



April 5th, 2020

Dr Zhang Qi
Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine
World Health Organization
Avenue Appia 20, 1211 Genève 27, Switzerland
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Subject: Viability of Homeopathy for Epidemics

Dear Dr Zhang Qi,

The Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (LMHI) is the largest, oldest, and only, world umbrella organisation for professional homeopathic medical doctors, licensed healthcare providers, and homeopathic associations with members from 76 countries. Founded in 1925, the LMHI was established under the terms of Swiss civil law with Geneva designated as its registered office. The new seat of the LMHI, since 2013, is in Kothen-Germany and is registered as a Non-Profit Organization. The purpose of the LMHI is the development of homeopathy worldwide, and the creation of a link between homeopaths with medical diplomas and between societies and persons who are interested in homeopathy. For this purpose, LMHI member countries appoint representatives to the highest governing body of the LMHI, the International Council. It organises the annual LMHI world congresses, hosted by member nations that desire to host the events.

As representatives of the worldwide community of homeopathic medical doctors, and other licensed healthcare providers, we request your consideration of homeopathic medicine as a viable treatment approach for patients suffering from COVID-19, as a complement and not a replacement of available conventional approaches. **There is enough scientific clinical research to support this request, for the benefit of humanity, at a low cost, and to reduce the burden on healthcare practitioners, facilities, and healthcare systems at large.**

Background:

- As you are aware homeopathy is practiced in about 100 countries worldwide, with over 500 million regular users in many countries, as part of Traditional and Complementary Medicine. It is included in the national health systems of some countries e.g. Brazil, Cuba, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Switzerland. In Europe, homeopathy is practised in 40 out of 42 European countries; 100 million EU

citizens, some 29% of the EU's population, uses homeopathic medicines in their day-to-day healthcare.¹

- There are about 600,000 practitioners all over the world, with a majority being licensed healthcare providers. India has the world's largest pool, about 300 thousand qualified and registered homoeopaths, in addition to 235 medical colleges, and several thousand public health clinics.
- The popularity of homeopathy as an effective medicinal treatment is rooted in a more than 200-year history of a positive contribution to the management of epidemics and pandemics, including the Spanish Flu, and severe viral infections, which is most relevant for the assessment of the current pandemic.²
- Homeopathic medicine has been considered safe, and its widespread use has prompted legislative action to assure its quality, including an official position by the WHO. <https://www.who.int/medicines/areas/traditional/Homeopathy.pdf?ua=1>
- COVID-19 is a new disease and there are no proven preventive and treatment modalities available, including the homeopathic approach. However, there is significant evidence of its ostensible value and applicability. There are homeopathic medicines that can be chosen based on the unique symptoms of the patient and the general features of the disease, for clinical or preventive use. The current evidence for homeopathy as a promising treatment modality for COVID-19 is proven to be worthy of further investigation and use.³

Current status:

- **The COVID-19 pandemic is straining healthcare systems all over the world and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. For instance, in many countries, there is already a shortage of ventilators, and in those where there is not, even conservative estimates predict a shortage of ventilators within the coming month. The integration of homeopathy in the early stages of the disease can, likely, reduce the need of hospitalization and ventilators.**
- **Research to validate this premise can be easily drafted and carried out with adequate funding. However, the research protocol should be developed by experienced clinicians and researchers in the area of homeopathy. There are many unbiased, reputable and knowledgeable specialists in the homeopathic community.**
- Many representative practitioners are actively participating in a globally coordinated effort, lead by the Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (www.lmhi.org), to systematically obtain clinical experiences treating COVID-19 patients, particularly during the early and middle stages of disease. This effort is of vital importance to identify the most promising, currently available homeopathic medicines at a comparatively very low cost.

¹ <https://www.hri-research.org/resources/homeopathy-the-debate/essentialevidence/use-of-homeopathy-across-the-world/>

² <https://www.homeopathy.ca/homeopathy.ca/>

³ op.cit

- Considering how homeopathy has helped even in the most seriously ill patients during prior epidemics, it is likely that homeopathic medicine can also help patients suffering from severe COVID-19.
- It is essential to investigate the use of existing conventional as well as homeopathic drugs in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 pandemic, to validate their indications, and inform the profession of the outcome, for a wider application of a protocol to mitigate the impact of pandemic.
- An important advantage is that potentially useful homeopathic medicines are already available on the market, and that production could be up scaled rapidly if necessary.
- Homeopathy was most recently used in over 2 million patients, in Cuba, with an over 80% coverage during the Leptospirosis epidemic for the patients using a homeopathic nosode, compared to an over 20% worsening of the epidemic in the control population. ⁴

For your perusal, we have annexed a document with more background information and references.

Request:

- **To schedule a meeting**, as soon as possible, by Zoom, or an alternative video-conferencing service, when representatives of the LMHI, and two or three members of the homeopathic scientific community, can meet with you to discuss this very important topic. We would like to invite Dr Geetha Krishnan Gopalakrishna Pillai, Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Medicine, World Health Organization, to also be part of the meeting.
- **That the WHO form a COVID-19 Homeopathy Task force** constituted of consultants, representatives of the major professional homeopathic associations, under the guidance and direction of the WHO, with the aim of investigating existing information and data, develop pragmatic clinical protocols, and oversee results. A sketch of a plan of action document is included.
- **Based on the standard Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeias** in the world, a novel compound derived from the virus, could be identified in the future, and peptides and/or signaling molecules, could be developed and tested, with regard to the prevention and/or treatment of this disease, and be added to the standard protocol available to treat the symptoms of the pandemic.

This goal, of constituting a multidisciplinary team of experts and scientists -with input from top international experts from the WHO- should be done promptly, with a time-bound action plan, considering the severity of the current epidemic and the broad economic impact creating severe dislocation and broad social problems. We attach such proposed plan.

An evidence-based strategy for homeopathy could be put into place within a few weeks for the great benefit of public health and welfare around the world, international and national homeopathic associations will gladly assist in this enterprise.

⁴ Homeopathy. 2010 Jul;99(3):156-66. Large-scale application of highly-diluted bacteria for Leptospirosis epidemic control. Bracho, Varela, Fernández, et.al. - Good medicine: homeopathy, BMJ 2012; 345:e6184

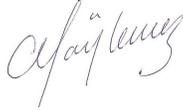
With Warm regards,

Appendix: The role of homeopathy in the COVID-19 pandemic: Key facts and references

Yours sincerely,



Dr Gustavo Cataldi
President of LMHI



Dr. Altunay Agaoglu.
Vice President of LMHI



Dr. Bernardo Merizalde.
General Secretary of LMHI



Dr. Raj Manchanda
Secretary of Comm. &
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Cc: -Dr **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, WHO Director-General, WHO Headquarters Avenue Appia 20, 1211, Geneva 27, Switzerland. nfo@drtedros.com.
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-Dr. Mehmet Zafer Kalayci, Head of the Traditional and Complementary Medicine Department, Ministry of Health, Turkey, zafer.kalayci@saglik.gov.tr
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Four Step Action Plan to Track Results of Homeopathy for COVID-19

Step 1: Inventory of countries (particularly 'hotspots' in countries, such as for instance New York in the USA) where healthcare systems are (most) overstretched, and where homeopathic practitioners and medicines are readily available

Step 2: Offer homeopathic treatment as an 'add-on' to conventional care to consenting patients that are diagnosed (as early on as possible) with COVID-19 via face to face consultation if feasible, or otherwise via videolink consultation (the latter is more likely to be feasible because it would remove the necessity of geographical proximity of the practitioner). Considering that patients in the early and medium phases of disease are usually not candidates for stronger drugs, such as hydroxychloroquine, or antivirals, the results of homeopathy can include the percentage of people who do not progress into the more serious phases of disease, where the risk-benefit ratio of conventional medicine leans towards its rational use. And, even in these cases, homeopathy may prevent them going into the more serious forms, perhaps by working in tandem with conventional medicines.

Step 3: Collect, analyze, and report basic data on all patients treated homeopathically. Formal electronic databases are already being used to collect data from around the world on cases being clinically treated with homeopathy.

Step 4: Conduct research projects in sites where this is feasible: e.g. set up 'ecological' studies in which certain sites or regions are offered homeopathy as an 'add-on' and other sites /regions are not; even a placebo contingent would be easy to do, since medicated and non-medicated product are indistinguishable by sight or taste. Allocation of sites/regions to the homeopathic add-on treatment would be randomized, similar 'core' data on outcome is collected in all sites. Depending on feasibility, in some selected sites, where this is feasible (randomized placebo-controlled studies of homeopathy as an 'add-on' could be conducted) but it would still be important to demonstrate an evidence based strategy based on investigating homeopathy with the most rigorous study designs that are feasible and ethical under the circumstances).

This is a sketch of a feasible action plan. Further details and refinements can be elaborate by the project developers and coordinators.

The role of homeopathy in the COVID-19 pandemic: Key facts and references

1. As per the latest report of WHO¹ on the Traditional Medicine, Homoeopathy is practiced in about 100 countries, one of the main reasons of its expansion worldwide is its long history²⁻⁷ of usefulness in epidemics and pandemics⁸.
2. Homoeopathy has a track record of safety, easy integration with allopathic preventive and treatment strategy as an add-on component, little possibility of adverse drug interactions, can be given to pregnant women, babies and elderly people, production, storage and distribution of homeopathic medicinal products is simple, cost effective and scalable in a short time.
3. Since COVID 19 is a new disease, there are currently no Homoeopathic preventive or curative medicines of proven effectiveness. However, homoeopathy has the strength of being useful in preventing and managing the diseases on the basis of specific symptoms, irrespective of its causative organism. Dr Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy, first applied this approach successfully in a scarlet fever epidemic in 1799⁹.
4. It has potential to mitigate the symptoms, prevent the development of serious complications, and can even reduce the requirements of ventilators and the duration of hospital stay. This was seen in the studies conducted by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India in respect of other viral disease such as Dengue¹⁰ and Acute encephalitis syndrome/Japanese encephalitis having considerable morbidity and mortality respectively.
5. Homoeopathy was used successfully in the most severe epidemic of all time; pandemic of Spanish Flu in 1918. Twenty percent of the entire world population was infected and 20-40 million people died. During this epidemic homeopathic medicines were widely used worldwide, both for treatment and prevention^{11,12}. The average mortality under standard treatment was about 30%, while 1 -2% or fewer patients died under homeopathic treatment¹³. Beside commonly used homeopathic medicines, such as Gelsemium, Bryonia alba, Eupatorium perf. Ars alb. Phos. etc. also "Influenzinum", a so-called nosode prepared from the swab of a patient, was widely used for the prevention and treatment.
6. Another good experience of large-scale application of Homoeopathy is the prevention of Leptospirosis in Cuba, in late 2007, in a response to a developing epidemic. With only enough vaccine for 15,000 high-risk people, the government decided to treat the entire population of the region, over one year of age, with a homeopathic medicine that was prepared from the inactivated causative organism

provided by the Cuban National Vaccine Institute. The study involved huge population (8,834,547) of which 2,404,787 receive medicine. The outcomes were so positive that it resulted in the integration of similar Homoeopathic products in the prophylaxis against hepatitis A, swine flu, pneumococcal disease, conjunctivitis and dengue fever, etc.¹⁴

7. India has world's largest pool of about 300 thousand qualified and registered homoeopaths in the country, beside 235 medical colleges, several thousand public health clinics all over India, the infrastructure and the services of Homoeopaths are required to be used in this time of public health crises, the experiences gained shall be useful for the rest of the world to follow.
8. With active participation by India, there currently is a globally coordinated effort to obtain experiences with the homeopathic treatment of COVID-19 patients under the aegis of Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (LMHI), the world's largest professional homeopathic organization. This effort is of vital importance to identify the homeopathic medicinal products that are most promising in the treatment of COVID-19 related symptoms.
9. It is essential to use and investigate existing conventional and Homoeopathic drugs in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 pandemic. This should take place in rigorous clinical studies and also be encouraged at institutions having isolation and treatment wards.
10. This integrated care has the potential to reduce both morbidity and mortality. **There will potentially be less complications and requirement of ventilators and other supportive measures. The duration of hospital stay could also be reduced.**

References / suggested further reading

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