

# Witt / Albrecht

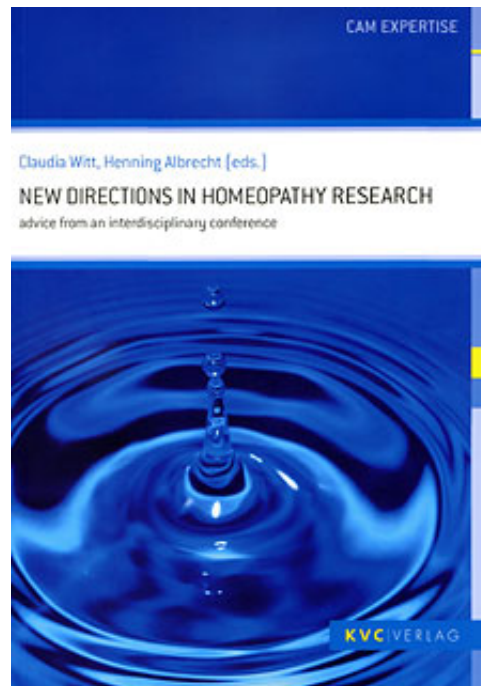
## New Directions in Homeopathy Research

Reading excerpt

[New Directions in Homeopathy Research](#)

of [Witt / Albrecht](#)

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## Preface

In 1808, Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy, began to call the law of similars a "law of nature" - a provocative and controversial statement. 200 years later, the discussion is still as controversial as it was then, now complemented by inner homeopathic polemics and arguments. It has, therefore, become necessary to define homeopathy's "state of the art".

To name only a few of the urgent questions: Does homeopathy exist at all? How about the state of research on homeopathy? What does the history of homeopathy teach us with regard to research? Which scientific questions should be pursued predominantly?

Professor Claudia Witt, holder of the Chair for Complementary Medicine endowed by the Karl und Veronica Carstens Foundation and Vice Director of the Institute of Social Medicine, Epidemiology and Health Economics at the Charite University Medical Center in Berlin, met this need by organizing a memorable symposium to define homeopathy's state of the art. The symposium took place in Berlin in March 2008. Samuel Hahnemann himself was empirical scientist in more than one field as well as practicing physician. The symposium's list of invitees consequently included scientists from different fields of research as well as practitioners.

True to the Carstens Foundation's wish to document and publish, even if the insights are uncomfortable or "painful", the results of this symposium are presented as the first volume of a new book series called CAM EXPERTISE, published in the Carstens Foundation's own publishing house, the KVC Verlag.

As a participant of the symposium I gained the insight that interdisciplinarity is especially useful for future research on homeopathy. As Chairman of the Karl und Veronica Carstens Foundation's board I am glad, on the one hand, about Professor Witt's determination to fulfil the mandate of her endowed chair; together with a number of co-authors she compiled a book containing a solid and commented version of the

state of research on homeopathy. On the other hand, I cannot ignore the fact that the need for future research arising from the results of the symposium is not to be met by private research funding alone.

I sincerely hope that the scientific impact of the present publication will be similar to the pictures from Chinese TV depicting surgery under acupuncture analgesia which have tremendously influenced world-wide research on acupuncture and pain.

Laubach, June 2009

Dr. med. Michael K. H. Elies



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