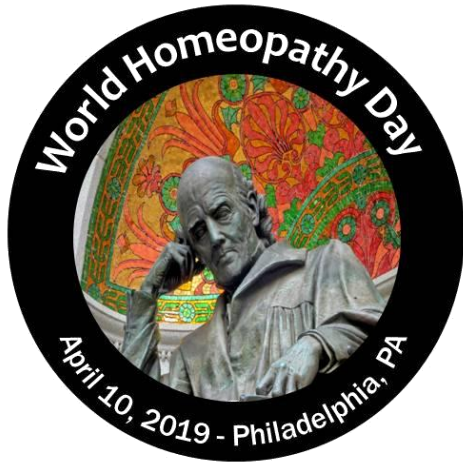


# Speaker Profiles



## World Homeopathy Day The Historical & Scientific Validation of Homeopathy

*Thomas Jefferson University's Connelly Auditorium  
Dorrance Hamilton Building  
1001 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107*

### **Dr. John S Haller, Jr.**

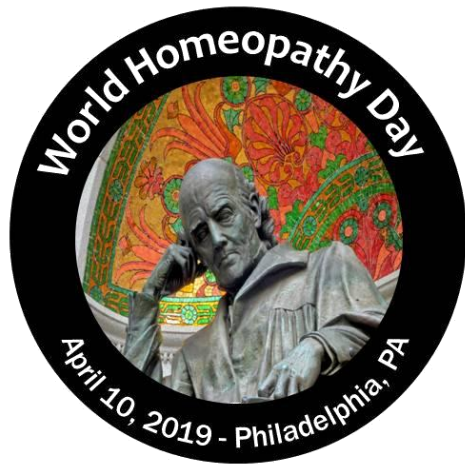
Dr. John S. Haller, Jr., emeritus professor of history and medical humanities at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, has written more than twenty books on: the history of race and sexuality in medicine, pharmacy, philosophy, and spirituality. His books include *The History of American Homeopathy: The Academic Years, 1820-1935* (2005); *The History of American Homeopathy: From Rational Medicine to Holistic Health Care* (2009); *Swedenborg, Mesmer, and the Mind-Body Complex: The Roots of Complementary Medicine* (2010); *Shadow Medicine: The Placebo in Conventional and Unconventional Medicines* (2014); *Distant Voices: Sketches of a Swedenborgian World View* (2017), where he discusses the influence of Emmanuel Swedenborg on American homeopathy during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He is former editor of *Caduceus: A Humanities Journal for Medicine and the Health Sciences* and, until his recent retirement, served for twenty years as vice president for academic affairs at Southern Illinois University.



### **Dr. Jennifer Jacobs, MD**

Dr. Jennifer Jacobs is a family practice physician specializing in homeopathic medicine. She is also a clinical assistant professor in epidemiology at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. She received her MD degree from Wayne State University and a Masters in Public Health at the University of Washington. She is a former President of the American Institute of Homeopathy, co-founded the special interest group of the American Public Health Association on Complementary and Alternative Health Practices, and served on the advisory board of the NIH Office of Alternative Medicine. In addition, she has published numerous landmark homeopathic research studies in peer-reviewed medical journals. Now retired from medical practice, Dr. Jacobs' book *Do You Really Need That Pill?* was published in 2018, by Skyhorse.





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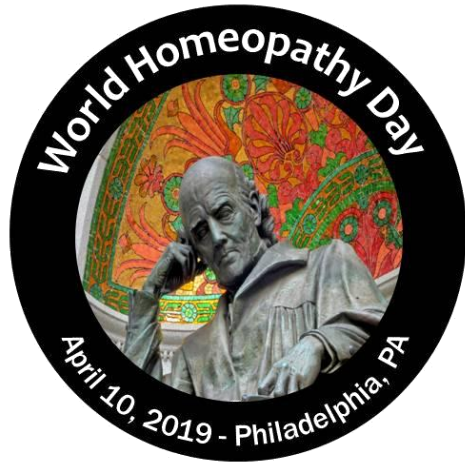
### **Dr. Renzo Galassi, MD**

Dr. Renzo Galassi received his medical degree, summa cum laude, from the University "La Sapienza," Rome, Italy. He is Past President of Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (LMHI), and studied homeopathy since 1984 with the illustrious classical homeopaths Tomás Paschero, Antonio Negro and Proceso Sanchez Ortega, with whom he worked closely between 1989 and 2005. He is member of several international organizations, serving as an officer, including the Medical Chamber of Macerata, and is a founding member of F.I.A.M.O (Federazione Italiana delle Associazioni e dei Medici Omeopatici/Italian Federation of the Homeopathic Doctors and Associations).



He is the creator and director of the Hahnemannian Homeopathic Academy of Marche Region, in Italy. He has taught homeopathy for over 25 years in Italy and other countries and has presented scientific papers in National and International Congresses. He Co-authored the book: "The Mental Symptoms in Homeopathy," with Dr. Proceso S Ortega (2005); and, "Non-Conventional Medicine in Italy," (2007). He directed the Italian edition of: "Homeopathic Medicine, Theory and Technique" by Dr. Proceso S. Ortega (2001); and has written several articles in peer reviewed journals and newsletters. He is the current editor of the LMHI newsletter. Since the beginning of his Homeopathic studies in 1984, he has studied the work and publications of the Old American Homeopathic Masters who worked between 1840 and 1920.





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### **Dr. Ron Whitmont, MD**

Ronald D. Whitmont, MD, is immediate past president of the American Institute of Homeopathy, a second-generation Classical Homeopathic physician and former president of the Homeopathic Medical Society of the State of New York. He is board-certified in Internal Medicine, and Holistic Integrative Medicine, serves as Clinical Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine at New York Medical College where he directs a 4<sup>th</sup> year elective in Complementary Alternative and Integrative Medicine. A graduate of S.U.N.Y. Downstate Medical School, Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn, he interned at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in New York City, worked as Medical Officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve, and completed residency training at The Reading Hospital and Medical Center in Reading, PA. Dr. Whitmont has worked in medical clinics in rural India and at the Indian Health Service Hospital in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. He is currently in private practice in New York.

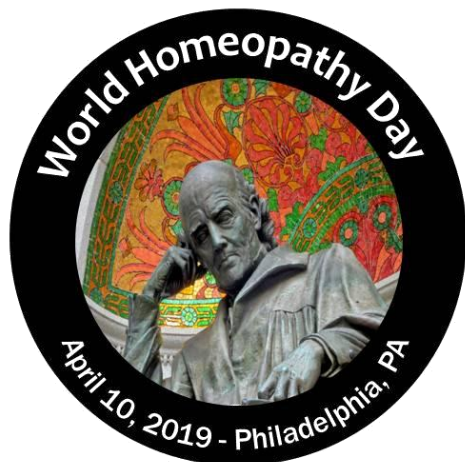


### **Dr. Alex Bekker, MD**

Alex Bekker, MD, ABIHM is a physician specializing in homeopathy for the last nineteen years. Dr. Bekker has a diplomate from the American Board of Integrative Holistic Medicine. Dr. Bekker was introduced to homeopathy in 1985 by Alain Naude, studied and mentored under Pierre Schmidt, MD, and the translator of the Organon, and student of Pierre Schmidt, MD. Dr. Bekker has also studied with Dr. André Saine, ND, since 2009, and has participated in the Materia Medica Pura Project. He is an author of articles on homeopathy published in peer reviewed journals. He is currently the Second Vice President of the American Institute of Homeopathy and the Editor for the American Journal of Homeopathic Medicine. He has been a speaker at the Joint American Homeopathic Conference, the Texas Society of Homeopathy and the IM4US conferences.



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Photo credit: Sherry Moore

### **Laurel Chiten, Producer/Director "Just One Drop"**

Laurel Chiten is an award winning independent filmmaker, making films for over 30 years. Her films include: *Twisted* (2006) about people with the neurological disorder, dystonia. *Touched* (2003) about people who think they have had contact with aliens and the Harvard psychiatrist who believed them. *The Jew in the Lotus* (1999), about a group of rabbis that met with the Dalai Lama, and *Twitch and Shout* (1994) about people living with Tourette Syndrome, nominated for a national Emmy. Ms. Chiten is known for giving audiences an intimate experience into the world of those who are marginalized, using sensitivity and humor.

She is a two-time recipient of Independent Television Service (ITVS) funding. Her films have screened at film festivals around the world, and been broadcast on PBS' national series Independent Lens, and POV. Chiten was an artist in resident at the Bellagio Study and Conference Center sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation. She received a residency scholarship at Yaddo and the MacDowell Artist Colony. Laurel also was an editing consultant for Andy Wilson's most recent film, *Under Our Skin*, about Lyme Disease short listed for a 2010 Oscar.

source: [documentaries.org/laurel-chiten](http://documentaries.org/laurel-chiten)