

## Letter to the Editor

### Comment on 'The truth about homeopathy' by Ernst

**Francis Treuherz**

*Registered Homeopath, 2 Exeter Road (side entrance), London NW2 4SP, UK*

I am astounded that anyone in 2007, indeed anyone since 1945, can cite Nazi sponsored medical research as if it were a valid source of accurate information. It is morally repugnant and inherently untrustworthy. How can the editors of this journal permit this? (See references 9–12 of his commentary in this issue.)

However this is not the first time that Ernst has done this; he has done it in his *Desktop Guide to Complementary and Alternative Medicine* (first edition) for which I publicly criticised him in a review. He dropped the reference in the second edition but has returned to it in this article.

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#### CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Francis Treuherz MA, RSHom, FSHom, Registered Homeopath, 2 Exeter Road (side entrance), London NW2 4SP, UK.

Tel.: +44 208 4506564

Fax: +44 0845 450 6622

E-mail: fran@gn.apc.org

### Author's response

**Edzard Ernst**

*Complementary Medicine, Peninsula Medical School, 25 Victoria Park Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 4NT, UK*

Mr Treuherz is right; some Nazi-doctors were involved in the most horrific, unethical research [1] and using its results might be repugnant. He is wrong, however, in assuming that the German research project into homeopathy was unethical. From all we know, it was an honest, thorough and ethical attempt to find the truth. To ignore it totally simply because it was initiated by Nazi politicians is, in my view, not justified.

#### REFERENCE

- 1 Ernst E. Killing in the name of healing: the active role of the German medical school profession during the Third Reich. *Am J Med* 1996; 100: 579–81.

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Professor Edzard Ernst MD, PhD, FRCP, FRCP(Edin.), Complementary Medicine, Peninsula Medical School, 25 Victoria Park Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 4NT, UK.

Tel.: +44 1329 430802

Fax: +44 1392 427562

E-mail: eernst@prns.ac.uk