Letter to the Editor of The Times
16th April 2020

Dear Sirs

I write in response to the report, Homeopaths ‘risking lives with bogus coronavirus treatments’ and the Leading Article, The Times view of homeopaths promoting bogus coronavirus treatments: Junk Medicine – The Times Monday 13th April. It is hard to believe that such an august title as The Times would publish articles so lacking in balance, objectivity and factual accuracy.

The claim that “hundreds of homeopathic practitioners across the country are promoting treatments against Covid-19 infection” is just not true. Firstly, homeopathic practitioners treat patients, not conditions. When a patient consults a registered homeopath, their unique set of symptoms is considered before any homeopathic treatments are recommended. What many homeopaths are finding is that, during this most unusual period, they can help patients with a range of physical symptoms, as well as anxiety issues and insomnia. Should a patient believe that he or she has contracted the virus, then homeopaths will be the first to recommend following the advice provided by the NHS.

Your articles go on to state various untruths including that “there is no evidence that homeopathy is effective”. The “report by the House of Commons select committee on science and technology in 2010” to which you refer is out of date and was proved to be incorrect. Professor Robert Hahn, an independent researcher in Sweden, wrote in his 2013 meta-analysis: “To conclude that homeopathy lacks clinical effect, more than 90% of the available clinical trials had to be disregarded.”

I would also direct you to the Homeopathy Research Institute an organisation founded by the physicist, Dr Alexander Tournier who previously worked as an independent researcher for Cancer Research UK. The HRI conducts and promotes high-quality scientific research into the efficacy of homeopathy and its website has a free database of the latest trails and studies: www.hri-research.org

In this time when we are facing a worldwide health crisis, we should work together for the greater good. Complementary medicine, including homeopathy, has much to offer. I would ask you to desist from making unfounded and inflammatory statements, which mislead the public, particularly during this period of great vulnerability.

Yours faithfully

Richard O’Quinn
Interim Chief Executive

Sent by email to letters@thetimes.co.uk