

CHALLENGING THE DOSE-RESPONSE DOGMA

FIRENZE
Aula Magna
Polo Didattico Universitario

Saturday 8th April 2006

GENERAL INFORMATION

CONGRESS VENUE

Aula Magna
Polo Didattico Universitario
Viale Morgagni, 40
FIRENZE

INSCRIPTION

Attendance is free, subject to prior booking. Places will be reserved on a first come, first served basis until capacity is reached. Simultaneous translation will be available subject to prior booking of headphones.

The Organisers will send confirmation of bookings. To reserve your place, please completely fill in the attached form and send it to:

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ORGANISERS

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SIOMI
SOCIETA' ITALIANA DI OMEOPATIA
E MEDICINA INTEGRATA

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Registration is free.

Forms should reach our offices by 31/03/2006.

A maximum of 200 participants will be accepted.

FIRST NAME

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POSITION

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Signature Date

PROGRAMME

Moderator:
Pier Francesco Mannaioni

Ore 14.30
Congress opening session
Simonetta Bernardini

Ore 15.00
Edward J. Calabrese
**The effect-inversion principle
(stimulant-inhibitor) in modern
drug-action research models.**

Ore 16.00
Andrea Dei
**The active mechanism of
homeopathic medicines:
a new hypothesis.**

Ore 17.00
Discussion

Ore 17.45
Conclusions
Simonetta Bernardini,
Pier Francesco Mannaioni

Ore 18.00
Coffee break

SPEAKERS

Simonetta Bernardini
Chairman of SIOMI - (Italian Society of Homeopathy
and Integrative Medicine).

Edward J. Calabrese
Professor of Toxicology, University of Massachusetts.
Author of numerous treatises on hormesis, published in
major international scientific journals.

Andrea Dei
Professor of Inorganic Chemistry, University of Florence.
Author of numerous works published in the most prestigious
international Chemistry journals.

Pier Francesco Mannaioni
Professor of Toxicology and Pharmacology, previously Head of the
Department of Toxicology at the University of Florence.
Author of numerous scientific papers published in major
journals. Some of these deal with the pharmacological effect
of ultramolecular dilutions.

CHALLENGING THE DOSE-RESPONSE DOGMA

Contrary to popular belief, the administration of various substances does not induce a response proportionate to the quantity of the substance taken. Indeed, in many cases we see the opposite effect: low dosages produce a stimulatory effect on organisms, whilst at high dosages the substances exert an inhibitory effect. A prime example: dioxine destroys grass, but in small doses it actually helps lawns grow. The mainstays of the view adopted by pharmacology and toxicology in the 20th Century were founded solely on the effect induced by ingesting high dosages, disregarding the huge quantity of experimental data that unequivocally supported the opposite effect, known as "hormesis" (stimulation), induced by low dosages. The "hormesis" phenomenon was well-known at the end of the 19th Century (Arndt-Schulz Law). Conventional pharmacology has always resisted giving consideration to this phenomenon, one reason being that amongst its propounders there was a homeopath, and this law would have supported the possibility of the therapeutic action of homeopathic medicines.

Edward J. Calabrese, Professor of Toxicology at the University of Massachusetts, has been reconsidering this phenomenon for some years, demonstrating that over 4,300 substances display this ambivalent behaviour. Through his numerous articles in specialist and generalist magazines including Nature and Scientist, he is leading a battle with the aim of re-establishing the foundations of toxicology and pharmacology, as reported recently by the highly authoritative publication Science. His vision could undoubtedly lead to a series of studies of huge significance for human health, as well as inducing a re-evaluation of the active mechanism of homeopathic medicine, at least in terms of drugs diluted to molecular concentrations.

Andrea Dei, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Florence, dealt with the question of homeopathy at the SIOMI (Italian Society of Homeopathy and Integrative Medicine) convention "La Complessità in Medicina" (Complexity in Medicine - Florence, March 2004), and has published various articles reflecting on the scientific bases for commonly adopted medical therapies. The professor sustains that the hypotheses proposed to date regarding the active mechanism of homeopathic medicine (e.g. the well-known "memory of water") are scientifically implausible. At this event he will illustrate, for the first time ever, a new theory expected to open the way to new developments in research in this sector.

Pier Francesco Mannaioni, previously Head of the Department of Toxicology at the University of Florence, has published papers in prestigious journals confirming the biological action of ultramolecular dilutions of histamine and anti-IgE serum, supporting the scientific observations of Prof. Benveniste, which had met with considerable opposition.