



Hermann Gröhe
Federal Minister
Member of the German
Bundestag


Message of Greeting

Many patients in Germany rely on classical conventional medicine when seeking treatment. More and more frequently, however, conventional allopathic treatment is supplemented by methods from the field of complementary medicine. Measures from this field, as well as treatments from areas such as homeopathy, osteopathy or acupuncture are also being taken into account increasingly by the statutory health insurance. Indeed, methods from the field of complimentary medicine are able to enhance the success of classical treatments. In this context, they complement conventional medicine rather than being an alternative to it. Applied in the form of 'integrative medicine' and scientifically monitored, these methods contribute not only to the high quality of our healthcare provision but also to the principle of cost effectiveness.

This is why we consider the judicious combining of conventional medicine and complementary treatment methods, in the provision of healthcare, to be an important health policy task. Scientific and medical experts are working consistently on high-quality studies to test new possibilities offered by alternative methods of treatment and to provide evidence for their efficacy and quality.

The result of this approach is that, in Germany, we currently already have numerous projects that have found useful ways of linking conventional medical treatment to complimentary medicine. In addition to alternative care provision opportunities, these include international cooperation schemes among clinics and universities.

The participants here at the Congress for Integrative Health & Medicine in Stuttgart are also an international group. As a result, this Congress offers the very best conditions for a broad and undoubtedly highly informative exchange on the development status of complimentary treatment methods. I would like to wish all of the participants interesting discussions, many new insights and a most successful Congress.


Hermann Gröhe