

We don't need another hero!

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"We Don't Need Another Hero" [1] was the [hit theme song](#) [2] performed by [Tina Turner](#) [3] in [Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome](#) [4], a 1985 sci-fi movie. The story was about a post-apocalyptic world representing the timeless and mythical [struggle between Good and Evil](#) [5] and the hope for a better future. Children waited for a messiah, who would lead them back to a peaceful civilization! But the world changed, there was no guide and not even the intended place existed any longer!

*"So, what to do with our lives?
We leave only a mark!
Will our story shine like a light?
Or end in the dark?
Give it all or nothing!
We don't need another hero..."* [2]

Personally, I do not like this sort of futuristic movies. In my opinion, the future will be better than the present, at least for those who currently work for that! Difficulties and falls are not problems, but features of a real world! Not to deal with them is not to be alive either, thus, ["honor life"](#) [6,7].

Recently, someone asked me who the "heroes" of High Dilution research are. This person was not referring to an apocalyptic world, but to the scientific status of this area. Certainly, he did not use the word "hero", but asked about leaders, methods, theoretical backgrounds, aims, etc. Shortly, he was being gently ironic... or quite sarcastic, indeed!

My answer was that the High Dilution community is building an emergent scientific field and to do so, it designs methods, theoretical models, defines working concepts, etc. as an attempt to explain the clinical and experimental evidence. There are many shortcomings and in particular it still lacks a sound framework to explain phenomena. However, this is nothing but making science, with the standard devices and tools science employs to build knowledge. By proceeding in this careful, painstaking and sober manner, sooner or later, it will be found the Archimedes' lever that will rescue it from the backyard of science.

Science is a particular way to conceive of reality and as such, a highly successful one. This, in part is due to the methods and standards it uses. In any scientific field, it is needed a large number of practitioners to suggest, discuss and refine concepts, methods and theories. Science is a collective enterprise carefully built on very sound grounds. After much discussion about the respective weight of reason and experience, it was eventually agreed on that experimental methods, theoretical models, concepts and techniques develop all together as in nonlinear systems. However, timing in science is unpredictable.

It is reasonable to ask: how can HD research be an emergent scientific field, when it lacks a minimum of sound and reliable notions and methods? When it does away with basic concepts, such as Avogadro's limit? Why its community of practitioners is so small and the number of high-quality publications so insignificant? What are the grounds for the expectation of a brighter future? And what can its relation to current science might possibly be? How one might say that, conversely, it is not doomed to disappear?

It must be openly acknowledged that researchers in HD and homeopathy are still unable to give straight answers to the questions posed by science. No wonder, then, that science is not only skeptical, but also dismisses the full project of HD research. Conversely, the HD community wants to be a part of science, it agrees to play by the same rules and hopes to enter in a dialogue, transcending differences. In a way, the HD community is like the orphaned children forsaken by their heroes but who are still hopeful that they will be rescued, even when they do not know the place where they will be taken. Who can be our hero?

*“And I wonder when we are ever gonna change it
Living under the fear 'till nothing else remains
All the children say:
We don't need another hero
We don't need to know the way home
All we want is life beyond, the Thunderdome” [2]*

Science does not belong to anyone. And the timely evolution of science is unpredictable. It is an ever-changing kaleidoscope of frameworks. One cannot predict when Avogadro's Wall will fall, freeing ourselves to cross to a new world. As a fact, I must confess that I am not fully sure that it is an actual barrier, rather than a simple misunderstanding.

HDs seem in contradiction with science. The reason is that the level of dilutions achieved is so high that the notion of matter loses all sense. From a material point of view, a HD is just inert solvent. For this reason, a line of researchers sought to study the properties of the solvent. Alternatively, the focus has been placed on structural features, dynamic behavior and eventually, on hypothetical new quantum effects. All the models proposed until now share two features with standard science: 1) the positing of matter as the ultimate active agent; 2) the inability to explain even the basics of the HD phenomena.

“So, what to do with our lives?” [2]

As a fact, the problem in HD research is to try to cross Avogadro's limit without giving up the notion of matter as active agent, primary cause and the reason behind any effect. Avogadro's limit, as all in science, depends on this notion of matter as the basic underlying fact, a kind of self-sufficient element out of which everything is made, shaped, modeled, understood, foreseen and controlled. For most phenomena, indeed, the approach grounded on this concept of matter is highly successful. We do not need to search too far for examples, since current technology is the best example and is everywhere to be found. On the other hand, that notion of matter becomes a true obstacle when matter itself loses all sense. Certainly, on the grounds of “matter” there cannot be any difference between a homeopathic dilution 30cH and another 100cH. This cannot be conceived of in the terms of amounts of matter.

Furthermore, HDs are strongly related from its own inception to the sciences of living beings. The complexity of living beings does not lend itself easily to approaches grounded on the behavior of matter. At a first and basic level, life is a context-dependent system, where meaningful interactions or relations are the essential components [8,9]. Therefore, we must be ready and open to new approaches when dealing with HD research.

A starting point could be to deflect our attention from matter and focus it on interactions. In this way, rather than dressing the tight clothes of contemporary science, we can try to make them more flexible and expand their boundaries; rather than forcing HD research to adapt to current scientific standards, we can look at science from the perspective of the world of HDs. Perhaps a new panorama of science itself will emerge.

Maybe we do need a new hero. But not to lead us back to the world of matter, but to show us new paths to thread. Such paths might already exist, but if they do, they are hidden to us. Signs are vain when one is blind and closed to new opportunities and possibilities. Perhaps this is one further barrier to acknowledge and

overcome in order to be ready and able to recognize and interpret new signs. Maybe we, ourselves, are our own awaited hero!

Give it all or nothing! And prepare yourself for the next battle! See you in 2011!

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