

EDITORIAL

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Basic research in Homoeopathy investigates a particular set of questions, chiefly the presence of therapeutic powers of original substances in ultra-high-diluted potencies, their mechanism of action once administered in a biological system, be it human, animal, or plant, both its pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic aspects and the relevance of negative controls in basic researches in order to validate the findings.^[1]

The most common hypothesis to explain the mechanism of action of homoeopathic dilutions refers to “memory of water” effects: under appropriate circumstances, water retains information about substances with which it has previously been in contact and may then transmit that information to presensitized biosystems.^[1] Standard physicochemical techniques, thermoluminescence, Raman and ultraviolet–visible spectroscopy, and other methods have shown that water displays large changes in its physicochemical properties as a function of its history. It remains to be proven whether such changes have the features to account for effects of homoeopathic medicines *in-vivo*.^[2]

The present issue focuses on the research evidences explaining the “similia” principle through experimentation, which has been referred in mainstream biomedicine as hormesis, wherein an originally toxic substance is said to become a stimulating agent at low concentration. In this context, an original article on ‘Protective effect of *zincum metallicum* on rat model of Parkinson’s disease’ is being presented. *Zincum metallicum* produces symptoms given in materia medica which are akin to Parkinson’s disease. The study verifies the usefulness of *Zincum metallicum* in parkinsonism in rat model. Further studies are desirable.^[3]

In another original article, on ‘Anti-candidal activity of homoeopathic drugs: An *in-vitro* evaluation,’ the commonly used drugs in 30C and 200C potencies were tested against human pathogenic *Candida albicans* by comparing the ‘zone of inhibition’ for growth of the fungus in culture plates treated with homoeopathic medicines and culture plates treated with standard antifungal drug ketoconazole (positive control), rectified spirit, and distilled water as control using disc method. *Acid benzoicum*, *Apis mellifica*, *Graphites*, *Kali iodatum*, *Mezereum*, *Petroleum*, *Sepia*, *Silicea*, *Sulphur*, *Sulphur iodatum*, *Tellurium*, and *Thuja occidentalis* in 30C and 200C potencies have variable inhibitory effect against *C. albicans*. Among different drug potencies, *Mezereum* in 200C and 30C potency showed maximum inhibition of growth followed by *kali iodatum* 200C while *Kali iodatum* 30C and *Petroleum* 30C had minimum. The results of these experiments are encouraging and have shown that even potentized drugs have definite inhibitory activity against *Candida*.^[4]

In a review and analysis of Hahnemann’s case books undertaken at the Institute for History of Medicine of Robert Bosch Foundation in Stuttgart, it was found that during later years of his life between 1837 and 1843, he gave about 1836 prescriptions of 35 different remedies in LM potencies

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and he considered LM potencies superior to Centesimal scale.^[5] In this issue, an article on a retrospective study of 50 cases of chronic diseases treated with LM potencies is being published. The results are consistent with the belief that LM potencies are effective but unless further comparative studies are undertaken with appropriate statistical rigor, these potencies cannot be universally recommended.^[6]

Several other articles published in this issue include a review of clinical research work of the Council in asthma^[7] along with some interesting case series on gangrene^[8] which further widens the scope of Homoeopathy in surgical diseases.

Focusing on different aspects of research and bringing it forth to our readers has always been our endeavor, which I hope is fulfilled in this issue too.

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