

What's new this time?

- Organising Committee
- Society of Homeopaths
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- BMA junior witch-hunters
- Scottish PCTs
- Research

Newsletter 13 June 2010

A new Organising Committee

H:MC21 held a very successful meeting on 18 April. There was a lively discussion about the role of H:MC21 in supporting the NHS, the attacks on homeopathy and how to defend it. All those attending offered to help organise and run H:MC21 and there will be another meeting in the near future.

As the news below shows, a new organising committee is very much needed.

Society of Homeopaths election

We are pleased to say that William Alderson (Chair of H:MC21) was elected to the Board of Directors of the Society of Homeopaths, and that he is on their Membership and Communications Committee. We hope that this will not stop him continuing to contribute to the success of H:MC21.

New Commentary page

We have added new pages to the hmc21.org website, including a [Commentary page](#) (<http://www.hmc21.org/#/commentary/4539076832>). The purpose of this is to have a space for responses to items in the news, and for comments on those responses. Two of the items below have fuller responses on this new page. If you want to contribute an article to this page, contact us at info@hmc21.org

Pharmaceutical rubbish

We have made a complaint to the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI) about its [consultation document](#) about homeopathy in pharmacies (<http://www.psni.org.uk/documents/565/C>). The paper is based on the conclusions of the Commons Science and Technology Committee's [Evidence Check: Homeopathy](#)

(<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200910/cmselect/cmsctech/45/45.pdf>) and the changes proposed include that

“good practice is to:

- ensure that a patient purchasing homeopathic products is appropriately advised that there is no scientific or clinical evidence base for the efficacy of homeopathic products, beyond a placebo effect.
- host shelf signage close to the products, recommending the patient seek further advice from the pharmacist before purchase.”

Our complaint is on the basis that this paper and the changes it proposes breach the PSNI’s own [Code of Ethics](http://www.psn.org.uk/documents/312/Code+of+Ethics+for+Pharmacists+in+Northern+Ireland.pdf) (<http://www.psn.org.uk/documents/312/Code+of+Ethics+for+Pharmacists+in+Northern+Ireland.pdf>).

Our own criticisms of the *Evidence Check*, together with links to others are available on the [CS&TC Critique page](#) of the H:MC21 website (<http://www.hmc21.org/#/cstc-critique/4539135869>).

BMA Junior Witch-hunters

Members of the BMA junior doctors’ conference have claimed that homeopathy is “witchcraft” (*The Telegraph*, 15 May 2010), and that it should be removed from the NHS. Our response to these ‘Junior Witch-hunters’ is on the [new Commentary page](#) of the H:MC21 website (<http://www.hmc21.org/#/commentary/4539076832>).

Scottish Primary Care Trusts Cut Homeopathy

A few days later NHS Greater Glasgow and the Clyde Health Board announced that they plan to scrap the training junior doctors receive at the Glasgow Homeopathic Hospital (*The Herald*, 24 May 2010). Again we have a response on the

[new Commentary page](http://www.hmc21.org/#/commentary/4539076832) of the H:MC21 website
(<http://www.hmc21.org/#/commentary/4539076832>).

Research

A number of interesting research items have been forwarded by Sue Young:

- A comparison of Bach flower remedies and homeopathy
- The effects of Gelsemium on anxiety-related responses in mice
- Treatment for migraine
- The effects of Canova on mice infected with *Trypanosoma cruzi*

These have been added to our [Recent research page](http://www.hmc21.org/#/recent-research/4541584753) on the H:MC21 website (<http://www.hmc21.org/#/recent-research/4541584753>). Sue has also written two new articles on homeopathic history:

Albert Schweitzer and homeopathy at [wildfalcon](http://homeopathy.wildfalcon.com/archives/2010/04/22/albert-schweitzer-1875---1965/)
(<http://homeopathy.wildfalcon.com/archives/2010/04/22/albert-schweitzer-1875---1965/>).

An 1855, appeal to Benjamin Hall, the Minister for Health, to listen to the evidence for homeopathy at [wildfalcon](http://homeopathy.wildfalcon.com/archives/2010/04/24/war-cholera-and-the-ministry-of-health-an-appeal-to-sir-benjamin-hall-and-the-british-people/)
(<http://homeopathy.wildfalcon.com/archives/2010/04/24/war-cholera-and-the-ministry-of-health-an-appeal-to-sir-benjamin-hall-and-the-british-people/>).

These have also been added to our [Historic research page](http://www.hmc21.org/#/historic-information/4539520397) on the H:MC21 website (<http://www.hmc21.org/#/historic-information/4539520397>).