From the President’s Desk

It's been a busy few months on National Council and here is a rundown of what we've been up to on your behalf.

TGA - We had good news from TGA with the update of the code for over the counter medicines. We’ve advised you about this in a bulletin previously and there is also a link in this newsletter if you sell product and require further information.

Roots Homoeopathy: Back to Basics

We suffered and yet homoeopathy has survived and will continue to do so. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Hobart Conference

This code was originally in place in NSW only, but now is planned to extend to all states. AHA will be making a

Cope attended the recent forum in Brisbane on this matter.

NHMRC

- You will all be aware of the draft report just published by the NHMRC on the lack of scientific evidence for homoeopathy. The AHA and AROH made a good and thorough submission last year, knowing what the likely outcome would be. We have the opportunity to provide the NHMRC with a response to the draft report and will be working on this throughout May.

We have had a huge groundswell of support not just from within Australia but also from homoeopaths, medical professionals, institutions and members of the public around the world and feel we are well placed to begin lobbying for the rights of all Australians to choose their health care. We see it as a time for us all to come together – not just homoeopaths – but complementary medicine generally – to fight for this right to choose and also to provide low cost healthcare when the Medicare budget is over stretched. We will be seeking help from members for lobbying and funding and will be contacting members shortly via bulletin. We would like to offer special thanks to Greg Cope, Ana Lamaro and Jane Lindsay for their tireless efforts representing the profession to the media after the draft report was published, and also to Linlee Jordan who agreed at very short notice to an interview by SBS at her clinic in Sydney. Thank you so much!

National Code of Conduct – Unregistered Practitioners

Greg Cope attended the recent forum in Brisbane on this matter. This code was originally in place in NSW only, but now is planned to extend to all states. AHA will be making a submission by the end of April and will keep you informed.

Hobart Conference

Registrations are open and I invite you to join us in Hobart in October. This is a good opportunity for the profession to come together at this time in the history of our profession. It seems appropriate that the theme is “Grass Roots Homoeopathy: Back to Basics” as we think back to Hahnemann and the persecution he and his colleagues suffered and yet homoeopathy has survived and will continue to do so. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Leah Zinn • National President

Dynamic Gemmotherapy - Integrative Embryonic Phytotherapy

Author: Dr Joe Rozencwajg
Third edition 2013
Emyss Publishers
Haarlem, The Netherlands
ISBN/EAN: 978-90-76189-44-4
NUR 873
Hardcover. 373pp.
Price AU$60 approx
Reviewed by Julia M Twohig

Whenever I hear that Dr Joe has published another book I admit to an immediate stirring of interest. Those who have been privileged to hear Joe Rozencwajg speak would know his presentation is usually one which imparts useful, thoughtful wisdom. Though not always strictly homoeopathic, it is always delivered with enthusiasm and vitality. This new, slightly revamped edition of Dynamic Gemmotherapy is presented in much the same style and could be a useful addition to any energetic healing practice.

I suspect I am not the only Australian homoeopath who knows very little about the use of gemmotherapy. The author credits a Belgian practitioner, Dr. Pol Henry with its formulation and of writing the first publication about its uses.

The author gives a clear description of Gemmotherapy, which involves the use of ‘extracts from buds, rootlets, young shoots and the inner bark of roots’. The buds of trees, in particular, are meant to contain high amounts of nucleic acids when compared with mature plant cells, and Rozencwajg likens these to ‘herbal stem cells’.

While acknowledging that Gemmotherapy does not comply with homoeopathic principles, the author suggests the system shares some commonality with the French system of drainage, with the clinical purpose of each remedy to both stimulate and regenerate cells.

By far the largest portion of the book (over 200 pages) is taken up by the Materia Medica, which is limited to fifty-one remedies. Each plant is accompanied by at least one, excellent quality, delightful, coloured photograph. A monograph of each plant follows and includes both indications for use and precautions with some further suggestions about how this therapy might fit with other approaches, including homoeopathy, herbalism, ayurveda, and anthroposophical medicine.

Copious details of research references are supplied for those keen for further exploration. The author uses these remedies in what he refers to as ‘the concentrate’, which I imagine is akin to mother tincture, or in 1X potency and in a much heavier dose than homoeopaths are used to.

Suggested therapeutic applications are then presented in 12 chapters relating to specific body systems. The section on integrated therapies is also presented with an emphasis on therapeutics and how these compare with the other major modalities discussed.

While it is true that many of the clinical treatments presented in Dynamic Gemmotherapy fly in the face of the principles of homoeopathic practice, such as treating the totality and finding the simillimum, I think it would be wrong to discourage dipping into this beautifully bound and presented book. As well as shedding light on another therapeutic approach the text contains much wisdom and good information about potentially useful additions to our Materia Medica. The book concludes with a few brief but nonetheless quite impressive case accounts. It should be pointed out that none of these cases used gemmotherapy in isolation but as part of a complex of approaches. More food, or perhaps I should say ‘gems’ for thought.