

Centre for Integrative Medical Training  
In Association with the Centre for Integrative Care &  
The Academic Department, Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine



# Foundation Course in Medical Homeopathy

A Blended Course in Homeopathic Medicine for Healthcare Professionals

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Part 3.1

## **Introduction:**

Most schools of homeopathic medicine place Hahnemann's *Organon* at the centre of their first year studies and continue to make reference to this seminal work throughout their programmes.

At the level of the Primary Care Certificate we do not expect detailed knowledge of the *Organon* and it is not part of the examinable content.

A good understanding of the *Organon* nevertheless helps to underpin every aspect of homeopathic theory and practice and we encourage you to reflect on each statement of philosophy and practice as your studies progress.



A historical outline by Dr Gabriela Rieberer is provided overleaf and you can view her introductory lecture here:

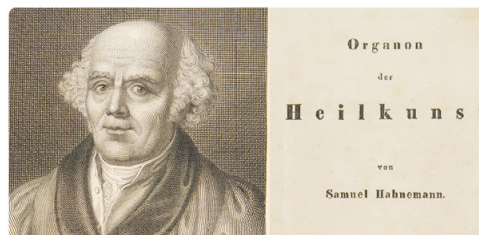
[https://youtu.be/HOgBK\\_eCMRA](https://youtu.be/HOgBK_eCMRA)

## *An Introduction to the Organon* - Dr Gabriela Rieberer

### What's in a Word?

*Organon*:

Organ in Greek; organum (Latin)



a morphic unit, a structurally united connection of cells that is normally capable of coherently exercising a specific life-furthering function for the benefit of the greater whole.

### The Title

“*Organon der Heilkunst*” is the title from the second to the sixth edition of Hahnemann’s *Organon*, this literally translated means “*Organon of the Healing Art*”. It is important to be aware of this, as English translations have been titled “*Organon of Medicine*” or most recently “*Organon of the Medical Art*”. Hahnemann refers to the practitioner of homeopathy as a healing artist, hence the importance of understanding the meaning of the title.

The first edition was published under the name “*Organon der rationellen Heilkunde*” literally meaning “*Organon of rational Medicine*”. The change of title is more than merely a change of words and there has much theorising associated with trying to explain what Hahnemann’s intention was.

Clearly he has emphasised the healing art in contrast to rational medicine, which he explains in his introduction. He proclaims that homeopathy is a healing art according to clear principles which rational medicine could not claim.

### First Edition

The first edition was published in 1810, fourteen years after Hahnemann’s ‘China experiment’. Its predecessor was an essay titled “*Heilkunde der Erfahrung*” (Medicine of experience) which was published in 1805.

In this essay we can find many of the ideas that Hahnemann expands on the *Organon*. The first edition spanned 271 paragraphs, that contained the principles and application of homeopathic medicine.

### **The Importance of the Organon for Clinical Practice**

As stated above the Organon contains largely practical information. Hahnemann in all his publications put a greater emphasis on practice and less on theory. In logical sequence Hahnemann takes the reader through case taking, case management, remedy administration and handling of difficult cases amongst other topics.

In many respects Hahnemann was far ahead of his time or even timeless in his theoretical explanations of disease, ie he assumed infectious agents, inherited characteristics. In other areas Hahnemann's theories are out-dated and can no longer be seen as valid with the insights we have gained into the origin of disease, ie the cause of measles a being through an invisible non-material agent. We now know that measles is transmitted by a virus, we also know that not only the virus is the cause of the disease but the susceptibility of the host plays an equally important role. Thus Hahnemann was not entirely wrong in assuming a dynamic process in disease.

Studying and understanding the Organon will not only enhance but also improve homoeopathic practice.

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