

Superstructure series

Science catches up with homœopathy

Carol Boyce

Abstract

New research on succussed dilutions and cell communication and repair provides a fresh understanding of the mechanism of potentisation.

Throughout homœopathy's history, the concept of potentisation has been a continual stumbling block. Homœopaths have continued to use homœopathy in the quiet confidence that quantum physics would eventually explain their work and the satisfaction that in the meantime the clinical results speak for themselves. Homœopathy (potentisation in particular) has found itself the subject of intense and rising criticism; but a series of scientific discoveries is at last providing the long-awaited answers.

A common thread through this scientific story: almost without exception, every scientist involved has worked in isolation and suffered a combination of ridicule, sacking from a high-status position, having tenure severed, being refused publication in prominent journals despite impeccable scientific method, and languishing in relative obscurity, sometimes for decades. Many of them had families to support, and the loss of their jobs and the response of their peers was devastating.

The best "homœopathic" example of this was Jacques Benveniste, on track for a Nobel prize when his life took an unexpected turn with his accidental, and somewhat unwilling, discovery of an anomaly of water. *Nature* [1], one of the most prestigious journals in the world, grudgingly published his paper, but within weeks an investigative team from the journal arrived to dispute his results. That investigative team, comprising a journalist, a quackbuster, and a magician, changed Benveniste's protocols, carried out the experiments themselves, despite not being qualified

in the specific techniques used, and then pronounced Benveniste's results a "delusion" [2]. In the ensuing scandal, Benveniste lost his tenure, his status, and his research funding; but, being a true scientist, he was still intrigued by his findings and did not stop his experiments until his (premature) death in 2004.

Madeleine Ennis at Queen's University Belfast, and a Pan European research team in four separate labs across the continent, impeccably repeated Benveniste's experiments, including an additional series using an automated counting protocol because she refused to believe the first set of results. Finally she was forced to admit: "The results compel me to suspend my disbelief and to start searching for rational explanations for our findings" [3].

The popular theories of cell communication emanate from the mid 20th century when biochemistry came of age and the "lock and key" behavior of hormones was discovered. Biology has largely been satisfied with this explanation: you are threatened, your adrenals pump out adrenaline, and your body shifts into fight-or-flight mode. What is not sufficiently clear in this model, however, is how this happens throughout the body in many tissues and organs, seemingly both instantaneously and simultaneously. Surely some other mechanism apart from simple biochemical attraction must be at work?

As Lynne McTaggart describes in her book *The Field* [4]: "Each cell undergoes on average, some 100,000 chemical reactions per second — a process that repeats itself

simultaneously across every cell in the body." When there are unimaginable numbers of reactions taking place at once, timing is everything, and the accepted explanation does not hold up to close scrutiny.

In his work on bio-photons and carcinogenic substances, Fritz Albert Popp discovered that carcinogens had the ability to scramble light of the specific wavelength of 380 nanometres. On further investigation, he found that the specific frequency of the cellular "photo-repair" mechanism, not yet understood but accepted by the scientific community at large, was also 380 nanometres. The carcinogen was interfering with the ability of the cell to repair itself.

Popp had found his life's work.

Bio-photons are coherent — which is to say they are like trillions of tuning forks resonating in exact synchronised frequency. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts, which behave as one giant subatomic particle: the more coherence, the better the communication between them, so that what happens to one will affect all the others simultaneously.

The research by Popp and the work done subsequently by a number of scientists including Japanese physicist Kunio Yasue go a long way to support this as the means by which cell communication takes place. Yasue found that water molecules are implicated in a process called "super-radiance", wherein discordant energy (i.e. of mixed frequencies) is organised into coherence [5], pointing to water as a very specific conductor of a molecule's unique frequency and therefore to a method by which the

molecules within cells (and therefore cells themselves) can communicate with each other. Furthermore, succussion seems to make this process faster and more efficient.

The implications for homeopathy are clearly exciting. The unique frequency of the material in the potentised remedy may serve to re-organise the discordant energy of the surrounding molecules into coherence. Since water is present throughout the body, this coherence, in a quantum sense, would literally be everywhere at once. From a homeopathic point of view, we might then expect the consequences of that same coherence to filter through all levels, mentally, emotionally, and eventually physically.

In their research into the structure of water and the biological action of ultra-dilute water remedies, Emeritus Professor of Materials Science, Rostrum Roy et al. report that, whilst not revealing anything about clinical efficacy, it “does definitively demolish the objection against homeopathy, when such is based on the wholly incorrect claim that since there is no difference in composition between a remedy and the pure water used, there can be no differences at all between them.” They showed that it is the structure and not the composition of a substance that (largely) controls its properties, and that therefore the structure of a high-dilution remedy dictates its properties and not the chemical composition itself. Thus he explained how a homeopathic medicine continues to retain the properties of the initial substance long after Avogadro’s number has been exceeded in the dilution process.

Roy et al. go on to say that the possibility of an ultra-high-dilution effect has been rejected on invalid grounds and that “this constitutes an excellent example of the common error in rejecting new scientific discoveries by using the absence of evidence as evidence for absence” [6].

Swiss physicist Louis Rey, in his work in thermoluminescence, demonstrated that data obtained from homeopathically prepared ultra-high dilutions of lithium and sodium chloride are reproducibly different from pure water diluted with itself, and found that these characteristics remained even when the original material was no longer present [7].

And in 2005, Tschulakow et al.

put together the bio-photon emission and bioluminescence work of Popp and Rey and others and published a study in which they proved conclusively that “... there is a clear difference between succussed and unsuccussed water” [8]. They went on to attempt an explanation of succussion according to other results found by Popp in 2000 [9]. Solitons, discovered in water more than a hundred years ago, are created by succussion. They remain in the liquid in which they are formed, as coherent vibrations, acting as the information carriers even after serial dilution. In short, they provide an explanation of the “memory of water” that Benveniste and others have observed.

But the researchers go further and postulate the possible action of the remedy based on the solitons as information carriers: “Homeopathy could then be explained in terms of the remedy-specific modulation of the solitons in succussions. They may work then as the information carriers of the substance-specific modulations of the soliton interactions induced by shaking. The mechanism could then be described in terms of the medicines’ resonance absorption of the similar, but “wrong” and long-lasting, vibrations that were induced by the original disease state.” It takes a while to fully comprehend their work, but we surmise that they are attempting a quantum explanation of the Law of Similars!

Returning to Popp and his work on photo-repair: it is also well-documented from biological laboratory experiments that if a cell, including its DNA, is massively damaged by UV light, the damage can rapidly be repaired by subjecting the cell to a very weak intensity of light of the same wavelength.

Another nail went into the “homeopathy is placebo” coffin in 2006. A group of physiologists and biophysicists at Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington DC, ran a series of in vitro trials using a number of different homeopathic medicines with prostate cancer and breast cancer cell lines. They also repeated the trials in vivo with mice. They measured the anti-proliferative effects and found that “(the) biologic effect was (i) significantly stronger in Sabal serrulata 200c than in controls and (ii) specific to human prostate cancer. Sabal serrulata should thus be further investigated as

a specific homeopathic remedy for prostate pathology” [10].

The jury may still be out on the exact mechanism of the resonance transfer. From a hard science perspective, however, these are all highly accomplished scientists, many of them at the top of their fields, and there is already plenty of evidence for the “implausible” medicinal effects of homeopathy. The issue of potency at least can finally be put to rest for anyone who takes the time to read the available research. Surely, the Law of Similars cannot be far behind.

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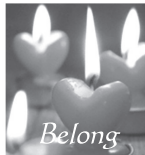
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9. Popp F.A. and Chang J.-J. Mechanism of interaction between electromagnetic fields and living systems. *Science in China (Series C)* 2000; 43:507-18
10. Maclaughlin B.W. et al. Effects of homœopathic preparations on human prostate cancer growth in cellular and animal models. *Integr Cancer Ther* 2006; 5:362.

Carol Boyce's biographical details appear overleaf.

Who said it?

"It has often been said and demonstrated that Homœopathy is woman's best friend. It respects her modesty, preserves her womanhood, relieves her of the many ailments peculiar to her sex and habits, and does it all more pleasantly. It might be parenthetically suggested that much of the suffering of woman arises from her habit of life and obedience to the demands of Dame Fashion."

First correct answer to the editor will be published in *Similia's* next edition.

The last "Who said it?" did not receive a correct answer. The nearest answer came from Susan Jack, who surmised that the author was Jacques Benveniste; the context of the quote was in fact the Benveniste affair, as the hounding of the late Monsieur Benveniste came to be known. The author was Michel Schiff, writing in *The memory of water: Homœopathy and the battle of ideas in the new science*, London: Thorsons, 1994.

CORRECTIONS

Misplacement of the table on page 18 in "Implausible: The history of homœopathy in Tasmania", part 1, in *Similia's* December 2006 edition created discontinuities in each column. To make sense of the page, read the first column to the line ending "1932"; read the other columns to the same depth on the page; then proceed to finish each column in turn.

The December 2006 edition of *Similia* was not printed (as stated) on 50% recycled paper.

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