Press release
from the International Council for
Homeopathy

ICH is the international professional platform representing the
interests of 32 national associations of professional homeopathy
practitioners in 30 Countries

Anti-microbial resistance, bacterial and viral infections and
homeopathy’s potential to help address a growing crisis.

The world is facing a major crisis due to anti-microbial resistance. At the 66th World
Health Assembly of the WHO in Geneva in May 2013 Dr Margaret Chan, Director
General of the WHO in her opening address stated ‘The spread of antimicrobial
resistance is rendering more and more first-line treatments useless. .. With few
replacements in the pipeline, medicine is moving towards a post-antibiotic era in which
many common infections will once again kill’.. We must recognise, and respond to, the
very serious threat of antimicrobial resistance.”

At a side event of the 66th WHA entitled ‘Antibiotic Resistance – a threat to Global Health
Security and a Case for Action’ 12 countries outlined their strategies to address the
problem, strategies that essentially involve: severely reducing antibiotic use in the
humans and animals, preventing drug-resistant microbial infections and researching new
pharmaceutical products. Despite the fact that there is serious doubt about the capacity
of the pharmaceutical industry to develop new antimicrobial products (the last new
antibiotic class was developed in 1987) not one country showed any lateral thinking and
proposed exploring the use of alternative systems of prevention and treatment of
infectious illness such as homeopathy or herbal medicine. This in our view, is a serious
oversight, particularly from those countries such as India and China, both of which have
a strong history of use of such systems.

In the face of the global crisis of antimicrobial resistance far more attention now
needs to be paid to how medicinal systems such as homeopathy and herbal
medicine can play a significant contributing role in combating the crisis and
protecting the power of antibiotics for when then are truly needed.

As far as homeopathy is concerned existing evidence from RCTs and
observational studies shows it can potentially have a frontline role to play in
preventing and treating infectious illness.* (see appendix)

More centrally funded research is now needed to show how homeopathy can
effectively play a role in the future prevention and treatment of infectious illness
thereby helping prevent antimicrobial resistance and preserving antibiotic
effectiveness.

Stephen Gordon
General Secretary,
International Council for Homeopathy
23 May 2013
**Appendix:** Existing research for homeopathy in infectious illness

**A) There is clearly positive RCT research evidence for homeopathy in:**

**Influenza (where antibiotics may be called for in secondary bacterial infectious complications)**


**Seasonal allergic rhinitis (where antibiotics may be called for in secondary bacterial infectious complications)**


**B) There is tentatively positive evidence for homeopathy in:**

**Childhood diarrhea**


**Common cold**


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**Otitis media (acute)**


**Sinusitis**


**Upper respiratory tract infection (URTI)**


NB The above list is not exhaustive and is made with reference to a more extended list of research provided by the Faculty of Homeopathy accessible at: http://www.facultyofhomeopathy.org/research/rcts_in_homeopathy/.