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MERRY CHRISTMAS



 **The Society of Homeopaths**
representing professional homeopaths

Leading Edge



Education Dept Issue: 57

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Student Workshop Success

On the 16th September, the Society was delighted to host a free student workshop ahead of the main conference in Nottingham.

Although we advertised widely, we were unsure as to how many students would be willing and able to take time out to support the event, so we were delighted to welcome 25 students who represented most of our recognised colleges, along with a fair representation from student members attending non-recognised colleges too.



The agenda included a morning of interactive sessions with both Society staff and Directors, who hosted a Q&A engagement session where students were asked to feed their thoughts about how best students can be supported by their membership body.

Internationally renowned speakers Erki Van Woensel and Anne Schadde divided the afternoon sessions into two presentations. The bespoke lecturers pitched perfectly for their student audience and kept the room gripped and inspired.

The feedback from the session was so positive, that the commitment to repeat a similar free event next year was an easy decision. The Society would like to pass on our thanks to all those who took time out to attend the event and we are hopeful that next year the numbers will be even greater.

"Loved the speakers but also liked meeting people from the SOH, it genuinely felt like you were interested and that the society is moving forwards positively and updating".

"Brilliant day, can't imagine how it could be better"

"Great taster and introduction to methods at a student level"

"Exceeded my expectations, so glad I came"

"Inspirational speakers, great networking opportunity"



SAVE THE DATE

Don't Miss Out!

Save the date for the next **FREE** student event to be held on **Monday, 4th December, 2017** in London.

More details to follow in due course.

Annual Reviews

You should have received your annual review for 2016-17. Following positive feedback from last year's reviews, you will see that we have decided to stay with the same format, albeit with the addition of any action points from the previous report which have been added to the top of the form. We hope this supports you in both as a reminder and also to allow you the opportunity of feeding these actions into your review to demonstrate any developments within these areas. The deadline for completion of the review is **Friday, 10th February, 2017**.



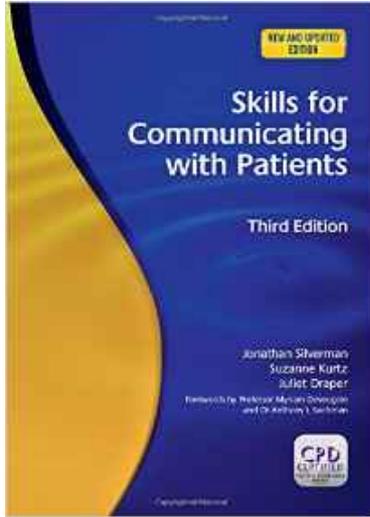
Stuck for Christmas Gift Ideas? Then you might find this book review by one of our Education Consultant's, Alison Fixsen, helpful.

Skills for Communicating with Patients (2013) 3rd Edition

As homeopaths, we pride ourselves on our non-judgmental and patient centred approach with patients. This does not mean however that we have nothing more to learn about skillful case taking and communication skills. Having spent two decades trying to perfect the communication art, time spent on a counseling course opened my eyes to the fact that there are many ways of working with my patients and that, just because they are well used, my tried and tested methods can always do with some refreshment.

'Skills for communicating with patients' by Silverman, Kurtz and Draper is a textbook now in its third edition, which is certified by the CPD commission service. Although largely aimed at those training or working in mainstream medicinal care, there is much that the learning homeopath can gain from reading selected parts of this volume. Areas covered in this work include a general overview of communication skills, problem integration, information gathering, how to structure an interview, relationship building, shared decision-making and closing a session. Other areas covered included cultural and social diversity, age-related issues, communicating with children and parents, conducting telephone issues and working with patients with mental health problems.

Some of the content of the book may be unsurprising for the holistic practitioner, for instance the authors place



a strong emphasis on understanding the patient's perspective and establishing a shared decision-making process. On the other hand, chapters, such as building relationships and information gathering could be very useful for the student who is undertaking clinical practice. As a lecturer and clinical supervisor, I have appreciated the diagrams and models included in the book, and have brought up questions posed by the authors in various student discussion groups.

In summary, I consider this book to be a useful resource for students and clinicians from most health professions. Its clear approach to core communication skills makes it a possible textbook to include on a homeopathy college syllabus from year two and above.

Skills for Communicating with Patients 3rd Edition, by Jonathan Silverman, Suzanne Kurtz & Juliet Draper is published by **Radcliffe Publishing, RRP £34.99** and can be found at most major bookshops.

WANTED: Contributions From Students To The Journal

We are keen to give Students a voice in the Society Journal. If any of your students would like to contribute, we would love to hear from them.

In the first instance, please contact our editor, Tina Burchill at journal_editor@homeopathy-soh.org



A PDF version of this issue of Leading Edge is also available to download from our website:

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