

Homeopathy Research Institute

First fundraising event

On Wednesday 24th June the Homeopathy Research Institute (HRI) held its first fundraising event at the Oriental Club in London, kindly sponsored by Helios Pharmacy. Attendees included David Tredinnick MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Integrated and Complementary Healthcare (PGICH), the Chair of the ARH, Karin Mont, the President of the Faculty of Homeopaths, Dr Sara Aeme, heads of 2 of the largest professional training colleges, Marcus Fernandez for the Centre for Homeopathic Education and Mani Norland for the School of Homeopathy, Head of the London Homeopathic Hospital, Dr Peter Fisher, General Secretary of the ECCH, Stephen Gordon, as well as HRI patron Lady Mary Holmes (a shining example of 75 years using homeopathy as her medicine of choice), and other interested parties.

Arlene Lyne, a qualified homeopath with a background in business planning and management, took on the role of Chief Executive of the HRI in January of this year. She opened the evening by welcoming all guests and highlighting how the very mix of those present was reflective of the commitment of the HRI to be a representative for the homeopathy community, dedicated to all things homeopathic research.

The aims of the HRI are to facilitate and disseminate homeopathy research by drawing together the highest calibre individuals from throughout the scientific and homeopathic communities to ensure a skillset to deliver on a high quality agenda.

Dr Alex Tournier, founding director of the HRI, spoke of how the HRI represents an opportunity to fill a void in the scientific arena both in addressing the often perceived lack of evidence for the effectiveness of homeopathy, and in advancing the boundaries of science to understand how homeopathy actually works.

He gave examples of what the work of the HRI actually looks like. Facilitation includes pulling together teams with the right balance of academic, scientific and homeopathic expertise to ensure the best chances of establishing solid research protocols, obtaining funding, and ensuring publication in peer reviewed journals. It also includes offering both expertise to those involved in homeopathic research, and providing scholarships for students involved in doctoral or post-doctoral research.

Dissemination is all about making the scientific research in homeopathy available to a wider audience, for example, through the provision of a searchable online database, synthesising articles to make them understandable to a non-scientific audience, providing quarterly newsletters to provide insights into homeopathy research, at a level similar to the New Scientist, and in the longer term providing an expert voice on homeopathy research with media trained personnel ready to answer questions from PR agencies, the media in general and other opinion seekers.

Dr Clare Relton, HRI's head of clinical research, gave a passionate speech on what clinical research in homeopathy actually looks like with entertaining examples of her own journey to attaining her phd in this area, and her work at Leeds and Sheffield Universities.

Dr Peter Fisher commented on the current challenges in performing research in homeopathy, as well as the need for high-quality peer-reviewed scientific publications in recognised journals such as *Homeopathy*.

David Tredinnick MP, rounded off with strong words of support for the HRI and a call to give money to support this work.

The HRI is proud to have a focused and well balanced plan of activities and a management team in place to deliver on this. The thrust of the HRI is now on raising the funds required to make it all happen. If you are, or anyone you know is, in a position to support our work, please get in touch with us. You can donate via our website at www.homeoinst.org or by sending a cheque to our registered address 115 Brookwood Road, London, SW18 5BG.

Arlene Lyne RSHom

Chief Executive of the HRI