

Experimental trends

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To create a scientific journal seems to be an easy task! Accordingly some estimations [1], humankind has already published more than 50 million scientific articles from the earliest of times to this day! Considering a more recent period, we are publishing around 1.3 articles every minute and some estimations point to 25,000 active journal titles! Numbers do not lie, but misguided interpretations may lead us to false conclusions!

These fabulous estimations do not concern all scientific fields alike. Some are very intense, while others ... let's say, they are not very active! High Dilution research is an example of an emergent area, still comprising very few journals, which in turn accept also very few articles for publication! Compared to the average, HD is well above!

Many factors contribute to this poor panorama! HD is a transdisciplinary field, thus authors publish in journals corresponding to many different areas. The scientific community involved with HD is small and as a rule, researchers are hired for other purposes and work on HD on the side. The lack of a validated theoretical background makes difficult to design experiments and interpret their results. Not to forget that clinical trials are always polemic!

However, difficulties and limitations do not mean impossibility or academic disability. To research in HDs means to inquire about new models to explain experimental evidences, to challenge usual patterns of reasoning, and to figure out new interpretations of the natural phenomena, including life. There is a small but very valuable scientific community engaged with the HD phenomenon. And also few but very valuable journals devoted to make their findings known. Fortunately, IJHDR belongs with this context.

After only four years, with full adherence to international scientific publishing standards, keeping editorial quality and offering full free open access to both authors and readers, IJHDR ends 2011 indexed in major databases and acknowledged by the academic community, even outside the circle of HD research.

This new issue exemplifies our commitment with science and its practitioners. It is a pleasure for IJHDR Editorial Board to publish an issue with multidisciplinary content, but always focused on HDs to once again awaken the interest of readers to new ideas and debates.

For instance, readers will have an opportunity to witness a new chapter of the ongoing discussion on nanostructures formation induced by serial dilutions and mechanical agitation [2]. Are these nanostructures related to the clinical evidences? Have we found a structural element behind the visible phenomena? To add one more element to ongoing controversies, reader Mendez [3] expresses some concerns regarding the influence of electromagnetic pollution on homeopathic preparations.

Long-term practice enables researchers to refine their intellectual tools to interpret experiments and adjust methods. Endler and Lingg revisit their 20-year experience working with highlands amphibians and present us novel interpretations and methods [4], while Bellavite and collaborators [5] go deep into methodological

aspects on experimental research. How data must be handled in HD experiments? Is reproducibility possible? Is there any logical convergence in results?

More questions: is the principle of therapeutic similitude exclusive to homeopathy? May the phenomena of paradoxical reactions or rebound effects bridge the gap between modern pharmacology and the homeopathic principles? Zulian [6] addresses these points on the grounds of a 14-year pharmacological and clinical research project.

How may homeopathy be made available to all social classes, and optimize its costs and quality? Public or private services? Raman and Manchanda [7] discuss a public-private partnership addressing some lessons learned from a five-year experience in Delhi, India.

Do you believe that a homeopathic biotherapy prepared from non-inactivated live cultures might be hazardous? Lemos and collaborators [8] assessed the use of live-type nosodes to immunize domestic fowl and assessed the results under laboratory conditions.

Thus, this issue of IJHDR brings to its readers rich materials to stimulate serious discussions about HDs. It is a small, but representative sample of the diversity inherent to this subject. Both IJHDR and the HD scientific community are undergoing a process of growth aiming at attaining a higher status among their peers. This process might not yet translate into “statistically significant” results, but the tendency is already visible!

Enjoy IJHDR!

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