

Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future: Joint American Homeopathic Conference 2015

By Vatsala Sperling MS, PhD, PDHom, CCH, RSHom(NA)

The 10th annual JAHC began with the usual fanfare in the city of brotherly love, Philadelphia. From May 8th to 10th homeopaths from the USA and beyond made a collective and earnest effort to celebrate the past and embrace the future.

On the opening day, Dr Prafull Vijayakar showed cases in which he could predict the future outcome for patients with congenital issues, for example, a child born without pupils, and other patients that were declared incurable. Through the use of what he calls predictive homeopathy Dr Vijaykar was able to cure these patients. He also showed how to apply predictive homeopathy in acute cases and serious accidents. Paul Herscu spoke about his “Cycles and Segments” approach to handling cases of autistic spectrum disorder. LM potencies have prompted a variety of opinions among homeopaths. André Saine addressed this issue expertly with examples from his practice.

We started Saturday’s events with a preview and discussion of a film, *Just One Drop* by the documentary filmmaker, Laurel Chiten. A former skeptic, Laurel has now become an avid proponent and spokesperson for homeopathy, as was evident from the passion with which she has been making this film and trying to reach mainstream audiences. [Editor’s note: As of April 17th, 2015, the film has been successfully funded.]

The theme of movies was continued by Kim Elia and Maria Ringo on stage. By switching between nothing more dramatic than different wigs, Kim and Maria presented a humorous, heartfelt history of homeopathy in *Like Cures Like – the Movie*. Beginning with Hahnemann and his varied life experiences, the presenters paid tribute to many innovators and master homeopaths around the world.

Later in the day, Dr Heiner Frei introduced us to the topic of polarity analysis. By focusing on reliable symptoms including modalities, polar symptoms (symptoms that can have an opposite aspect e.g. thirst/thirstlessness), perceptual symptoms (e.g. sensitivity to light, touch, noise, temperature) and muscle tone, and conducting an astute search through Bönninghausen’s Repertory, Dr Frei is able to find a remedy that brings about rapid, gentle and complete cure or remarkable improvement in 80% of cases of ADD/ADHD. Drawing from his three decades of practice, he made the impossible seem possible for many of us.

In another room, Chris Sowton educated us about using dreams for solving cases; later in the day a panel of homeopaths discussed issues facing veterinary homeopathy, and Gabrielle Traub treated us to a lively presentation about using well known polychrests for treating patients with bipolar disorder and drug-induced psychosis.

Ann Jerome set the tone for celebrating Mother’s Day by introducing five remedies for the home medicine chest that every mother could become familiar with and use for her family, while Linda Baker conducted a live workshop for moms. Karen Allen addressed the legal issues around homeopathy and Douglas Falkner spoke about using homeopathy for handling anorexia and bulimia cases.

The annual meeting of the North American Society of Homeopaths took place on Sunday morning. Later that day, Dr Peter Fisher gave a comprehensive presentation on the subject of clinical and biological research in homeopathy.

We learned how to improve our treatment outcomes from Lee Kayne, how to handle trauma from Peter Chappell, and how to market our practice from Loretta Butchorn. John Borneman of Hyland’s Homeopathic gave an entertaining and informative talk on our homeopathic pharmacopoeia.

Jackie Wilson drew upon her personal experience of cancer in a way that listeners found inspiring.

In keeping with the theme of the conference, Jo Daly used her extensive experience of the past thirty years to give us a symbol—that of a toolbox. Jo described how she is able to dig into the toolbox and retrieve the most suitable tools for case taking, analysis and finding the simillimum. She emphasized remaining thoroughly grounded in the basics of classical homeopathy, and at the same time, keeping our curiosity alive, keeping our minds open and learning newer and upcoming techniques. All of these are nothing but tools in our toolbox and each one of them can be used for finding the simillimum for our clients. There is no discord between our past, our present and our future because homeopathy is about continuum and about how best to help our patients.

After absorbing these fact- and fun-filled presentations, the participants found time to participate in a square dance in the evening, mingle with the vendors and browse their displays, find nourishment and meet old friends. I met Su Ju Cheng MD and I-An Chen MD, who had traveled all the way from Taiwan to participate in the JAHC. Their attendance

spoke volumes about the expanding popularity of the JAHC. On my way out, I made it a point to visit the registration desk to thank and congratulate the NCH staffers for producing yet another successful conference ... and to wish them well for the upcoming 11th JAHC to be held next year in Colorado.

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