



## *Newsletter No 6- 08*

May 22<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Schöneck

Dear CAM – supporters,

at an unofficial discussion in Brussels five weeks ago, the representative of the EU-Commission recognized ANME e.V.'s critical position on **Evidence Based Medicine**. When we put the topic of “EBM” onto the agenda of the 2. ANME-Symposium in 2006, there were few critics. In January of 2008, “Buendnis90/Die Gruenen” and representatives of conventional medicine started becoming critical as well. This is a success for us! Nevertheless, the path to getting national or European recognition is still long and the longer the present EBM-practices permeate all guidelines and laws, the more difficult the situation becomes for CAM.

The strategy of “**risk-avoidance and fundamental suspicion of harmfulness**” could eventually bring an end to all non-EBM-proven therapies and remedies. The current judicial regulations, in force for the last four years, requiring **a burden of proof of harmlessness**, forces not only CAM into an on-going defence of justification (misuse of consumer protection); in the end only those who have the financial means to provide the proof can survive (see the attachment “EU-SPOTLIGHT”).

Professor Sackett, the spiritual father of **EBM**, distanced himself from this “child” a long time ago. “It wasn’t meant like that; a wealth of misunderstandings...” It also became clear at this meeting that since this process of having to “prove everything” has begun, it is imperative that CAM have a clear position on the topic. Therapists, patients and producers of biological medication will not get around developing a position on the issue. The currently practised procedure of having a couple of certificates and then waiting to see “if it will really get that bad”, will unfortunately lead nowhere. It wouldn’t hurt CAM to have a little more of a “Californian attitude”: **YES to change**, and in creating the future of CAM, zest and creativity in dialogue with politicians and patients.

There has been little response from the national producers of **Herbal Medicine** (8 plants so far), to the German BfArM’s demands of Oct. 2007 (see ANME-Homepage). It is expected that applications will be made shortly before the deadline on 31.12.2008.

In regards to the **Aktion ELIANT** petition ([www.eliant.eu](http://www.eliant.eu)), it actually deals with two issues: the Europe-wide legal protection of **anthroposophical medicine** (Directive 2001/83/EC), as well as the phenomenon that EU legislation has led to the artificial addition of vitamins to biodynamic baby food (Directive 2006/125/EC), thereby already reducing the consumer’s freedom of choice today.

Best regards from Schoeneck!

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