representatives in the ECH and LMHI guarantee a good global networking.

Items of mayor interest in Austria

Austrian Chamber of Labour asks group of skeptics for working paper on esotericism including homeopathy

The Austrian Chamber of Labour (Arbeiterkammer, AK) is an organisation that represents the interests of 3 million Austrian employees and consumers. It issues working papers in the field of consumer politics and consumer research six times a year. In September 2010 the working paper “Comments on Esotericism” was published, dealing with 6 topics: homeopathy, influence of the moon, vitalized water, divining rod, edu-kinesthetics and cell phone radiation. The introduction of this working paper says “We have asked our colleagues of GWUP (remark: GWUP - Gesellschaft zur wissenschaftlichen Untersuchung von Parawissenschaften e.V. – Society for the scientific investigation of parasciences, Member of the European Council of Skeptical Organisations ECSO) to give an objective opinion well-founded by research on some burning issues of esotericism.” In the following the content of this biased working paper and also members of GWUP were quoted for the radio programme “HELP”, a very popular consumer magazine. Furthermore this biased working paper was forwarded by the education authority of Vienna to all Viennese head teachers for further discussions in their schools.

This example shows very well how the sceptics try to get influence and to place their point of view.

For more information please have a look at the following links and attachments:

<http://www.homoeopathie.at/downloads/wissenschaft/entgegnung-AK.pdf>

<http://help.orf.at/stories/1664948>

<http://wien.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d129/Esoteriktexte.pdf>

<http://www.gwup.org/ueber-uns-uebersicht/regionalgruppen/wien>

<http://www.ecso.org/>

A survey about CAM by Karmasin.Motivforschung (Karmasin.Motivationresearch) on behalf of Sanova Pharma GesmbH, August 2011

The objective of the survey was to get an assessment about the attitude of the Austrians towards CAM and CAM-methods. Acupuncture and homeopathy are the best known CAM methods, 82 % of 1000 interviewed persons knows them. 67 % (29 + 38) have a (very) good attitude towards CAM methods. The trustworthiness of CAM methods is very high. 46 % have already made personal experience with CAM, mostly recommended by friends. Most frequently (39%) the reason was headache or migraine. The treatment was (very) satisfactory for 91 % (43 + 48). In the cluster analysis can be seen three types: the nature-oriented (39%), the open one (43%), the conventional- medicine-oriented (18%). For further details please have a look at the attached survey.

Higher Administrative Court deals with homeopathy

Homeopathy in Austria is part of medicine and may be practised only by medical doctors. In the past there have been several attempts to open homeopathy also for non-medical practitioners. In 2010, it was the last time that the Higher Administrative Court dealt with that issue and it was the explanation of the decision, in particular, which was interesting. The Higher Administrative Court stated that the delimitation of the medical reservation depends on whether the practised method is scientifically founded and part of the medical science or not. The concept of “medical-scientific

knowledge” is not to be equated with conventional medicine. Scientific founded can also be methods, which have not (have not yet) become established in conventional medicine, like homeopathy and acupuncture. Although homeopathy is still not officially recognised, this decision of the Higher Administrative Court signified a further milestone on the way towards the recognition of homeopathy.

ECH proposal on Standardisation of Homeopathy

Both Austrian homeopathic associations are against such a standardisation project at the moment, no matter whether it will be paid by the ECH members extra or by the financial reserves of ECH.

Campaign 10:23

On the 5th of February 2011 the campaign 10:23 also took place in Austria. A small group of sceptics (GWUP) gathered in the centre of Vienna. Media (press, TV) responded strongly on the topic, both before and after the campaign. But they also gave the possibility to comment on the criticism. Both Austrian homeopathic associations made press releases, the SIH (the students) organized a contra protest action and especially Prof. Frass was invited to make statements in the newspapers and on TV. There have hardly been comments of medical colleagues or the medical professional organisations.

Der Homöopathie-Schmäh (The Homeopathy-con)

In April 2011 *Profil* – one of the leading Austrian political magazines – came out with the cover headline “The Homeopathy-con” reporting negatively and disparaging about homeopathy. All interview partners of the Austrian homeopathic organisations decided not to give any interview or statement for the tendentious article.

Homeopathy as benefit of the health insurance scheme in Austria

ÄKH decided to have another go at getting a partial reimbursement of the costs for homeopathic treatment for the patients. Negotiations both with the medical chamber and the health insurance scheme are necessary. ÖGHM will not participate actively.

Initiative „Homeopathy helps“- (Initiative “Homöopathie hilft”)

The patient-association VHG (Verein zur Förderung der Homöopathie und Gesundheit) started an initiative to strengthen homeopathy and to improve the cooperation between conventional medicine and homeopathy.

Guidelines for a Homeopathic Drug Proving

Intense discussions on this focus aroused in spring 2011. The intention of some Austrian Homeopaths, who are doing provings since many years, is not to go for guidelines similar to clinical medical standards. Together with colleges from Germany a discussion forum was installed. They are worried about an ethic commission, which complicates and holds up the process and are asking themselves who is going to pay for high charges. In the end they are afraid this process could hinder proving in common.

Peithner-Award 2010

The Peithner-Award 2010 went to Dr. Rosemarie Brunnthaler-Tscherteu for her contributions to Calcium muriaticum.

20th anniversary of ÄKH

ÄKH – the younger Austrian homeopathic association - celebrates the 20th anniversary this year.

Homoeopathic Medical Associations

LMHI-Members (454 in total):

- **ÖGHM (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Homöopathische Medizin)**
A-1070 Wien, Mariahilferstraße 110
Tel: +43/1/5267575
Fax: +43/1/52675754
E-mail: sekretariat@homoeopathie.at
<http://www.homoeopathie.at>
President: Dr. Gloria Kozel; 8020 Graz, Kindermanngasse 29
LMHI-members: 377
- **ÄKH (Ärztegesellschaft für Klassische Homöopathie)**
A-5020 Salzburg, Kirchengasse 21
Tel: +43/699/17655588
Fax: +43/7242/909254
E-Mail: office@aekh.at
<http://www.aekh.at>
President: Dr. Jeff Duncan; 4240 Freistadt, Zemannstrasse 13
LMHI-members: 77

Non LMHI-Members:

- **ÖGVH (Österreichische Gesellschaft für Veterinärmedizinische Homöopathie)**
A-1070 Wien, Mariahilferstraße 110
Tel: +43/1/5267575
Fax: +43/1/52675754
E-mail: oegvh@homoeopathie.at
<http://www.oegvh.at>
President: Dr. Erich Scherr; 1030 Wien, Petrusgasse 11/5
Diploma holders: 12
Members of IAVH
- **SIH (StudentInnen Initiative Homöopathie) Universitätsvertretung**

SIH Wien	SIH Innsbruck
A-1090 Wien, Währingergürtel 18-20	Tel: +43/650/4035991
Tel.: +43/1/40160971000	E-mail: innsbruck@sih.at
ax.: +43/1/40160971000	Vicespokeswoman: Polyxeni Kalafatis
info@sih.at	
http://www.sih.at	
Spokesman: Michael Kaiblinger	

Each of the four official Austrian association websites is worthwhile to visit. Individual activities and programmes are represented. They offer advanced information addressing

patients as well as physicians. Online discussion forums give the opportunity for exchange on relevant topics.

Homoeopathic education and training

In order to be admitted to homoeopathic studies in Austria applicants either have to be in their last terms of medical studies, or already have a medical university degree.

ÄKH and ÖGHM each offer courses in the extent of 350 hours. Participants receive a diploma which is acknowledged by the Austrian Medical Chamber. The Austrian diploma also responds to the LMHI-ECH accreditation regulations. Courses comprise theoretical and practical parts and run over a period of 3 years with a final examination. Details on the training programs are available on websites: www.homoeopathie.at, www.aekh.at.

To meet participants` demands, individual curricula are constantly revised by the two organisations. The interest in the training courses is increasing after a modified teamwork structure was installed lately. Participants more and more appreciate personal contacts with teachers and colleges. Therefore ÖGHM now offers very successfully education in small groups on weekends. The same teachers and students work together for the whole period of the training. Last year the first students have finished their 3-years-training course. The level of knowledge and the quality of the submitted cases have turned out to be much better than in the past. In near future an expert course with 8 different clinical modules plus supervision is supposed to be added. Additionally computer repertorisation is going to be offered from the beginning.

In 2010 and 2011 the ÖGHM awarded 60 doctors with the diploma. At the moment (end of October 2011) 120 medical doctors and 8 students visit the courses and 13 new diplomas are still expected this year.

A huge up to date library, as well as a unique antiquary is at disposal for all students and teachers.

ÄKH`s innovative offer is e-learning as integrative part of their training program. It has turned out to be very well accepted. Today, 42 students visit the courses and 19 doctors gained the diploma in 2010 and 2011.

The SIH-Students Initiative for Homoeopathy also offers training programs, which can be considered very important for the Austrian student movement. Courses comprise up to 200 hours prior to attaining a medical university degree. The courses have to be connected to one of the two physician associations ÖGHM or ÄKH to complete the studies. A transferring exam is demanded.

Teachers at university level are numerous and well respected. At the medical universities in Vienna, Graz and Innsbruck regular lectures on homoeopathy, respectively lectures on complementary medicine including homoeopathic topics, are held.

From 2009, Klaus Connert is invited to teach at Paracelsus Private University in Salzburg.

Michael Frass, Vice - president of ÄKH, a highly respected professor in Clinical medicine as well as in Homoeopathy, reports about activities taking place at Medical University of Vienna, Austria:

- Lecture course "Homoeopathy" is held every second semester (term).

- Lecture course “Basic and practise of complementary medicine” is held every second semester (term).
- Compulsory lectures on complementary medicine including homoeopathy.
- Diploma thesis on different subjects in homoeopathy.
- Clinical and experimental studies on homeopathy.

Since March 2004, Dr. Frass is also head of an outpatients unit “Homoeopathy in Malignant Diseases” at the Vienna University Clinic.

ÖGVH has about 100 members; their education is connected with the basic training courses of the ÖGHM completed on veterinarian aspects assimilated to the minimum level of the IAVH. Veterinary doctors get a chamber diploma; there are 12 diploma holders at the moment, 4 vets are in education program. After examination they are recognized officially with the title „Fachtierarzt für Homöopathie, FTH“.

At the University Of Veterinary Medicine Of Vienna there are no regular lectures on homoeopathy held this year.

Homoeopathic pharmacists` education is as well connected to the ÖGHM. They complete 126 hours of basic instruction together with the medical doctors, which contains theory, material medica, defined clinical themes and remedy production. This training is not yet recognised by the Pharmaceutical Chamber. There are 52 pharmacists in the education program.

ÖGHM has developed a 126 hours comprehensive educational programme for midwives which started in September 2009.

Advanced training

Advanced training is very important for all of the four homoeopathic institutions. Attempts of networking in the field represent a kind of foundation of a spirit of friendship and collaboration. Both ÖGHM and ÄKH advise their members to go for an advanced training diploma.

There were numerous seminars during 2010 and 2011 which were held by remarkable teachers from Austria and countries all over the world. (For details see enclosed programmes)

CHIRON Bookshop presents well selected homoeopathic literature and offers information and training for homoeopathic software RADAR. <http://www.chiron-net.at>

McRepertory System unfortunately is not supported in Austria.

Public relations and press releases

Spreading the homoeopathic idea takes a lot of time and effort over the year. ÖGHM presents publications on various medical subjects, based and worked out on experiences of our homoeopathic doctors to public media to be discussed.

Regular contributions to medical journals and permanent presence in general medical trainings or congresses guarantee profound information to Austrian physicians.

In the past year homoeopathy had to reflect and defend a lot of attacks concerning the efficiency of the method in publicity. Numerous colleges answered with well-founded comments and retorts in national newspapers as well as in medical journals.

Our representatives are in close contact with medical and political authorities.

Four times a year a newsletter will be mailed to each of ÖGHM members.

Also laymen information is of big importance. Topical and informative articles concerning medical themes of public interest are found in newspapers all over the country. Numerous performances and talks are held in public places, in radio and TV by homoeopathic doctors. In 1999 a society for the interests of patients was established which has turned out to be very popular: VHG (Verein zur Förderung der Homöopathie und Gesundheit).

Day of Homoeopathy 2010

Was organized by ÖGHM and took place in April with the main topic "Allergy". Ten journalists attended this event.

Week of Homoeopathy 2011

Every second year ÖGHM organizes comprehensive workshops for laymen to inform about Homoeopathy and to excite public media's interest.

This year's topics were "Women diseases". This event was organized together with SVHA (Switzerland) and DZVhÄ(Germany). You may find the detailed program enclosed.

Indexes of press releases 2010 and 2011 are enclosed.

Publications

Index of contents is enclosed

- **HIÖ** (Homöopathie in Österreich)
Journal of ÖGHM, published four times a year.
- **Aude sapere,**
Journal of ÄKH, published two times a year.
- **Documenta Homeopathica** Band 28, yearbook of ÖGHM (scientific topics, case studies and provings) was released in January 2011; next issue is expected in 2012.

Research and Proving

The ÖGHM established a platform for research in homoeopathy, managed by Dr. Friedrich Dellmour. The main tasks are:

- Collection and scientific analysis of thesis in Homoeopathy.
- Collection of data particularly from scientific medical sources, universities and media, to receive information on contents and discourse on homoeopathy.
- Analysis of data with the aim of continually improving scientific medical principles in homoeopathy and implement results into education and training.
- Results and findings are to be summarized and published in HIÖ and on www.homoeopathie.at
- Compilation of homoeopathic studies by the scientific editorial office.

Dr. Michael Frass is head of WissHom, a Society of Research in Homeopathy since 2010.

Since 2003 the Austrian Homeopathic Manufacturer Dr. Peithner AG has been awarding the Dr. Peithner Award for Homeopathic Research. Its objective is the promotion of research in the field of Homeopathy in Austria. The award includes prize money of Euro 3000.

An Allergy study has been finished in 2010 by Dr. Christa Gründling, Linz. It will be published soon.

Trituration provings are getting more and more popular. Workshops in groups of around 30 doctors and pharmacists go for this experience guided by Dr. Susanne Diez and Dr. Bernhard Schmid. Rosa damascena was triturated in 2010, Ambra grisea in 2011.

Experimental provings in the fields of horticulture and agriculture show good results.

Homoeopathy in hospitals

There are no homoeopathic hospitals in Austria but homoeopathic treatment is offered in outpatient departments of 12 Austrian hospitals with numbers increasing. Diploma holders are invited to practise and offer their knowledge to supply medical care.

Wien

1030 / Krankenanstalt Rudolfstiftung, neonatologische Ambulanz

1070 / SMZ-Sophienspital, allgemeine Ambulanz

1090 / AKH, onkologische und gynäkologische Ambulanz

1090 / St. Anna Kinderspital, Kinderambulanz

1130 / Krankenhaus Hietzing, gynäkologisch-geburtshilfliche Ambulanz

1220 / Sozialmedizinisches Zentrum Ost (SMZ-Ost), Kinderambulanz

Oberösterreich

4400 / Landeskrankenhaus Steyr, Kinderambulanz

4020 / Krankenhaus der Barmherzigen Brüder, gynäkologisch-geburtshilfliche Ambulanz

Kärnten

9020 / Landeskrankenhaus, Kinderonkologische Ambulanz

Salzburg

5020 / Krankenhaus der Barmherzigen Brüder, onkologische Ambulanz

Tirol

6060 / Psychiatrisches Krankenhaus Hall, psychiatrische Ambulanz

Vorarlberg

6900 / LKH Bregenz, Kinderambulanz

Homoeopathic manufacturers

Dr. Peithner KG nunmehr GMBH u. CO, A-1232 Wien

<http://www.peithner.at>

Remedia Homöopathie, Salvator Apotheke, Mag. R. Müntz, A-7000 Eisenstadt

<http://remedia.at>

Homeocur, Stadtapotheke Retz, Mag. Leisser, A-2070 Retz

<http://homeocur.com>

Spagyra, A-5082 Gröding,

<http://spagyra.at>

Weleda, Apel & Co, A-1220 Wien,

<http://weleda.at>

Apotheke zur Kaiserkrone, Mag. U. Schehl, A-1070 Wien

<http://kaiserkrone.at>

Apotheke zum Roten Krebs, Mag. Lachmann, A-1010 Wien

<http://krebsapotheke.at>

Apotheke Schutzengel, Mag. Mayrhofer, A-4020 Linz

<http://schutzengelapotheke.at>

Apotheke Heiliger Florian, Mag. Breyha, A-1040 Wien

ECH-Representatives

Politics: Thomas Peinbauer

Education: Leopold Drexler, Claudia Garn

Documentation: Jutta Csedik-Eysenberg

Research: Erfried Pichler

Provings: Josef Hackl, Lothar Buchinger until September 2011, followed by Ingrid Nowotny.

Enclosed:

Calendar of events of 2010 and 2011 of ÖGHM, ÄKH, ÖGVH, SIH
Index of publications and press releases 2010 and 2011 of ÖGHM
Week of Homoeopathy 2011

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