



Where sensory knowledge ends,  
That is where the gateway is located  
Which opens the realities of life  
To soul existence;  
The soul creates the key  
When it grows strong  
In the battle which cosmic powers  
Fight on their own ground  
With human forces;  
When through itself it drives out  
The sleep which envelops forces of knowledge  
With the night of the spirit  
At the limits of its senses.  
Rudolf Steiner, Vienna, 6 May 1915, GA 40

## Newsletter for the co-workers of the anthroposophic medical movement Whitsun 2017



Pictures (left to right): 1. Peonies in front of the Goetheanum, looking at the chimney of the Heizhaus 2017; 2. Working meeting of the Care 1 Group focusing on pregnancy, birth and early childhood. Living with disability; 3. International Postgraduate Medical Training/IPMT: seminar in Vinnytsia, Ukraine, May 2017

## Dear co-workers and friends of the Medical Section and everyone else interested in it!

We send very warm thoughts and greetings for Whitsuntide! Whitsun is the archetypal image of community building which no longer arises from hereditary affiliations or emotional connections but out of spiritual inspiration. The hereditary affiliation with a community belongs to the past, emotional connections and relationships are realised in the present, whereas the inner experience of spiritual insight points to what lies in the future.

The Whitsun happening – the flame-like experience of the "Holy Spirit" – is closely connected with a new form of community building which is not based on blood kinship or an emotional relationship. The apostles were not perfect human beings. Peter's errors and denials are described in detail by the evangelists. Their community had its foundation in the future, in their spiritual mission, and with the Whitsun happening they became able to recognise it consciously and draw strength for action and healing from it. This image says at the same time: real spiritual insight opens the path across the threshold, enables us to build future-oriented communities out of inner strength and knowledge and serve human beings who are ill. Recovery and health are strongly dependent on whether we experience and feel the support of dependable social relationships.

A therapeutic community creates a special type of strength which reinforces its therapeutic activity. Com-

munity hospitals carry such spiritual efficacy of community building in their name, therapeutic centres and therapeutic collegiums take effect through them.

The intensive work which has started on our CARE areas [www.medsektion-goetheanum.org/en/home/care-areas/](http://www.medsektion-goetheanum.org/en/home/care-areas/) supports not just specialist work contexts but also places of social and therapeutic community building across professional groups. It aims thereby to develop this spiritual quality in working together and to make the grown potential of Anthroposophic Medicine visible and useful for many people.

The Ukraine in south-eastern Europe is a country shaken by war, fear and economic crisis. The International Postgraduate Medical Training/IPMT in the western Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia was shaped by workshops on nursing and external treatments, paediatrics and anthroposophic medicines. The basic question: "What can we build on in this crisis?" had its response in the reflection each evening on the Foundation Stone Meditation which it became possible to experience as a foundation stone in the heart which is indestructible from the outside. A special strength came from those physicians, special needs teachers and therapists who are developing therapeutic and special needs communities and from the young group of people who organise and enable this IPMT under difficult circumstances.

A special event at the start of May was the World Con-

gress of Integrative Medicine & Health in Berlin attended by approx. 800 people (see News section). Many medical approaches which see themselves as belonging to the great spectrum of integrative medicine came together and reported about their practice and research. For Anthroposophic Medicine, events were held on antibiotic resistance and how to deal with fever, on oncology and art therapy. A widening cultural stream for a change in medicine is developing also in this field. Integrative medicine currently sees itself as a combination of best practice in various therapeutic procedures. In future, so we hope, the consciously endeavoured integration of the human constitutional elements, which might still be in development, have been shocked or damaged, will grow in importance: illness is an expression of disintegration, recovery and healing of the integration of the human constitutional elements.

Anthroposophic Medicine celebrates its 100th birthday in 2020: In 1920, the first medical lecture cycle was given by Rudolf Steiner in Dornach which developed an enormous germinal force in the the following 100 years: Fundamentally new aspects about the theory of the heart, cancer and mistletoe therapy, the external treatments, oil dispersion baths, medicines and their potentiation, anamnesis questions and dentistry have grown enormously in influence and have provided the basis for many medical specialisms and therapeutic professions.

The Rudolf Steiner Nachlassverwaltung will republish this course in a newly revised version. In addition, the publication of a supplementary volume is in preparation with the involvement of the Medical Section which will include these numerous developments and validations since then. We would like at this point already to draw your attention and invite you to the study conference for all the professional groups on the lecture cycle "Introducing Anthroposophical Medicine – GA 312" from 22 to 24 January 2018 at the Goetheanum.

Work on the eurhythmy therapy course in combination with the "Illness and Therapy" lecture cycle will therefore be postponed.

With warm greetings

*Matthias Girke, Georg Soldner*

## News

Statement from the International Federation of Anthroposophic Medical Associations (IVAA) on the globally significant increase in antibiotic resistance: <https://goo.gl/9Evj8w>

All abstracts of the World Congress of Integrative Medicine & Health are available online: <https://goo.gl/UOyH3P>

Dr med. Henrik Szőke was awarded a PhD by the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Pécs (Hungary) on 2 May 2017. The synopsis of his dissertation is available here: <https://goo.gl/ezyxIP>

The Berlin publisher Salumed Verlag, based at the Havelhöhe Community Hospital, is offering books for free download on the following subjects: home care, burnout and medicinal plants, work results of the Bad Boll Medical Seminar, basic presentations from the physician Heinz-Hartmut Vogel (1914–1995) and the recently completed dissertation of Paul Werthmann on the application of Cognition Based Medicine (CBM) to mistletoe

therapy in cancer. Thanks to funding from the Stuttgart Christophorus Foundation, the book "Schöpferisch pflegen" (Creative Nursing) by Ada van der Star is also available worldwide in Spanish free of charge as a typeset PDF. [www.salumed-verlag.de/kostenlose-downloads.html](http://www.salumed-verlag.de/kostenlose-downloads.html)

Invitation to the communication conference for the world of non-profit and charitable organisations, a platform for exchanging experiences, further training and networking. Experienced practitioners offer their expertise in lectures, workshops and advisory sessions in Bochum from 3.–4.11.2017. [www.oeffentlich-wirken.de](http://www.oeffentlich-wirken.de)

18 hours of live theatre: this summer the Faust Ensemble, rooted in the over eighty-year tradition of productions at the Goetheanum, will perform the whole of "Faust 1 and 2 unabridged". It is a rare opportunity worldwide to experience this classic of world literature in this way.

<https://goo.gl/mkEzOm>

## Book recommendations

Michaela Glöckler. Was ist Anthroposophische Medizin? Wissenschaftliche Grundlagen, Therapeutische Möglichkeiten, Entwicklungsperspektiven. Verlag am Goetheanum, Dornach 2017. <https://goo.gl/XB2K5v>

The book "Internal Medicine" by Matthias Girke may be obtained through the Akademie für Anthroposophische Medizin, Havelhöhe/DE. The order form is here:

<https://goo.gl/T9Gxxi>

## Events & dates

**16–18.6.2017**

Conference of the School of Spiritual Science on pastoral medicine. Berlin

<https://goo.gl/2X6mR9>

**25–30.6.2017**

Medical study course at the Goetheanum, intensive week

<https://goo.gl/vCZXmd>

**8–11.9.2017**

Teach the Teacher in Anthroposophic Medicine.

<https://goo.gl/OS75p6>

**14–17.9.2017**

International annual conference of the Medical Section

<https://goo.gl/OS75p6>

Events of the Young Medics Forum

<https://goo.gl/7PxnHO>

Here you can see our IPMTs in 2017

<https://goo.gl/UEehnh>

Events of the Medical Section

<https://goo.gl/OS75p6>



News and layout: *Heike Sommer*  
Dornach, Whitsun 2017

The next Newsletter will be published at the end of August.