

Editor's Note



As I write this, I am distracted by the vivid cloak of autumn leaves covering the Japanese Maple outside my clinic window and I'm reminded of the words of American naturalist, Edwin Way Teale, *Change is a measure of time and in the autumn, time seems speeded up. What was is not and never again will be; what is is change.*

This quote encapsulates for me the current situation of homeopathy. We are experiencing rapid change as new remedies are proved and research undertaken in new areas. As a homeopath, I'm thrilled to be part of the evolving tradition that is homeopathy.

In this edition, Paul Briggs, ACCH *Director*, writes of potential changes in store for homeopathy and the bright future that awaits us as homeopaths. He also informs our readers of some of the exciting changes ACCH has experienced already this year.

Committed to the evolution of homeopathy is Jan Scholten and we include a review of his new book *Secret Lanthanides*. Also in this issue, Julia Schiller continues her informative series on plant families, this time studying the Apocynaceae Family, more commonly known as the dogbane and milkweed family.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter. Have a happy and prosperous couple of months.

Kathy

FLYING INTO THE FUTURE

Homeopathy is now the second most recognized and used medical system in the world – so says the World Health Organisation in a recently published article. It's second only to allopathy.

With facts like these to draw from it sometimes might seem that the New Zealand public is slightly behind the 8-ball when it comes to recognition of homeopathy here. Despite this, I feel there has never been a better time to be studying towards a career as a homeopathic health professional in NZ and internationally. The time is fast approaching when homeopathy will be given the recognition it deserves by the government and bodies such as ACC. When that happens, watch us, as an industry, take wings and fly!

Closer to home, ACCH has already been experiencing major changes. Our family of staff and students began the New Year in new premises at 317-319 New North Rd, Kingsland. Both office and classrooms are on the same site.

2006 brings expansion for the college in the form of fortnightly medical science classes. We've also added weekday tutorials to our programme to enable students to stay current with their studies, and provide access to College resources.

Changes are afoot for our senior seminar programme. As part of our commitment to providing a venue for graduate homeopaths to come together to update their knowledge and share experiences, we have restructured the seminar programme in the following way:



Some graduating students from 2005

- s There will be eight seminar days per year, on consecutive Friday and Saturdays.
- s The Friday is primarily for Year 1 and 2 students, however students from all level, and graduates, are welcome to attend this day, if they wish.
- s The Saturday seminar is aimed at the level of graduate homeopaths. Sessions will be designed to extend graduates' knowledge of both philosophy and materia medica. Senior students will attend but the sessions will be set at graduate level.

To cope with the rapid growth college is experiencing, some key staff roles have also evolved. The role of *Principal* is now being shared between two experienced homeopaths and educators, Jeannette Bennett and Kathy Thomas. Ann Gulley, nurse and homeopath, has taken on the position of *Medical Science Coordinator*. Punitha Regunathan has joined the office staff as *Office Assistant*.

As Director of ACCH, I welcome these changes to the college structure because they enable us to provide an even better service to our students and the wider homeopathic community, both in New Zealand and internationally.

Paul Briggs
Director ACCH



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Defining Dogbanes

By Julia Schiller



There are about 2000 species in the Apocynaceae family, which is commonly called the dogbane and milkweed family. Consisting mainly of tropical plants, perhaps the most familiar members of the family are oleander, periwinkle and frangipani. The family achieves maximum diversity in South America and in southern Africa. Apocynaceae usually have milky sap, in fact some species yield an inferior latex. Dogbane species are often poisonous if ingested and several contain cardiac glycosides similar to digitalis.

On page 1002 of *Prisma*, Vermeulen lists 15 species of dogbane known to homeopathy. To Vermeulen's list should be added four known to Clarke as Asclepiadaceae (a family recently subsumed under the Apocynaceae): *Asclepias syriaca* and *tuberosa*, *Calotropis gigantea* and *Gymnema sylvestre*. Very few of these are well known homeopathically; several are known to us by a different name their official botanical nomenclature.

A cursory study of *Apocynum cannabinum*, Oleander, Rauwolfia, Strophanthus and *Vinca minor* revealed a few similarities, but no common sensations. An affinity for the heart and digestive tract is shared by all but Vinca. Oleander and Vinca have an affinity for the scalp. Morrison (p. 278) cites giant flakes of dandruff as a keynote of Oleander. Oedema is another common complaint. In *Apocynum* (and *Asclepias syriaca*) the oedema is caused by kidney failure while in *Strophanthus* heart failure is to blame. Prostration, thirst for cold water and a white coating on the tongue are other possible indicators for the family.

A few of the remedies have unique keynotes. Oleander's headaches are better for crossing the eyes or looking sideways. Oleander is also aggravated by oranges and other citrus or acidic fruits. Vinca's nose reddens when the patient is the least bit angered. Rauwolfia's differentials in cardiac afflictions include Aurum and Lachesis. Because of its ability to cure cases of severe oedema, *Apocynum* has been called a chilly Apis.

Superorder is Apocynaceae's last shared taxon with other homeopathic remedy plants, making it a fairly lone twig on our taxonomic tree. Distant relations include the Rubiaceae and Strychnaceae families and *Gelsemium*.

References:

Clarke, John Henry, *A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica*, B. Jain Publishers, New Delhi: 2000.

Digital Flowers website of Univ of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign: www.life.uiuc.edu/plantbio/digitalflowers/Asclepiadaceae/index.htm

Morrison, Roger, *Desktop Guide to Keynotes and Confirmatory Symptoms*, Hahnemann Clinic Publishing, Grass Valley, CA: 1993.

Vermeulen, Frans, *Prisma*, Emrys Publishers, Haarlem: 2002; *Synaptic Materia Medica 2*, Emrys Publishers, Haarlem: 2003.

Wikipedia.org.: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apocynaceae>

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Frangipani blossom (Jan Zawadzki)

SEMINAR NEWS

The next senior seminar days are:

Friday 31 March and Saturday 1 April.

On Friday Pratibha Dalvi will be running a comprehensive session on *Case Taking and Analysis*.

The *Place of Pathology in Prescribing* is the title of Saturday morning's session run by Niri Pandit.

On Saturday afternoon, Jeannette Bennett will provide an overview of the Scholten seminar..

Both days run from 9am to 4pm. The Saturday seminar is specifically targeted at post-graduate level, although both days will be of value to grads and students alike.

To register in advance, please contact the ACCH office.

Attending the seminars is free to all ACCH students.

Charges to others who attend are as follows: ACCH Graduates: \$15 per day. Other practitioners/students: \$30 for one day or \$50 for both days.

To register, please email or phone the office.

Dates for this year's senior seminars are: March 31 & April 1; May 26 & 27; August 4 & 5; October 27 and 28.

REVIEW

Secret Lanthanides, Jan Scholten

Jan Scholten begins his introduction to his latest book with the sentence, *Every time I discover a new remedy I'm fascinated by it*. The fascination of which he speaks is written into every page of the book and makes it compelling reading.

For the past five years, Scholten has been working to uncover the secrets of the Lanthanides, a group of rare metals hidden amongst the gold series remedies. This book contains the impressive results of his research, although, he is quick to comment, *The study of Lanthanides is work in progress*.

Introductory sections explain how the book was put together. He touches briefly on Sankaran's theories of the seven levels. In the section, *Homeopathy and Science*, Scholten challenges us to consider homeopathy as a science.

Parts Two and Three cover the themes of the Lanthanide remedies, followed by a presentation of each of the Lanthanides and their salts. Cases are included. These two parts are informative and enlightening. The data is laid out in a manner reminiscent of *Homeopathy and the Elements*, with reference to stages and close remedies.

In Part Four, the author describes the provings - all of which were meditative or dream provings - after a provocative discussion about the pros and cons of such provings. He cautions the reader to use the proving information *with care*.

A number of invaluable tables and charts are provided in the addenda to aid our understanding of the periodic table, the stages and series. He includes variations on charts provided in *Homeopathy and the Elements*, as well as new ones, incorporating miasm theory and illustrating new spiral versions of the stages. An expanded index of terms that are pointers to individual remedies follows the charts. At 512 pages, this book is crammed full with material. It challenges us, as homeopaths, to continue evolving our craft; and provides us with the tools to do so.

Opening *Secret Lanthanides* is like opening Pandora's Box with a major exception. Doing so, doesn't release pain and sickness into the world - rather, it releases the ability to heal the pain and sickness already in the world.

Kathy Thomas



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