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National Convention on World Homoeopathy Day – A conference report

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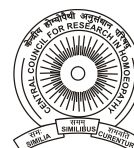


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Abstract

Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy organized a scientific convention on the World Homoeopathy Day on 10th and 11th April, 2021 to commemorate the 266th birth anniversary of Dr Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, India. The theme of the conference was 'Homoeopathy – Roadmap for Integrative Medicine'. There were oral presentations and a panel discussion during the convention organized in the hybrid mode, with participants and presenters attending the convention either physically, or remotely through video link. Recommendations to develop a roadmap for Homoeopathy for integrative care were also proposed during the convention. Integration is not simply co-location of all systems but a wholesome clinical approach for the public health benefit where systems have known limitations. Specific strategic actions are needed at research, practice and education levels to promote integrative care with Homoeopathy as a key contributor.

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National convention on World Homoeopathy Day – A conference report

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Abstract

Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy organized a scientific convention on the World Homoeopathy Day on April 10 and 11, 2021, to commemorate the 266th birth anniversary of Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, India. The theme of the conference was “Homoeopathy – Roadmap for Integrative Medicine.” There were oral presentations and a panel discussion during the convention organized in the hybrid mode, with participants and presenters attending the convention either physically or remotely through video link. Recommendations to develop a roadmap for homoeopathy for integrative care were also proposed during the convention. Integration is not simply co-location of all systems but a wholesome clinical approach for the public health benefit where systems have known limitations. Specific strategic actions are needed at research, practice, and education levels to promote integrative care with homoeopathy as a key contributor.

Keywords: COVID-19, Homoeopathic industry, Homoeopathy, Integrative medicine, Intra-AYUSH, Public health, World Homoeopathy Day

INTRODUCTION

On the occasion of World Homoeopathy Day, the scientific convention on the “Homoeopathy - Roadmap for Integrative Medicine” was held on April 10 and 11, 2021 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, India. The 2 day convention was organized by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH). Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH), National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, Up-To-Date database, EBSCO database, and British Medical Journal were the organizing partners for the event. The convention brought together homoeopathic practitioners, modern medicine practitioners, and policy makers. The conference was held at the time when homoeopathy has been gaining foothold as an integrative care option both for prevention of disease and promotion of health, other than being a treatment modality of choice for standalone treatment and as an adjunct to standard care.

Inaugural ceremony

The ceremony was virtually attended by Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik, Honorable Minister of State (Independent charge) Ministry Defence Government of India and by Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary AYUSH. Gracing the dais with Dr. Anil Khurana, Director General CCRH and Chairman,

Board of Governors, CCH were Mr. PK Pathak, Special Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Mr. Roshan Jaggi, Joint Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Padmashri Dr. VK Gupta, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board of CCRH, Dr. Raj K Manchanda, Director AYUSH, Government of the NCT of Delhi, Dr. Sangeeta A. Duggal, Advisor (Homoeopathy), Ministry of AYUSH. Addressing the gathering with a short video message, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare said that homoeopathy is playing an important role in fulfilling the health-care requirement in the country with its integration with modern western medicines. He said Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) systems of medicines were used in COVID-19 in an integrative manner in designated COVID-19 treatment centers which showed an impressive result [Figure 1].

Addressing the gathering online, Sh. Naik highlighted the contribution of homoeopathy in controlling the pandemic and

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said that it was an immense achievement for homoeopathy through the works of the council and also praised the efforts of council for arranging such a convention amidst these pandemics with proper prescribed precautionary measures. He stressed on the importance of integrative medicinal approach as the need of the hour. He noted that over the past 7 years, the Ministry of AYUSH has used this approach to create a concrete avenue in medical science for the sake of the ailing humanity. The AYUSH medical system has gained global recognition and has become a component of Evidence-Based Medicine. As India has the most homoeopathic medical providers, the Ministry of AYUSH supports all efforts to improve the quality and scope of homoeopathic care delivery in the country. Furthermore, India is actively promoting the improvement of international relations to increase transcultural support for AYUSH therapies. He also commented that during this difficult time of COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of AYUSH and homoeopathic medical colleges have done a lot of work through various awareness camps and door to door distribution of the prophylactic medicine suggested by the Scientific Advisory Board of Council, *Arsenicum album* 30, to boost immunity against flu-like illness.

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha addressed the gathering online highlighting the innovative approaches and the actions undertaken by the Ministry of AYUSH for prevention and control of COVID-19 pandemic through AYUSH systems of medicines. He further stated that the development of *AYUSH Sanjivani* application led to compilation and consolidation of meta-data identifying the potential of AYUSH systems in control, prevention, and treatment of COVID-19 infection.

Publications of the Council and Souvenir of the Convention were released along with launch of e-library of CCRH and Homoeopathic Clinical Case Repository Portal [Table 1].

Under linking research with education, two memoranda of understanding signed between CCRH and M. N. R. Homoeopathic Medical College, Telangana and between CCRH and Dr. D. Y. Patil Homoeopathic Medical College, Pune, were exchanged.

The inaugural ceremony was telecast live from the You Tube® and Facebook Live® channels of the Ministry of AYUSH.

SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

The convention had one panel discussion and five interactive sessions as follows:

Panel discussion

Integrative medicine in India: Scope and opportunities for homoeopathy.

Interactive sessions

1. Homoeopathy for COVID-19 treatment and prevention: Research experience
2. Homoeopathic Industry experience during COVID-19

3. Intra AYUSH collaboration and integrated care
4. Homoeopathy in public health
5. Integrative clinical care.

The panel discussion and session on homoeopathy for COVID-19 treatment and prevention were held on April 10 and the remaining scientific sessions were held on April 11. The list of speakers at the convention is given in Table 2.

PANEL DISCUSSION

The Indian National Health Policy 2017 emphasizes on the importance of continuously improving the dynamic organization of health care based on new knowledge and evidence, as well as learning from communities. It includes provision of AYUSH services, including homoeopathy, at all levels of health care, as well as the mainstreaming of AYUSH with the conventional care as an integrated medical care. The National Education Policy-2020 also focuses on a health-care education system that is integrated, taking into account that people have a variety of options when it comes to health promotion, disease prevention, and treatment. Panelists discussed how homoeopathy can play a pivotal role in integrated healthcare systems, as well as strategies to be implemented, as well as the benefits and barriers of doing so.

The session was initiated by video messages on the subject by Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan, Former Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission and by Dr. Kumar M Dhawale, Director of MLDhawale Memorial Trust, Mumbai. Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan in his video message highlighted the research strengths of homoeopathy and made specific considerations on evidence in basic research on high dilutions. He emphasized on an open-minded approach to shift medical care from a system-based to a person-centric and people-centric approach that is more holistic, where homoeopathy can be a major player. Dr. Kumar M Dhawale emphasized upon the importance of integrative medicine-multidisciplinary approaches and its practical implications. He specifically focused on challenging areas such as autism, cerebral palsy, where conventional medicine has no solution and areas such as alcohol withdrawal syndrome, COPD, malnutrition, acute pancreatitis, cardiac complications, where conventional medicines role can be enhanced by integrating homoeopathy.

The panelists in the session were Dr. Anil Khurana, Director General, CCRH; Dr. VK Gupta, Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board, CCRH; Dr. Raj K Manchanda, Director AYUSH, Government of the NCT of Delhi; Dr. Sangeeta A. Duggal, Advisor (Homoeopathy), Ministry of AYUSH, Dr. BN Singh, former Director, (Homoeopathy) Government of Uttar Pradesh. The discussion was moderated by Dr. Bindu Sharma, Assistant Director (Homoeopathy) (AD(H)), CCRH and Dr. Divya Taneja, Research Officer (Homoeopathy) (RO(H)), CCRH.

Homoeopathic medicine, Dr. VK Gupta reiterated, can be preventive, curative, promotive, rehabilitative, and sometimes

Table 1: Releases during the convention

| Name | Key features |
|---|--|
| HCCR portal | HCCR is a unique digital platform as an educational and research resource in Homoeopathy. The portal provides clinicians, researchers, medical students, etc., a user platform for entering homoeopathic clinical cases through a predefined standardized template. This would create a database of high-volume clinical success stories to understand treatment trends, prescription trends, demographic trends, morbidity trends, improvement in the quality of life of patients and assessing cure rates of common and rare clinical conditions using homoeopathic intervention. HCCR portal is envisaged to be developed into a reference database for the medical fraternity as well as to the policy makers and regulators to make informed decisions about integration of homoeopathic medical system into various public health intervention activities. |
| e-library of CCRH | The portal can be accessed at https://hccr.ccrhindia.in/en/ The digital library of CCRH is an effort by the library professionals to maximize provision of research resources to the scientists of CCRH The e-library portal comprises of 3000+ Journals, 2000+ Proceedings from top medical publishers including MEDLINE Complete, Cochrane Review, British Medical Journal, British Medical Journal (BMJ) Resources, Up-to-Date (Wolter Kluwers) and EBSCO. Providing access to journals, research papers, thesis, books on homoeopathy, medical science and research, it also has open access e-Resources, news room and social media room for interaction amongst researchers |
| Homoeopathic Information and Documentation Centre (Hi-Doc) | The library information system contains bibliographic records of books which are available in various libraries of CCRH & its Institutes/Units; using different parameters, that is, Title, Author, Subject, Publisher, Place, Year, etc., to permit availability status, access, and sharing amongst the libraries, maximizing resource utilization of the physical libraries |
| Good Clinical Practices Guidelines for clinical trials in Homoeopathy (GCP-Homoeopathy) | Good Clinical Practices for clinical trials in homoeopathy is developed by CCRH collating its experience of more than 40 years in homoeopathic research and examining the existing provisions existing provisions in the ICH-GCP (2016), AYUSH Document of Good clinical practice guidelines for clinical trials on Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicine (2013); CDSO Document on GCP Guidelines for Clinical Trials on Pharmaceutical Products (2001) and WHO Guidelines for good clinical practice (GCP) for trials on pharmaceutical products (1995), ICMR guidelines for bioethics National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research Involving Human Participants (2017). This document is a resource for guiding quality research in homoeopathy. The research in homoeopathy should not be in contravention to the principles of the system, follow the regulations and quality standards described in the GCP - Homoeopathy. Researches in homoeopathy bring in validation of the system and bring in innovation in drug development, maintaining a highest standard of research enhances scientific and public trust in research. GCP Homoeopathy is an attempt in this direction. |
| Orientation Guidelines for Community Health Officers Under Homoeopathy stream) | A training manual for homoeopathic practitioners working as Community Health Officers at the AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres at under the Ayushman Bharat scheme of the Government of India has been developed. It focuses on roles, responsibilities and soft skills of the CHOs-Homoeopathy, and details the early interventions based on homoeopathic principles in health service delivery such as antenatal and postnatal care, child and adolescent care, reproductive health, management of non-communicable, communicable diseases, common ophthalmic, ear, nose throat, and oral health issues, geriatric and palliative care, general out-patient care for simple and minor ailments, first aid |
| Drugs of Animal Sources Used in Homoeopathy | This publication compiles the details of drugs prepared from animal sources including their origins, habitats, usage in homoeopathy, other systems of medicine and modern medicine, their pharmacological actions, preparations, chemical constitutions, storage of raw drug material, etc. The monograph on each of the 25 drugs elaborated upon develops a better understanding both from the perspective of materia medica and pharmacy |
| Agro-Techniques of Medicinal Plants Used in Homoeopathy | The center for medicinal plants research at Nilgiri, Tamil Nadu has developed agro-techniques for medicinal plants used in homoeopathy. The book is a resource for medicinal plant cultivators, agriculturists, botanists and farming professionals detailing cultivation requirements of soil preparation, fertilizers, seeding and sowing, harvesting and yield, etc., for the 15 medicinal plants |

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Continued)

| Name | Key features |
|--|--|
| Scientific Framework of Homoeopathy | This publication incorporates basic research, clinical research, homoeopathic pathogenetic trials, clinical verification, epidemic management, systematic reviews and meta-analysis, veterinary medicine, agro-Homoeopathy to provide a comprehensive resource for research status in homoeopathy. The framework also provides valuable insights into homoeopathic education, integration of homoeopathy into global health-care systems, and knowledge and attitudes of homoeopathic users. The book is developed in cooperation with the European Commission of Homoeopathy and Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis, and this is the first print edition. Its online version can be accessed from the website of CCRH |
| Standard Treatment Guidelines, Volume-3 | CCRH has been developing standard treatment guidelines for practitioners, academicians and students on various common conditions. This is the third volume in this series covering 20 clinical conditions: Adhesive capsulitis of shoulder, Acne, Anxiety disorders, Aphthous stomatitis, Atopic dermatitis, Breast fibroadenoma, Chikungunya, Chronic suppurative otitis media, Diabetic foot ulcer, Diabetic neuropathy, Gout, Migraine, Post-operative pain, Rheumatoid arthritis, Scabies, Sciatica syndrome, Schizophrenia, Sub-clinical hypothyroidism, Tinea and Warts. These guidelines enhance the knowledge and improve documentation skills of homoeopathic practitioners, academicians, and students at large to rationalize homoeopathic medical practice |
| Compendium of Modern Nomenclature of Medicinal Plants Commonly Used in Homoeopathy | This book identifies accurate taxonomy and nomenclature of medicinal plants used in homoeopathy which is undergoing changes regularly under the International Code of Nomenclature. The botanical nomenclature as per further regular update in the Plant List for 333 medicinal plants used in homoeopathy is documented in the current book |
| HPTLC atlas of Medicinal Plants | High profile thin-layer chromatography is used as a technique for standardization of raw material and finished products of homoeopathic drugs. In the present volume, HPTLC records of 50 mother tinctures prepared by the research laboratory of CCRH are presented along with their comparisons with the marketed samples. This is a ready reckoner for researchers, manufacturers and stakeholders for production of quality drugs |
| Homoeopathy – Roadmap for integrative medicine Scientific Conference Souvenir | The souvenir compiles the biodata and abstracts of the presentations at the conference. Some popular articles by the scientists of the Council on Homoeopathy published in recent years are reprinted |

palliative. As the prevalence of non-communicable diseases rises due to multifactorial factors, no single medicinal system can function properly, necessitating the integration of medical systems. He cited examples from the history on integrative care with homoeopathy. He also stated that homoeopathy has potential, but it is lagging due to a lack of advanced training, and skill development, and adequate infrastructure. With the right implementation of intrinsic values of homoeopathy, it is the best possible treatment to provide universal health care. Dr. Raj K Manchanda deliberated on the planning, execution, analysis, publication, and promotion of high-quality homoeopathic research. He stated that the integrative approach in medical systems is not a new concept and was in fact, a topic of debate in Parliament in 1967. He emphasized upon incorporation of modern pharmacology, pre-clinical studies, and critical thinking into homoeopathy. Dr. BN Singh, spoke about the integration of allied medicine knowledge with homoeopathic core subjects to properly diagnose cases and prescribe homoeopathic medicines. Dr. Sangeeta A. Duggal stated that medical pluralism must be recognized as a basic human right because no single medical system is capable of meeting all medical needs. She proposed the idea of cross referral to ensure that the patient did not suffer. She added that patients should

be empowered with the freedom to choose their own health-care providers. India provides a positive environment for basic research and mobilization of funds for additional cutting-edge research. As a result, active collaborations among researchers, professionals, organizations, educational institutions, and pharmaceutical companies are required. In the same vein at the conclusion of the panel discussion, Dr. Anil Khurana stated that integration with homoeopathy into the health-care system is a functional integration, encompassing accessibility, availability, and affordability of the system. Homoeopathic out patients and clinical care is being provided through many conventional medicine hospitals, however, real integrative models of adjuvant treatments need to be developed further at a larger scale.

HOMOEOPATHY FOR COVID-19 TREATMENT AND PREVENTION: RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The session was chaired by Dr. Raj K Manchanda, Director, AYUSH, Govt. of NCT of Delhi and Dr. Jaswant Patil, Consultant Homoeopath, Mumbai, Maharashtra. This session was coordinated by Dr. Debadatta Nayak, RO (H) and Dr. Anupriya, RO (H).

Table 2: Speakers at the convention

| Name | Designation |
|---|--|
| Scientific session-1 | |
| Homoeopathy for COVID-19 treatment and prevention: Research experience | |
| Dr. Anil Khurana | Director General, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy |
| Dr. Debadatta Nayak | Research officer (Homoeopathy)/Scientist-3, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy |
| Dr. Govindarajan Sankaran | Consultant Homoeopath, Mumbai |
| Dr. Bipin Jethani | Associate Professor, Department of Organon of Medicine, Nehru Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Govt. of NCT of Delhi |
| Dr. Juhi Gupta | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology; Research Methodology and Biostatistics, Govt. Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Bhopal, MP Member, Governing Body, National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata |
| Dr. Sunita Tomar | Associate Professor, Department of Pathology, Govt. Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Bhopal, MP |
| Dr. Harleen Kaur | Research officer (Homoeopathy)/Scientist-1, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy |
| Dr. Anupriya | Research officer (Homoeopathy)/Scientist-1, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy |
| Dr. Subhash Chaudhary | |
| Dr. Deepti Singh | Research officer (Homoeopathy)/Scientist-1, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy |
| Dr. Suhana P Azis | Research officer (Homoeopathy)/Scientist-1, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy |
| Dr. Ritika Hassija Narula | Research officer (Homoeopathy)/Scientist-1, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy |
| Scientific session-2 | |
| Homoeopathic Industry experience during COVID-19 | |
| Dr. Prakash Joshi | Technical Advisor, Medisynth Chemicals Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai |
| Dr. Nishant Tripathi | Head (Sales/Marketing/Import/Export), M. Bhattacharyya & Co. Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata |
| Dr. Durga Shankar Bhar | Managing Director Hahnemann Publishing Company Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata |
| Dr. Srinivasa Rao Nyapati | Managing Director, Ramakrishna Homoeo Stores Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad |
| Mr Nishant Jain | B. Jain Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi |
| Scientific session-3 | |
| Intra AYUSH collaboration and integrative care | |
| Dr. Anasuya B | Domain Expert (Yoga & Naturopathy), Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy |
| Dr. Praveen Oberai | Assistant Director (Homoeopathy), CCRH |
| Dr. A K Gupta | Homoeopathic Consultant, New Delhi |
| Dr. Vishal Chadha | Senior Homoeopath, Directorate of AYUSH, Government of NCT of Delhi |
| Dr. (Prof.) A K Dwivedi | Head of Department of Physiology and Biochemistry, SKRP Gujrati Homoeopathic Medical College, Indore |
| Scientific session-4 | |
| Homoeopathy in public health | |
| Dr. (Prof.) Sanjay Gupta | Department of Practice of Medicine Govt. Homoeopathic Medical College, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh |
| Dr. Renu Mittal | Research officer (Homoeopathy)/Scientist-3, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy |
| Dr. Varanasi Roja | Research Officer (Homoeopathy)/Scientist-3 Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy |
| Dr. Vinu Krishnan | Medical Officer, Govt. Homoeopathic Cancer Centre, Wandoor, Kerala |
| Dr. Chandrashekhar Goda | Director, Rural Community Services, Dr. M. L. Dhawale Memorial Homoeopathic Institute, Palghar, Mumbai |
| Scientific session-5 | |
| Integrative clinical care | |
| Dr. Michael Frass | Professor of Medicine, Medical University of Vienna, Scientific Society for Homoeopathy, Koethen, Germany |
| Dr. To Ka Lun Aaron | President, Hong Kong Association of Homoeopathy, Hong Kong |
| Dr. Antara Banerjee | Associate Professor, Department of Regenerative Biology and Biotechnology, Chettinad Academy of Research and Education, Kelambakkam |
| Dr. (Prof.) Tapas Kundu | Head of the Department of Medicine, Motiwala Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Nasik, Maharashtra |
| Dr. Shaji Kumar R. T. | Research Officer (Homoeopathy)/Scientist-3, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy |
| Dr. (Prof.) Muktinder Singh | Head of the Department of Repertory, Sri Guru Nanak Dev Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Ludhiana |
| Dr. Ashok Sharma | Chief Medical Officer (Sr. Advisory Grade), Govt. of NCT of Delhi |

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unique challenges in terms of prevention against the novel condition and treatment of the condition varying from asymptomatic presentation to respiratory distress to multiple organ failure. New studies

on different methodologies and approaches were developed by CCRH and implemented in various settings. Dr. Anil Khurana presented in brief the settings in India and the activities undertaken by the Ministry of AYUSH and CCRH

both in terms of public health and clinical research. Amongst the scientists of CCRH, Dr. Debadatta Nayak presented the outcome of mass prophylaxis distribution of Arsenic album 30 in containment zones; Dr. Anupriya presented the results of mass prophylaxis undertaken in general population; prophylaxis amongst prison population in Delhi and in police personnel in Maharashtra were presented by Dr. Suhana P Azis and Dr. Ritika Hassija Narula respectively. In clinical settings, outcome of a placebo-controlled trial conducted at AIIMS Jhajjar on patients admitted in the hospital with moderate to severe COVID-19 infection was presented by Dr. Harleen Kaur and results of study on adjuvant homoeopathy treatment of COVID-19 patients by the Homoeopathic Medical Officers in Gujarat was presented by Dr. Deepti Singh.

Dr. Govindarajan Sankaran presented a randomized, placebo-controlled, open label study on individualized homoeopathic treatment as an adjuvant to contemporary medicine treatment in COVID-19 cases. He described the treatment strategy and discussed his own clinical experiences. Dr. Bipin Jethani shared experiences of clinical care of COVID-19 patients at the care center established at the Nehru Homoeopathic Medical College and hospital, Delhi. Dr. Juhi Gupta presented the results of a study on adjuvant individualized homoeopathic treatment conducted at Chirayu Hospital, a tertiary care COVID-19 dedicated hospital in Bhopal. Dr. Sunita Tomar presented the outcomes of an open-label, randomized, placebo-controlled trial undertaken on COVID-19 cases at Government Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Bhopal. Dr. Subhash Chaudhary presented outcomes of a retrospective cohort study conducted in Kolkata neighborhoods to determine the prevalence of fever during COVID-19 pandemic lockdown.

Dr. Raj K Manchanda discussed the role homoeopathy played during the Spanish flu pandemic 100 years back and how research needs to keep up with the times in the current pandemic. Dr. Jaswant Patil shared his experiences on the integrated approach in management of cases affected with COVID-19 and treatment of post COVID complications.

HOMOEOPATHIC INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE DURING COVID-19

The session was chaired by Dr. JLN Sastry, Chief Executive Officer, National Medicinal Plants Board, Ministry of AYUSH, New Delhi; and Dr. SP Shani, Deputy Drugs Controller (I), Central Drug Standard Control Organization and coordinated by Dr. Suhana P Azis, RO (H) and Dr. Digvijay Verma, RO (Pharmacognosy).

Dr. Prakash Joshi discussed the Quality Management System includes all SOPs, STP and their proper timely implementation in the homoeopathic pharmaceutical industry. Dr. DS Bhar detailed a proposal to develop different types of Nosodes of against COVID-19. Dr. Nishant Tripathi shared the experiences of homoeopathic drug manufacturing industry on how the demand and supply chain was stretched and how the hurdles

were overcome during the pandemic and the lockdown period. The efforts and shortfalls of the homoeopathic industry during the nationwide lockdown imposed for prevention of COVID-19 pandemics, in its efforts to maintain manufacture, sale and supply of homoeopathic medicines were detailed by Dr. Srinivasa Rao Nyapati. He discussed the role of state and central authorities in providing the necessary permissions and facilitating medicine supplies and suggested studies designed to survey to evaluate and assess all such formal and informal initiatives from clinical and industry perspective. Mr. Nishant Jain shared the opportunities for innovation that the COVID-19 pandemic situation brought forth for the homoeopathic industry in particular and the alternative medicine industry as a whole. He also discussed the logistic issues affecting the industry which need to be tackled effectively to ensure public confidence in the system.

Dr. JLN Sastry emphasized on the importance of quality control from the raw material to the entire manufacturing chain and supply chain to ensure that the quality of medicines is not compromised during this critical period. Dr. SP Shani discussed the role by regulatory agencies in maintaining medicine supplies all over the country, so that there are no shortages.

INTRA AYUSH COLLABORATION AND INTEGRATIVE CARE

The session was chaired by Dr. Kanwal Sethi, former Advisor, Homoeopathy, Ministry of AYUSH and by Dr. RN Wahi, Senior Homoeopathic Consultant, Delhi. This session was coordinated by Dr. Renu Mittal, RO (H).

Dr. Anasuya B elaborated on the potential value and physical benefits of Yoga protocol and suggested that an integrated approach to disease management and treatment may be the answer in this era of drug resistance and low immunity. She stated that Yoga and Naturopathy can be integrated with other AYUSH systems such as Homoeopathy to achieve the highest attainable standard of health at an affordable cost. Dr. Praveen Oberai presented outcomes of an open label randomized placebo controlled trial of adjunctive homoeopathic treatment to psychotropic drug treatment in the management of treatment-resistant schizophrenia. Dr. AK Gupta spoke on the integrative approach as a new dimension for treatment of conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, neuralgias, paralysis, motor neuron disease, cancers, advanced cases of diabetes, hypertension, and renal failure. Dr. Vishal Chadha detailed integrative medicine approach applied in the hospitals using homoeopathy along with conventional are in the treatment of various conditions such as dengue induced thrombocytopenia. Dr. AK Dwivedi presented a few cases from his clinical practice and shared his clinical experiences.

Dr. Kanwal Sethi appreciated the efforts of integration of Yoga and Homoeopathy and integrated medicine approach in practice. Dr. RN Wahi shared his experiences on integrated medicine as the medicine of the future.

HOMOEOPATHY IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The session was chaired by Dr. Alok Pareek, Homoeopathic Consultant and former President of LMHI and Dr. BT Rudresh, Member, Board of Governors, Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi. This session was coordinated by Dr. Shaji Kumar RT, RO (H) and Dr. Deepti Singh, RO (H).

Dr. Sanjay Gupta presented a study on prophylactic intervention with Malaria officinalis 200, along with routine anti-malarial activities in selected high-risk Madhya Pradesh villages. He described the treatment strategy used in the study and its outcomes. Dr. Renu Mittal presented the outcomes of Council's public health program on geriatric care detailing psycho-socio-medical needs of the elderly population in scheduled caste dominant areas and to provision of homoeopathic treatment for their immediate concerns via medical camps. Dr. Varanasi Roja presented the outcomes of the program on integration of Homoeopathy in the National Program for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke undertaken by CCRH. Dr. Vinu Krishnan presented case reports and recommended that homoeopathic intervention in the treatment of hematological malignancies may be a promising area in extending survival time even after chemotherapy relapse. Dr. Chandrasekhar Goda discussed community-based health-care interventions that use homoeopathy as a therapeutic mode to combat malnutrition.

Dr. BT Rudresh stated that homoeopathy has a distinct role in public health which must be expanded further. Dr. Alok Pareek emphasized that public healthcare is more than just medical care; it also includes population prevention, cure, and rehabilitation.

INTEGRATIVE CLINICAL CARE

Dr. (Prof.) C. Nayak, Former Director General, CCRH, and Dr. B. L. Sherwal, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital, Delhi, chaired the session. Dr. Varanasi Roja, RO (H), and Dr. Harleen Kaur, RO (H) coordinated this session.

Dr. Michael Frass from Vienna discussed how additive homoeopathic treatment was found to be effective in NSCLC Stage IV patients in terms of quality of life in a prospective, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind, three-arm, multicenter, and phase III study. Using a retrospective cohort study model, Dr. To Ka Lun Aaron of Hong Kong explained that individualized homoeopathic treatment is effective in controlling the glycemic index in diabetic adults. Dr. Antara Banerjee presented study results of efficacy of three homoeopathic medicines that were administered in their study alongside Hydroxyurea (HU) therapy to 38 thalassemic patients, either singly or in combination depending on the symptoms. Dr. Tapas Kundu discussed his experiences in treatment of hemophilia patients. He highlighted that using homoeopathic medicines as an adjunct treatment in cases of hemophilia, reduces the need for clotting factor concentrates and management of acute bleeding has yielded significant results.



Figure 1: Inauguration of the World Homoeopathy Day 2021 convention in hybrid mode



Figure 2: Dr. Anil Khurana, Director General presenting the recommendations of the convention at the valedictory session

Dr. Shaji Kumar RT presented an exploratory study on use of adjuvant homoeopathic medicines cancer patients with Grade III and IV chemo and radiotherapy-induced oral mucositis. Dr. Muktinder Singh shared his experiences in treatment of cases with thyroid dysfunction. Dr. Ashok Sharma emphasized on the role of homoeopathy in the treatment of psychiatric disorders.

Dr. (Prof.) C. Nayak stated that the concept of mainstream medicine has been prominent in the medical domain for only centuries, and due to the instances of adverse drug reactions, disease centric approach, and its high cost, complementary and alternative approaches are growing day by day - which is based on the patient centric approach to provide holistic healthcare at an affordable cost with less adverse effects. Dr. BL Sherwal expressed his views on the presentation of results of integrative care in various medical conditions in the convention.

During the session breaks, a presentation was held on the HCCR portal by Dr. Suhana P Azis and Mr Shivan Sasidharan apprising the participants on how to register and submit cases on the platform. A presentation was also made by Mr Vinod from International Segment Sector (South Asia), Clinical Effectiveness

Division, Wolters Kluwer on Going Digital in Health Care through Clinical Decision Support resource, Up-to-Date.

VALEDICTORY SESSION

The valedictory session was presided by Dr. Anil Khurana, Director General, CCRH, Dr. Raj K Manchanda, Director AYUSH, Government of NCT of Delhi, Dr. C Nayak, former Director General, CCRH, Dr. RN Wahi, senior homoeopathic consultant, Delhi and Dr. Naval Kumar Verma, Advisor to the Minister of AYUSH. Dr. Anil Khurana presented the conference recommendations [Figure 2]. The students receiving MD scholarship awards and short-term studentship awards in 2019 and 2020 were presented with the certificates. The awardees of the poster and video competitions on myth busting against homoeopathy organized by CCRH in 2020 were also presented with certificates.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

The recommendations that were made include:

- Integration is not simply co-location of all systems but a wholesome clinical approach for the public health benefit where systems have known limitations
- Medical pluralism is inbuilt in the health system of India, wherein AYUSH systems, are officially recognized, patronized and integrated along with Allopathy at primary and secondary health care level
- However, it is more of a parallel health-care system, where all systems function as separate components under the umbrella of national health system, whereas the integrative system is where all systems are integrated at all levels, that is, education, practice, and research
- Consensus building among health professionals: Strategies to bridge the gap between conventional and AYUSH systems with respect to diversity of fundamental principles and basic approach as these are the main challenges in

developing sustainable framework and operational models for educational program, clinical practice and evidence-based research, and standardization.

Broad roadmap that can be adopted is:

- Education
 - o Objective
 - ✓ Cross system sensitization
 - o Strategies
 - ✓ Modification in curriculum with focus on public health subjects, modern pharmacology, critical thinking, and adoption of good points of other systems in curriculum without compromising the basic tenants. UG education should have integrated teaching modules.
- Practice
 - o Objective
 - ✓ Respectful cross referral on basis of system strengths for the maximum clinical benefit of patient
 - o Strategies
 - ✓ Knowledge of scope and limitation of different systems, promoting referrals, patient's empowerment, and development of standard treatment guidelines.
- Research
 - o Objective
 - ✓ Developing evidence base to integrative medicine and develop treatment strategies.
 - o Strategies
 - ✓ Promotion of interdisciplinary research, refinement of biochemical study protocols/reporting according modern as well as homoeopathic principles, testing, and creation of replicable models of integrated care.