



Response from the Faculty of Homeopathy to “Degrees in homeopathy slated as unscientific” and “Science degrees without the science” – *Nature* (embargo 00.01hrs, 22 March)

The Faculty of Homeopathy, the professional body for doctors who practise homeopathy, disagrees strongly with the assertion that homeopathy is unscientific. There is growing evidence for its clinical effectiveness though more research needs to be done. Universities are just the places to lead this work.

It is untrue that “the evidence against homeopathy is conclusive”. On the contrary, despite a lack of funding and research infrastructure for CAM, there are 50 positive (and very few negative) peer-reviewed placebo-controlled trials of homeopathy.¹ Most systematic reviews and meta-analyses are positive - this includes comprehensive reviews and those focussed on specific conditions including influenza, arthritis and allergies. “This is far too large a body of evidence to dismiss and warrants further investigation in an open-minded, unbiased spirit of proper scientific enquiry,” comments Dr Peter Fisher, spokesman for the Faculty of Homeopathy.

There is also an increasing amount of laboratory research that extends our understanding of how ultra-high dilutions work and shows that homeopathic medicines can exert biological effects.^{2 3}

¹ Full references available on request

² BelonP, Camps J, Ennis M, et al. (2004). Histamine dilutions modulate basophil activation. *Inflammation Research*, **53**: 181-8

³ Rey L (2003). Thermoluminescence of ultra-high dilutions of lithium chloride and sodium chloride. *Physica (A)*. **323**: 67-74

“Patients clearly benefit from homeopathy and doctors, like me, who practise it alongside conventional medicine would not do so if they did not see it working, adds Dr Fisher. “What we urgently need is a more balanced and evidence-based debate, free of the sort of rhetoric coming from Professor Colquhoun and others like him, and proper funding for more well-designed and appropriate research.”

Notes to Editors

The Faculty of Homeopathy was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1950 to provide education and training in homeopathy for statutorily regulated healthcare professionals. The Faculty’s membership includes doctors, vets, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, podiatrists and a number of other healthcare professionals who are qualified in and practise homeopathy

The Faculty of Homeopathy publishes *Homeopathy*, a peer-reviewed, Medline listed journal

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