Globally, World Homeopathy Day is celebrated on the 10th April every year. Celebrating this day aims to highlight the importance of homeopathy and its contributions to the world of medicine and advancements in health care. This day also honours the memory of Dr Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of Homeopathy and pioneer of this gentle science of healing.

The Homeopathic Association of South Africa (HSA), on behalf of and with thanks to the Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (LMHI), was chosen as the host country to host the international celebration of World Homeopathy Day. It was a great honour to welcome the President of the LMHI, Dr. Altunay Agaoglu, who came to portray great vigour and passion towards the profession of Homeopathy in South Africa.

LMHI is a world umbrella organisation for homeopathic doctors and homeopathic associations with members from 76 countries. The purpose of the LMHI is the promotion and development of homeopathy worldwide and the creation of a link between medically trained homeopaths and societies and persons who have interest and commitment to homeopathy.

This has been a great honour for the HSA and its members. In commemoration of this global event, the HSA lined up a series of exciting celebrations which took place from the 10th – 14th April 2023, where we celebrated homeopathy at an important location for homeopathy in South Africa.
Introducing “The Homeopathy Rose”

To celebrate the LMHI World Homeopathy Day 2023, the HSA placed great emphasis on the importance of growth. This comes in many forms. Through growth of our profession both within South Africa as well as internationally through the LMHI, growth through the perceptions and understanding of homeopathy, and of course growth through unity as homeopaths. To symbolize this growth, the HSA chose to memorialise this auspicious event with the creation of the ‘Homeopathy Rose’ – an ethereal rose which represents grace, enthusiasm and vibrance. A symbol of resilience, tenacity and eternal rebirth after long hard winters have passed.

The HSA in collaboration with Ludwig’s Roses selected a rose that embodies exactly this – a cross pollination of a German Rose, a tribute to the founder of homeopathy, Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, grown on South African soil which is symbolic of the growth of Homeopathy in South Africa. The colour and look of which was kept a secret until its great reveal. Its name was a collaborative effort between members of the HSA and LMHI. This magnificent plant was unveiled and planted on World Homeopathy Day – 10th April 2023 at the Margaret Roberts Herbal Centre in Pretoria.

Our most heartfelt and sincerest thanks will forever be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Oppenheimer and the Oppenheimer Generations Research and Conservation foundation for their generosity, yet again to the HSA! It was with thanks to their generous support of the HSA combined with our passion and dedication, that we could bring to life an event that would be remembered for decades to come. These events have also helped us in creating greater unity within homeopaths and industry in South Africa, as well as connected us with homeopaths around the globe.
Throughout the duration of World Homeopathy week, our rose was planted at each respective site visited. This is representative of the homeopathic roots we hope to plant in South African soil, and the subsequent growth that will come henceforth of homeopathy in South Africa. In leaving behind this immortalised plant at the homoeopathic institutions and clinics in South Africa we entrenched our desire for unity, collaboration and of course growth of homeopathy at each site, and beyond.

*Rosa homeopathica* is now available for sale to all in South Africa with intentions for international sales as well once all required permits have been acquired. Proceeds of the rose will be used towards HSA initiatives that aim to see more homeopathic clinics providing homeopathic health care to as many people of our great country as possible, as well as the student bursary and scholarship opportunities for underprivileged students. This is an ongoing project, and will be celebrated and commemorated every year as we drive homeopathy forward, in 2023 and for the years and decades to come.

The Homeopathic Pledge

*LMHI World Homeopathy Day Pledge Co-ordinator – Dr. Reyna Bhikha*

This year HSA encouraged all homeopathic practitioners, students & interns both locally and internationally to take a pledge towards awareness, unity and ethical practise of Homeopathy to honour World Homeopathy Day. This pledge was meant to bring about a positive change within our field, create aspiration and nourish a refreshed mindset through affirmations and visions. HSA took the the pledge to bring the LMHI World Homeopathy Day celebrations closer to students and practitioners of homeopathy around our great Nation.
The LMH World Homeopathy Day Celebration – 10th April 2023

LMHI World Homeopathy Day Celebration Event Co-ordinator: Dr. Zahraa Kazee

The opening event, hosted at The Margret Roberts Herbal Centre in Pretoria was the first of its kind in South Africa. In attendance was the LMHI President, Dr. Altunay Agaoglu, Dr. Bianca De Canha, President of the HSA, members of the HSA EXCO and National Board, Mr. Nicki Oppenheimer, sponsor of the event, Dr. Danny Pillay and members of the HSA. Along with Mr. Ludwig Taschner and Halmar Taschner of Ludwig’s Roses, Mrs Sandy Roberts, daughter of the late Margaret Roberts, heads of homeopathic industry in South Africa or their representatives, as well as family, friends and children of our South African Homeopaths. The homeopathic rose was unveiled and 10 Rosa homeopathica roses were planted in the Garden of Remembrance, an incredibly special and dedicated area at this beautiful centre.

It was a great honour to have the following individuals planting a Rosa homeopathica plant for the various reasons and contributions below:

Dr Altunay Agaoglu – President of the LMHI, head of homeopathy within the LMHI
Dr. Bianca De Canha – President of the HSA, head of homeopathy in South Africa and LMHI NVP for South Africa
Mr. Nicki Oppenheimer – Head of the Oppenheimer family and sponsor and supporter of the HSA and LMHI World Homeopathy Day Celebration
Dr. Danny Pillay – Past president of the HSA and supporter of the HSA and LMHI World Homeopathy Day Celebration
Dr. Mark Leite – on behalf of the Oppenheimer Generations Research and Conservation Foundation, sponsor of the LMHI World Homeopathy Day Celebration
Dr. Nicoliene Potgieter – Founder of the Khula Natural Health Centre and pioneer of community clinics in South Africa
**WORLD HOMEOPATHY DAY 2023**

Dr’s Ameesha Manga and Uwe Hohl – Owners of Fusion Homoeopathics, a homeopathic medicine supply company

Dr. Glen Ferguson – Owner of W.Last, the oldest homeopathic pharmacy in South Africa

Chana Nienaber on behalf of Mr. Kevin Coyne and Mrs Maria Ascençao, founders and owners of Natroceutics

Mr. Lamlela Maphosa on behalf of Mr. Ian Wheeler – Pharmacist and founder of Pegasus Homeopathics

A selection of signature welcome drinks was served to Homeopaths and guests from around the country as we celebrated the LMHI World Homeopathy Day and toasted to the future of Homeopathy in South Africa. We enjoyed words of encouragement and strength from Dr. Altunay Agaoglu, and were taken on a journey of the history of homeopathy in South Africa, dating back to 1820, when the settlers landed in Table Bay by Dr. Bianca De Canha. Together we enjoyed and shared in the momentous reveal of *Rosa homeopathica* – the Homeopathic Rose. With gasps of wonder *Rosa homeopathica* shared with us its vitality and vibrancy as onlookers applauded and took in its beauty.

*Rosa homeopathica* was dedicated to Dr. Samuel Hahnemann on the LMHI World Homeopathy Day 2023, and every homeopathy day thereafter. With its pleasing copper bud that transforms into a beautiful two-tone bloom that reveals a beautiful golden inside – it is a symbol of the beauty of our profession, a reminder that after harsh difficult times comes growth, expansion and radiance.

The name *Rosa homeopathica* is binding to us homeopaths. To students and practitioners of homeopathy, to lecturers and researchers, to homeopathic industry and to the DUT and UJ. *Rosa homeopathica* is a gift to the patient, supporter of homeopathy and henceforth a symbol of pride for our community.
This name means ‘the homeopathic rose’ and it signals belonging, as we belong, and our skills belong to the people of South Africa and the world, for whom we wish to serve. *Rosa homeopathica* is now a tangible expression of that desire and we lovingly spread this symbol through South Africa, this LMHI World Homeopathy Awareness week. *Rosa homeopathica* was first planted at the incredible Margaret Roberts Herbal Centre and then at each tertiary institution and community clinic in South Africa.

Our wish for *Rosa homeopathica* – that its roots grow deep in the soil of our land. We did so in hope that this rose and symbol unite all homeopaths and industry from all schools of thought and all backgrounds. Trusting that it would be a reminder of how far we have come and how close we are to reaching our goals. With this rose we believe new opportunities will reveal themselves, greater awareness in homeopathy was created and exponential growth for our homeopathic profession in South Africa was initiated.

Closing with an organic High Tea & Tea Tasting, our guests were then free to meander around the Margaret Roberts Herbal gardens. This event brought Homeopaths with a passion for the profession together and allowed them to connect in celebration of this glorious profession.

The LMHI World Homeopathy Day Celebrations go to Durban University of Technology – 11th April 2023

*LMHI World Homeopathy Day DUT Celebration Co-ordinator: Dr. Silvana Nienaber*

On the 11th of April 2023 Dr. Bianca De Canha and Dr. Altunay Agaoglu flew to KwaZulu Natal to visit the Durban University of Technology (DUT). DUT (previously known as Natal Technikon) has been training Homeopaths since 1989 with the first intake of students graduating in 1993. Since then, DUT can boast an 11 year research
collaboration with Heel that has produced 7 new homeopathic medicines which have been monographed in the US Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia. This within a broader context of 38 Homeopathic drug provings conducted over 22 years where 29 of which were conducted on indigenous substances to South Africa and has published many more research papers.

We enjoyed a guided tour through the DUT facilities by Professor Ashley Ross, Head of Department of Homeopathy as well as Dr. Silvana Nienaber, member of the LMHI World Homeopathy Day Organising Committee and DUT lecturer and clinician. The Homeopathic facilities give us much to be proud of and along with the DUT homeopathic dispensary that was truly awe inspiring. We met with the energetic and dynamic DUT students whose passion and commitment to homeopathy was inspiring. In sharing the LMHI World Homeopathy Day celebration with the LMHI president our aim was to motivate our current students who are the future leaders and Homeopaths of South Africa. Here we planted the *Rosa homeopathica* in the DUT Horticultural Gardens with the permission of the Head of Department of Horticulture, Professor Ignatious Matimati. We are grateful to the Horticulture Department who have kindly offered to look after *Rosa homeopathica* for us so that we may return year on year to enjoy its beauty at the DUT.

**A Homeopathic Celebration at the Khula Natural Health Centre – 12th April 2023**

*LMHI World Homeopathy Day Khula KZN Event Co-ordinator: Dr. Sarah Tandy*

On the 12th April 2023, members of the LMHI World Homeopathy Day Organising Committee, namely Dr. Zahraa Kazee and Dr. Sarah Tandy joined Dr’s. Bianca De Canha and Altunay Agaoglu on an incredibly moving visit to the Khula Natural Health Centre (NHC) situated in St Lucia, KwaZulu-Nata. Khula NHC was founded in 2017 by Dr. Manuel Steiner and Dr. Nicoliene Potgieter Steiner and is a non-profit, upliftment project, in
collaboration with the Induna (Zulu Chief) of the Khula village, that provides homeopathic healthcare to the local community and surrounding areas. People travel hundreds of kilometres from many neighbouring villages to seek homeopathic treatment and care at the Khula Natural Health Centre with the support and blessing of these neighbouring village Induna’s and communities.

The Khula Natural Health Centre was showcased in all its glory, where we met with the practitioners involved in running the clinic, both permanently employed practitioners as well as volunteer practitioners and student interns.

We also had the incredible opportunity to speak to the Induna’s of the various villages, the principals of various surrounding schools, the Councillors and community members as well as patients and church leaders who all contribute to the success and integration of the Khula Natural Health Centre into the community in some way. Information was shared about Homeopathy, the LMHI and the HSA with the community in attendance and our heartfelt gratitude for their acceptance and support of the clinic was extended.

It was truly inspiring as well as encouraging to hear the Indunas of Khula Village, Induna Khulani Ncube’s address filled with pride and thanks and the Councillor of Khula Village, Mr. Ntokozo Mlungwana, who spoke of the communities dream to see the Khula Natural Health Centre grow in the years to come.

The Homeopathic Rose was then planted, in the medicinal garden at this place of healing with the intention to mark the growth of Homeopathy in the Khula community. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the success of Khula Natural Health Centre and the unchartered territory they have travelled to be the first of its kind in South Africa.
A Traditional Blessing of the Khula Natural Health Centre Eastern Cape – 13th April 2023

LMHI World Homeopathy Day Khula EC Event Co-ordinator: Dr. Reyna Bhikha

Our next visit was to the Khula Natural Health Centre in the Eastern Cape, situated in the Ncera Village, East London. Dr’s Bianca De Canha and Altunay Agaoglu, were joined by Dr. Loretta Ferrucci, founder and driving force behind the Khula Natural Health Centre in the Eastern Cape, Dr. Laura Chella, HSA National Secretary, and our dynamic Organising committee members, Dr. Reyna Bhikha, Dr. Marianne Ferreira and Miss Marain le Roux. Along with local Homeopath, Dr. Samuel Du Toit and Dr. Uwe Hohl, representative of Fusion Homoeopathics. This new clinic has been formed under the banner of Khula Natural Health Centre NPO and was identified as a need in communities of the surrounding rural areas as well as to spread the awareness of the benefits of homeopathy. The main aim of this location and introducing a Khula Natural Health Centre of this kind to the area is to assist in alleviating the burden on rural population who have little or no access to health care. It has been envisaged that the centre will primarily serve women and children within and around the village area predominantly, but will be available to service and support all in need of homeopathic health care.

With the delays in construction to the building our goal of officially opening the Khula Natural Health Centre EC was not going to be possible and for this reason it was decided to, in World Homeopathy Awareness Week, bring all the key players and contributors together for a traditional blessing of the building and project. A first of its kind, all in attendance were bestowed the great honour of the attendance by the Princess of Ncera Village, Nkosasana Nomaxhosa Jongilanga who spoke of the great need of this clinic in their village and of the importance of the community to protect this space of healing. We were deeply honoured by her warm and welcoming gesture to the HSA, the LMHI and all invested in this project when she said ‘you can take your jackets off’, in African
custom making reference to the fact that we are welcome in their village and tribe and that we are now a part of their community.

We witnessed the traditional blessing of the building where the Khula Natural Health Centre will be run by Bawu Majola, a Traditional African Healer whose humility, words of thanks and welcome, and traditional blessing brought tears of joy to our eyes and tied our hearts to this incredible initiative. We are grateful too for the unwavering support of Shukumani Mapaya, Chairperson of the Ncera Village Committee and Vusumzi Gibe, project manager whose commitment and hard work is helping us bring this dream to life.

Here too we planted *Rosa homeopathica*, the homeopathic rose with hope and faith, that this too will become a place of health and healing through homeopathy and that the growth of this outreach project goes beyond all our wildest dreams.

**The LMHI World Homeopathy Day Celebration goes to the University of Johannesburg – 14th April 2023**

*LMHI World Homeopathy Day UJ Event Co-ordinator: Dr. Marianne Ferreira and Miss Marain Le Roux*

We ended off our week of homeopathic celebration at the University of Johannesburg (UJ) on the 14th April. This was fitting seeing as UJ came to offer Homeopathy as an amazing career for those called to the profession of homeopathy after the opening of the DUT.

Our visit started off with a tour by Mrs Manoko Molabe, Simulation Lab Manager, accompanied by Dr. Tebogo Tsele-Tebakang, Head of Department of Complementary Medicine. Our tour began at the UJ Simulation Lab - a learning environment that
simulates reality. The simulation training and assessment trains students to react to conditions as they would occur in real life but also assist students in clinical skills and knowledge in these situations. An advancement that the UJ and certainly the Department of Complementary Medicine can be proud of!

Following this, our celebrations brought us together as one for a welcome address by Dr. Tebogo Tsele-Tebakang, Dr. Bianca De Canha on behalf of the HSA and Dr. Altunay Agaoglu, on behalf of the LMHI. We were then treated to the address of Dr. Cherie Kruger, the Research Centre Coordinator of the Department of Complementary Medicine followed by Dr. Melusi Mthethwa a Doctoral Candidate of the Department and then Miss Marain le Roux, Homeopaths In Training Student Representative. We are also grateful for the support of ModHomCo, Fusion Homoeopathics as well as Pegasus, for their representation and presence on this special day.

Following this *Rosa homeopathica* was planted on the UJ Doornfontein campus by lecturers, clinicians, the Head of Department as well as students and was witnessed by all students, colleagues, industry and supporters of homeopathy in attendance.

We were then spoilt with a tour of the facilities of the UJ where homeopathic training in the art and science of homeopathy is taught in the clinic as well as the impressive dispensary where homeopathic medicines are carefully stored and then compounded and dispensed.

**A Homeopathic Celebration at the WeCare Wellness Centre at the Victoria Yards – 14th April 2023**

Located only 4km away from UJ, we took the opportunity to visit the amazing community project, We Care Centre at Victoria Yards, which is simply put, a blessing for
the community in the area. Winner of the top community engagement project in the whole of the UJ for 2022, Victoria Yards itself is a community development project where studios and centres have been established for underprivileged talented individuals to upskill their abilities. The WeCare Wellness Centre at Victoria Yards is a satellite clinic established to meet the healthcare needs of individuals in the surrounding rural areas.

We were guided on this tour by Dr. Marelize Caminsky, founder of the WeCare Wellness Centre and enjoyed coming to know the story of how this initiative came to be. We extend our great thanks to Nando’s who have made all this possible and continue to offer us support and a place to bring health care to the community.

On the tour we witnessed our students engaging with patients from all walks of life and help these individuals experience health care on a different level. We planted a rose outside the centre and enjoyed our last few moments together on this last leg of what was an incredibly successful celebration of not only World Homeopathy Day but also World Homeopathy Awareness Week.

What we learned and achieved in this World Homeopathy Awareness Week 2023

While this event is one we would normally celebrate on a yearly basis, it was the first time that we were able to create as much awareness for not only homeopathy in South Africa but also for the training institutions who offer homeopathic training as well as the pioneer rural clinics who have to date offered thousands of South Africans the gentle protection and care of Homeopathy.

Through these events we were able to create greater awareness within the public space and have come to realise our strengths in the following ways:
1. Our homeopathic profession has survived many harsh and unfavourable times through the ages and has, as we have seen in our history, adapted to the changes and come out triumphant.

2. Homeopathy has a firm place in the South African health care system and the Royalty of our African Tribes and Leaders of our Tribal Councils and communities accept and support our involvement in their communities and see value in our homeopathic care.

3. Homeopathy is offered at two of the leading tertiary institutions in South Africa, namely UJ and DUT where we encourage all those seeking a career in homeopathy.

4. We have outreach programs where homeopathy is offered to the public with great success. Our every effort should be to open up more community clinics in South Africa.

5. Unity should be on the minds and in the hearts of all in homeopathy – together we can move homeopathy into its rightful place in the South African healthcare system.

With Special Thanks

To the dynamic group of young leaders who have assisted in creating this vision for the LMHI World Homeopathy Day Celebration 2023, I thank you for your time, passion, imagination and above all, your calling to grow our profession.

Miss. Marain Le Roux
Dr. Marianne Ferreira
Dr. Reyna Bhikha
Dr. Sarah Tandy
Dr. Silvana Nienaber
Dr. Zahraa Kazee

To the Dr. Altunay Agaoglu and the LMHI Council for entrusting the HSA with this very important celebration in the homeopathic calendar and for helping us to drive homeopathic awareness in South Africa.

To Mr. and Mrs. Oppenheimer and the Oppenheimer Generations Research and Conservation Foundation for their support of the HSA and this important celebration of the LMHI World Homeopathy Day Celebration and World Homeopathy Awareness Week in South Africa.

To the HSA Executive Committee and the HSA National Board for their support and blessing in this LMHI World Homeopathy Day and World Homoeopathy Week Awareness Campaign.

Mr. Ludwig Tashner and Mr. Halmar Tashner for their incredible support and our beautiful Rosa homeopathica, the Homeopathic Rose

To the late Margaret Roberts, to Mrs. Sandy Roberts and all support staff at the Margaret Roberts Herbal Centre for creating a space for us to come together to celebrate our beloved profession, for your support of homeopathy on the day, but especially over the years and for giving our Rosa homeopathica a home.

To the DUT Head of Department of Homeopathy, Professor Ashley Ross and Dr. Tebogo Tsele-Tebakang, the UJ Head of Department of Complementary Medicine for allowing us to bring the LMHI World Homeopathy Day celebration to the DUT and UJ respectively.
To Dr. Nicoliene Potgieter Steiner, Dr. Manuel Steiner, Dr. Loretta Ferrucci and Dr. Marelize Caminsky for hosting us at your centres of healing and for leading us into the future of homeopathy in South Africa.

To all those who supported us in this great event, we thank you for your collaboration, your contribution and your commitment and drive in this LMHI World Homeopathy Day 2023. We thank especially our Homeopathic Industry who have helped our profession over the many years and are as invested in our success as we are.

To the various companies who have contributed to our community clinics Namely Nando’s, BUCO Hardware and Buildware Eastern Cape, to the Balwin Foundation NPC, and to Designer Lighting Eastern Cape. Your support is invaluable and our gratitude to you will live on for the years and decades to come.

To all the students and practitioners who came out to join in one or more of our celebrations and who travelled from all parts of the country to support our efforts. Thank you for joining us as part of a bigger homeopathic community and for helping us keep the spirit of homeopathy alive.

To all who have found care in homeopathy – we pledge to continue to work to be able to serve you, to walk the journey of health with you and to help grow a stronger and healthier community for you now, and for the generations to come.