

■ SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE



Medical Section

Celebrating the future

In 2020, the Medical Section celebrated the centenary year of Anthroposophic Medicine and offered widely noticed contributions in relation to the Sars-CoV pandemic.

At the very centre of this intensive and eventful year stood the hundredth anniversary of Anthroposophic Medicine: around 800 people attended the main celebration at the Goetheanum, witnessing contributions on the development, current situation and perspectives of Anthroposophic Medicine. Giovanni Maio from Germany, a professor of medical ethics, spoke of the importance of 'caring' in medicine, pointing out that Anthroposophic Medicine was not a complementary medicine but "the medicine of the future." The group of young people who had prepared this conference attracted a young audience to the Goetheanum: a wonderful birthday gift for Anthroposophic Medicine and its development in the next hundred years!

The Coronavirus pandemic was of course another central concern: we published contributions to gaining an understanding of the illness and on therapies applied in medical practices and hospitals. These contributions were broadcast in writing and as videos and met with much public interest.

Anthroposophic colleagues from, among other countries, the US, South America, Israel and Europe published scientific papers (26 were added to the international database Medline in the last twelve months) on aspects such as treating respiratory infections without antibiotics, mistletoe therapy in oncology, eurythmy therapy, art therapy, the use of Bryophyllum in obstetrics, anthroposophic pain therapy, body therapy and medical ethics. We are looking forward to continued and undiminished strength in helping our patients. | *Matthias Girke, Georg Soldner, Goetheanum*

Web medsektion-goetheanum.org

Image Annual Conference, photo: Ariane Totzke



Council for Inclusive Social Development

Staying mobile

The work of the anthroposophic special needs teachers and social therapists was devoted to relationships, including during the video conferences that were necessary due to Coronavirus.

'Staying mobile and welcoming change' – maybe this motif was our greatest common denominator this year, in the global movement, in each of our 50 partner countries, for more than 1000 organizations and for everyone involved, with or without special needs.

We used the time to look for new possibilities of working on relationships and were not shy to use the situation as a chance for learning. This meant that we had to embrace the possibilities that digitalization offered us, which challenged us, but it was also helpful and has ultimately cast a new light on worldwide participation.

Our sphere of contact has widened and become more communal because the real meeting place is now body-less and therefore no longer involves travelling. The barriers we encounter are different ones and can be overcome given the right support.

Special mention should be made of the fact that we keep growing. Every year we have new projects, initiated by committed and active parents and colleagues, who experience our network as a place of belonging.

The highlight in 2020 was our first autumn conference with livestreaming from the Goetheanum's Main Auditorium and interpretation into eight languages. The lectures can be accessed on our website. Different kinds of work groups were on offer – in-person, hybrid and purely digital ones. We had hoped for 800 people, were glad that 230 came; a further 350 took part online. | *Sonja Zausch, Goetheanum*

Web inclusivesocial.org

Image Labyrinth, Foto: Xue Li



Natural Science Section

Understanding life

In 2021 the Natural Science Section will celebrate the centenary of the precursor of today's Research Institute, in which the search to understand life played a prominent part.

In 2021 it will be a hundred years since Guenther Wachsmuth and Ehrenfried Pfeiffer founded the Research Laboratory at the Goetheanum. The two scientists tried to follow Rudolf Steiner's indication and isolate the 'etheric' in a vacuum bell jar. In his search for a 'reagent' for the etheric Ehrenfried Pfeiffer developed a sensitive method - copper chloride crystallization - that could provide answers to questions of food quality, for instance, or to questions regarding the disposition of individuals towards certain illnesses. Further development of the method revealed that life processes cannot be verified by means of a reagent but through inner observation that makes it possible to inwardly link and describe temporal developmental processes.

The biography of this laboratory will be a subject of the next Evolving Science Conference in October 2021. How have ideas and methods and the question of how to understand life changed? Goetheanism is the leading science for this and it is first and foremost a natural science. But it can help to study life and life processes of all kinds, including in the legal, economic and spiritual life.

By including the inner perspective, Goetheanism can contribute not only to an understanding of the earth and of plants and animals but it can also be used to study fourfold human nature – the physical, etheric, astral and 'I' organizations. Since these 'bodies' are both sensory and supersensory, Goetheanism can build a bridge between natural and spiritual science. | *Matthias Rang und Johannes Wirz, Goetheanum*

Web www.forschungsinstitut.ch

Image Blätterreihe, Foto: Sofia Lismont