



# Newsletter of the Medical Section

February 2025

The human being is a bridge  
Between the past  
And future existence;  
The moment as bridge.  
Spirit turned to soul  
In matter's shell,  
It comes from the past;  
Soul turning to spirit  
In seed encased,  
It is future bound.  
Grasp the future  
Through what has been,  
Hope for what will become  
Through what is complete.  
So seize what is  
In what will be;  
So seize what will be  
In what is.

Rudolf Steiner for Ita Wegman on 24 December 1920



*From left to right: Seventy physicians took part in a conference in Kazan, Russia, in December, also attended by Georg Soldner – the main topics were the brain in its development, brain injuries and diseases. – The International Study Days for Anthroposophic Arts Therapies, ‘Listening to the Heart’, in January heralded the start of the Medical Section's conference programme for 2025. – We wish the newly opened Centro Médico Antroposófico, specialising in oncology, in the Peruvian capital Lima all the best!*

Dear Colleagues,  
dear Friends of the Medical Section!

As we enter 2025, the threshold situation in which humanity finds itself is particularly tangible: all the coordinates of external order that we have previously been able to orient ourselves by are disappearing at an even faster rate than before – on a political, social and spiritual level.

The centenary of Rudolf Steiner's death on 30 March 2025 will bring the anniversaries celebrating a hundred years of anthroposophy to a close. Last year in particular, 2024, our medical movement experienced a high point with the anniversaries of the so-called Course for Young Doctors and the *Pastoral Medicine Course* – the esoteric foundations of the Medical Section – as well as with the new establishment of the Section for Inclusive Social Development.

Now, here too, the last historical references which could be relied upon are fading. Anthroposophic medicine seeks to be carried forward into a new era, where it wishes to unfold with its inherent germinal power in a new way and with increased intensity in a context full of uncertainties and growing opposition. In this task, before which we stand at the threshold of a new hundred-year period, we experience qualities of the ‘trial by water’ in the sense of Rudolf Steiner's descriptions in *Knowledge of the Higher Worlds*. *How is it achieved?*: It is a matter of recognising those duties that have no external motivation, but which have their origin in the recognition of spiritual necessities. The ability of sound judgement and the willingness to courageously give up any

cherished opinion, any prejudice, as soon as the truth demands it, must be attained. In a world that externally asks a lot from us in its rapid pace and complexity, and weakens our power of judgement and initiative as a result of this stress, these abilities are indispensable tools for the future.

What comes from the past can only retain its truth and its power if it is carried through our hearts into the future and is fertilised by the future. Just as the blood in the heart, between diastole and systole, pauses perceptively for a moment in silence before it returns to the dynamics of movement, we need an inner, still point of rest where we can perceive our duties demanded by the spiritual world and align our inner compass.

In the stillness of the six months that Rudolf Steiner was confined to his bed, cared for by Ita Wegman, two works were created that can help us align this inner compass: the *Michael Mystery* (GA 26) teaches us to understand with our whole being what our task, as humanity attaining its freedom, is for the future of the earth as the seed of a new cosmos. It can lead to a concrete relationship with the being of Michael. The content of the book *Extending Practical Medicine* (CW 27), when meditatively deepened, leads us to the hidden and manifest sources of our therapeutic work. Written in collaboration with Ita Wegman, it embodies in a direct way how true healing can only succeed out of community. Thus Ita Wegman wrote from England to Arlesheim in August 1924: 'Mercury wisdom wants to embody itself, create a vessel!' This expresses a concrete reference to the Raphael being.

At the beginning of the new year, it is a great joy to see so many fresh, new initiatives budding in our movement. On 22 January, the new, greatly expanded Centro Médico Antroposófico in Lima, Peru, opened with a focus on oncology and with great public participation (see below) – a powerful boost for anthroposophic medicine in Peru!

There are also strong initiatives in the international training landscape that show how our global community is growing closer: the new cycle of Foundation Studies began at the beginning of February.

The new, very internationally orientated English Medical Training will start again at Emerson College in October. The interprofessional Medical Section Summer School, which will also take place at Emerson College in August, has as its goal work on the esoteric deepening of the professional groups and their collaboration.

With all good wishes for the year ahead  
Marion Debus, Karin Michael, Adam Blanning

## NOTICES

**30 years of Havelhöhe Community Hospital:** On 2 January 1995, a success story of anthroposophic medicine began in Berlin-Kladow/DE. Originally a tuberculosis clinic and municipal hospital, the Havelhöhe Community Hospital is now, 30 years later, a locally and nationally established acute and standard care provider that also focuses on sustainability and social economic management. We offer our heartfelt congratulations on this eventful, hard-working, persistent, rocky and joyful journey of development borne by destiny! A sponsorship crowdfunding campaign has been launched for the full purchase of the large property: <https://www.gag-havelhoehe.de/de/patenschaften/>.

**New Centro Médico in Lima:** In specially built premises and with 49 staff, the new Centro Médico has now been opened in the Peruvian capital, which is a great joy for the entire anthroposophic medical movement! Twelve physicians specialising in integrative anthroposophic oncology, general medicine, pulmonology, paediatrics, family medicine and pain medicine as well as ten nurses, three art therapists, one rhythmical massage therapist, one psychotherapist, as well as other colleagues in the ultrasound unit, the emergency area and the administration are involved. The primary areas of treatment are cancer and lung diseases. There is a logistics centre for the import of anthroposophic medicines, a research department (case report preparation) and a quality management system. From March 2025, the first anthroposophic pharmacy for extemporaneous dispensing with two certified anthroposophic pharmacists and a clinical laboratory will commence operations on site.

**Medical Section Summer School 2025:** The third Summer School will take place at Emerson College in Forest Row, UK from 16–23 August. It will address the question: How can the life of the ancient mysteries be renewed in modern medicine and its various professions? It will serve the mutual exchange and deepening of the spiritual identities of the various health professions within the Medical Section. This summer school is intended for people who want to be involved in bearing responsibility for the work of the anthroposophic healing professions and the development of their spiritual source of community and context. Further information at: <https://calendar.emerson.org.uk/events/medical-section-summer-school-2025/> – a warm welcome!

**Rhythmical massage therapy course in France:** From April 2025, the association 'À la Croisée des Chemins' will be offering a two-year rhythmical massage therapy course in nine modules in Saint-Chef/FR, designed for nurses, physiotherapists and other professionals in the medical and therapeutic

field. On the medical side this course is supported by Dr Jean Chazarenc and other colleagues. Additional information: <https://afedma.fr/wp-content/uploads/Plaque-Massages-Rythmiques.pdf>; Contact: [formation@soins-la-croisee-des-chemins.fr](mailto:formation@soins-la-croisee-des-chemins.fr).

## IN MEMORIAM

We shall remain connected to these people in gratitude for their life and work:



**Torkel Falkenberg**, born 17 September 1962, died 9 July 2024 in Stockholm/SE, was a well-known and very active researcher in complementary and integrative medicine. He was a co-founder and board member of the International Society of Complementary Medicine Research (ISCMR)

and headed the research group for integrative care in the division of nursing of the Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society at the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, one of Europe's most prestigious universities. In 2023, he was diagnosed with a brain tumour with an unfavourable prognosis, but he 'died peacefully and in good care', as his colleague Harald Walach wrote in his obituary.



**Heidi Pechmann**, born 13 October 1944 in Plauen/DE, died 30 November 2024 in Dingelstädt/DE: A few weeks after celebrating her 80th birthday with her family, our medical colleague crossed the threshold of death in broad daylight. An advanced cancer was discovered in May

2024. Her life as a mother of three children was dedicated to anthroposophy, paediatrics and the life's work of Novalis. She was honoured by the state of Thuringia in 2023 for researching and publicising together with her husband the places where the poet lived. After the reunification of Germany in 1989, she worked on the board of the Society of Anthroposophical Physicians in Germany (GAÄD) and was instrumental in building bridges between East and West.

**Holger Ehrhardt**, born 1 July 1940, died 17 November 2024 in Öschelbronn/DE. The esteemed pharmacist dedicated his life to anthroposophic pharmacy. Hans Broder von Laue recalled that the 'vitalisation' of the preparation Choleodoron was an important concern for him, which was to be achieved by a machine process similar to that used for mistle-

toe. However, the circumstances at the time only allowed this to a very limited extent. Traces of his work can be found in some *Merkurstab* articles.



**Barbara Guttman**, born 18 November 1973, died 21 November 2024. She served on the board of the Society for Anthroposophic Medicine in Austria (GAMÖ) for many years, taught on the AM physicians' training and at the University of Applied Sciences for Health Professions. She was

committed to anthroposophic medicine since her student days and focused on holistic dermatology. Most recently, she and her medical colleague Thomas Meisermann set up a hyperthermia therapy centre in Vienna.

## RECOMMENDED LITERATURE



Bersdorf, Roland, Girke, Matthias, Matthes, Harald: *Der Weg zum Gemeinschaftskrankenhaus Havelhöhe. Band 1: Von der Initiativbildung bis zur Gründung*, Arlesheim 2024.

This book uses extensive documentary material to trace in detail the social and political circumstances that made the development of this special hospital possible, and the people involved in it.



Müller, Wolfgang: *Das Rätsel Rudolf Steiner. Irritation und Inspiration*, Stuttgart 2025.

The author examines Steiner's significant impulses for a much-needed reorientation of contemporary culture, but also the criticism of him.



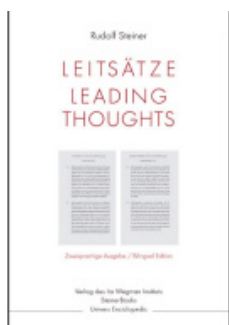
Scheer, Rainer et al. (Ed.): *Die Mistel in der Tumorthherapie 6. Aktueller Stand der Forschung und klinische Anwendung*, Essen 2024.

This conference volume documents the symposium contributions; the summaries in German and English at the beginning of each article provide an overview

of the respective topic. For the first time, the organisers included a further training section on the 'Practice of Mistletoe Therapy' in a hybrid format. Video recordings of this further training course are availa-

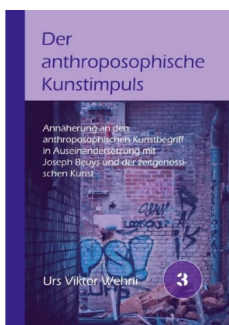


ble on the mistletoe symposium website (<https://www.mistelsymposium.de>); Access is via Doc-Check. The lectures in German can be accessed at <https://t1p.de/oau3y>, those simultaneously translated into English at <https://t1p.de/5iio2>.



Steiner, Rudolf: *Leitsätze. Leading Thoughts. Bilingual edition*, Arlesheim 2025.

For the first time, Rudolf Steiner's reflections in the *Leading Thoughts* are published in two languages (German–English) in this special edition to mark the centenary of his death. It is his last written work which was largely composed during his period of illness (1 October 1924 – 30 March 1925).



Wehrli, Urs Viktor: *Der anthroposophische Kunstimpuls. Annäherung an den anthroposophischen Kunstbegriff in Auseinandersetzung mit Joseph Beuys und der zeitgenössischen Kunst*, Berlin 2025.

The author sheds light on anthroposophical art in the field of tension with the contemporary scene, Beuys and the core of 'Goetheanism'.

## EVENTS

**From 1 February:** Foundation Studies. Fundamentals of Anthroposophic Medicine. One-year online-supported course for healthcare professionals. Klinik Arlesheim in cooperation with the Medical Section at the Goetheanum. Details and registration: <https://en.akademie-arlesheim.ch/foundationstudies>.

**28 Feb – 1 March:** Research congress of the Medical Section "The role and importance of warmth and thermoregulation in somatic and mental health: status, updates and open questions. An anthroposophic medicine research congress on concepts, research methods and implementation in clinical practice", at the Goetheanum, Dornach/CH. Details at <https://goetheanum.ch/de/veranstaltungen/rc25>.

**28 Feb – 2 March:** Anthroposophic Medicine Advanced Course (AMAC) in Taichung/TW. Topics: 1. Concepts of anthroposophic medicine in diagnosis and therapy based on body, soul and spirit. 2. Spiritual path to diabetes and case discussion. With Kan-anek Kaewthaweesab. Conference languages are English and Mandarin. Registration and contact: [tamhcp.tw@gmail.com](mailto:tamhcp.tw@gmail.com).

**10–16 March:** Medical working group in a specialist field at the Goetheanum. For medical students and physicians, as well as pharmacists with a basic knowledge of anthroposophy. Programme and further information from Dieter Roth/Wilburg Keller Roth: [dieroth@bluewin.ch](mailto:dieroth@bluewin.ch). Interested newcomers are most welcome!

**15–21 March:** Module 8 – English Training in Anthroposophic Medicine at the Goetheanum. Further information at: <https://www.anthroposophic-drs-training.org/>.

**27–29 March:** Medical conference at the Rudolf Steiner Halde 'Infection and immune system – Anthroposophy as a source of healing principles', in Dornach/CH. Invitation and further information at [www.haldetagung.ch](http://www.haldetagung.ch).

**11–14 April:** International Kolisko Conference "Great Expectations. Meeting the Challenge of Expectations for Self, each Other and of Life". The conference is led by three keynote speakers, Adam Blanning along with Chris Burke and Anne de Wild. Further information: [kolisko2025@gmail.com](mailto:kolisko2025@gmail.com).

**21 May:** Anthroposophic Medical Grand Rounds, Online – Worldwide – English. Research Updates for Core Therapeutic Topics. 3rd Session: "Highlights from AM Research Council Conference. The Role of Warmth and Thermoregulation for Somatic and Mental Healthcare". More information: <https://medsektion-goetheanum.org/en/events-conferences>.

**12–14 June:** International Symposium for Rhythmic Massage Therapy in Prague/CZ. Topics, lecturers and registration at <https://rytmickamasaz.cz/internationalen-symposium-rhythmische-massage-therapie>.

**15–21 July:** 5to. Seminario de Impulsos Crísticos en Ruiz de Montoya/AR. „El desafío del ser humano con el mal“, con la participación como conferencistas de Michaela Glöckler, João Torunsky y Claudia McKeen. Programa e inscripción: <https://t1p.de/flp63>.

**30 July – 2 August:** Indonesia Anthroposophy Conference "No one left behind: Towards sustainable individual and community wellbeing" in Bandung/ID. With Michaela Glöcker and Joean Oon. Further information coming soon.

## Save the date

**6–10 August:** 'The Arc of Becoming: Medical and Pedagogical Support in the First Phase of Life' in English. Spring Valley, New York/USA. Co-created by members of the Medical Section and the Pedagogical Section in North America. Further information and contact, Christa Lynch: [care1conference@gmail.com](mailto:care1conference@gmail.com).

**16–23 August:** Medical Section Summer School 2025 in Emerson College, Forest Row/UK. Further information and registration at <https://calendar.emerson.org.uk/events/medical-section-summer-school-2025/>.

**5–8 September:** Teach the teachers: “Freedom and Destiny: Exploring them through Clinical Cases and Biographical Questions”. The conference language is English. Further information soon at: <https://medsektion-goetheanum.org/en/events-conferences>.

**9–14 September:** International annual conference of the Medical Section 'Extending the Art of Healing – Etheric Forces as Forces for the Future', at the Goetheanum, Dornach/CH.

**From 4 October:** English Training in Anthroposophic Medicine in 9 modules until September 2027.

Based in the East Sussex/UK, open to doctors worldwide. With Michael Evans, James Dyson, Marion Debus, Matthias Girke, Anna Hubbard and David Martin. Detailed information available at [www.emerson.org.uk/anthroposophic-medicine](http://www.emerson.org.uk/anthroposophic-medicine).

**15–18 October:** International conference on therapeutic speech and drama therapy at the Goetheanum, Dornach/CH. Further information available soon at <https://medsektion-goetheanum.org/en/events-conferences>.

**18–21 October:** International further training for school and kindergarten doctors at the Goetheanum, Dornach/CH. Further information soon at: <https://medsektion-goetheanum.org/en/events-conferences>.