Objective:
To rescue the history of homeopathy, particularly in the context of Spain, and enhance its diffusion through the knowledge of its history.

Introduction:
Samuel Christian Friedrich Hahnemann (1755-1843) was born in the middle of the 18th century in Saxony, in the heart of Europe. During his childhood he studied under the supervision of his parents. In 1755 he started to study Medicine in Leipzig. At that time Medicine studies were theoretical. German medicine, strongly influenced by the doctrines of Paracelsus in the 17th century, returned to the works of Hippocrates in the 18th century. This type of lessons soon bored Hahnemann and he moved to Vienna. His thesis was titled A Dissertation on the Causes and Treatment of Cramps (“Conspectus affectuum spasmodicorum aetiological y therapeuticus”). He received his MD in 1779.
Over time, he stopped practicing medicine and devoted himself to investigating the properties of medicinal substances. He stated “for me it was a proprietary sacrifice to grope in the dark… I suffered pangs of conscience by treating unknown, diseased conditions in my suffering brethren with these strong and unknown remedies; these contain active substances for which physicians do not know their application, their effects have not been elucidated and could change life and death, or cause new trouble or chronic sufferings, maybe worse than the disease it was supposed to dispel”. Medicine at the “bedside of the ill” and the disease are actually the starting point. He talked about rationalising the knowledge of medicines and of practical medicine. Both approaches are the two foundations of his studies. In 1796, he published “investigations of a new principle for finding the healing powers of pharmacological substances”. Since 1808 he used the term Homeopathy in his “Letter to a high-rank physician about the urgency of reforming medicine” to refer to the non-homeopathic effects of classic medicines. He used the healing method similia similibus to obtain a long-lasting result and with the aid of very low doses, subjecting the medicine to stirring and individualising the treatment. He knew what chemistry can contribute as a source of rationality in medicine, while highlighting its limits in some type of treatment. Hahnemann designed a therapeutic method based on the observation of the similimum between the experimental symptoms in the healthy subject and the ill subject. His only wish was to collaborate to make the knowledge of medicines more rational.

Results:
Homeopathy arrived at Spain in the first quarter of the 19th century: in 1821 the first news about this method were published in the journal "Décadas Médico-Quirúrgicas y Farmacéuticas" of Madrid and in 1826 an article on Homeopathy was published in the "Diario General Ciencias Médicas" of Barcelona, that published two other articles in 1828 developing more extensively this therapeutics.

After this, the history of homeopathy in Spain will be linked to the Royal Family: María Christina of Bourbon-Two Sicilies, the fiancée of Ferdinand VII of Spain and daughter of king Francis I of Naples-Two Sicilies, arrived in Spain in 1829, accompanied by her physician, doctor Cosmo Maria de Horatiis, who had a remarkable experience in homeopathy and reported his activity to the Royal Academy of Medicine of Madrid, delivering his report "Saggio di clínica omiopatica” and was named corresponding member thereof. A few years later, doctors José Núñez Pernia, Joaquin Hysern y Molleras, Tomás Pellicer Frutos, Andrés Merino Torija, Pedro Aróstegui Larrahondo, Anastasio Álvarez, and Joaquin Pellicer Albadalejo were court physicians of the Royal Family.

Dr. Prudencio Querol was the first Spanish physician to use homeopathy.
In 1830, when he had lived in Madrid for about seven years, he became aware of a long article published by The Edinburgh Review, or Critical Journal: for October 1829… January 1830, disseminator of the works of S. Hahnenann, from which he began to study Homeopathy and will be the first Spanish physician to use publicly Homeopathy in Badajoz since 1832, a city considered in many works as the cradle of Spanish Homeopathy.

After moving to Seville he continued with his intense homeopathic activity, training a high number of followers, including Agustín López del Baño, José Nostench and Juan Lorenzo Vélez. He died on April 18, 1858, at 83 years of age and was buried in the Sevillian cemetery of San Fernando.

Around 1831, almost simultaneously, the Spanish government sent a scientific committee to Germany for the purpose of studying this health problem. This committee included Dr. Folch, thanks to which he became familiar with the new therapeutics and upon his return he decided to implement it, though he dared not to disclose it publicly.

Dr. Pedro Rino y Hurtado, a disciple of Dr. Querol as early as 1833 in the city of Badajoz, in collaboration with the pharmacist Mr. Juan Manuel Rubiales, started in 1838 a huge dissemination task, both in his medical practice and through his Files of Homeopathic Medicine, Badajoz 1840-1842 (the first with an original work in Spanish) and Barcelona 1877-1882, and as author of several books and translator of major homeopathy treatises.

In Spain and in this first stage, the most important precursors of this therapeutic method, in addition to the above, were other active physicians such as Dr. Ramón Ysaac López Pinciano, supplier of the first Spanish homeopathic pharmacy, located in Puerta del Sol, nº 26, furnished with one hundred homeopathic medicines in 1834, and continued for many years by the pharmacist Mr. Luis Lletget.

Dr. José Sebastián Coll, who started to study and practice Homeopathy when he was almost sixty years of age, implemented at the Hospital of Toro, in 1839, the first section of Homeopathic Hospital Care at a Spanish public centre (with the collaboration of the pharmacist Mr. Alejandro Rodríguez Tejedor), and in 1845 he was elected first chairman of the Hahnemannian Society of Madrid. Also worth noting is the homeopathic activity of Drs. Manuel Ciriaco Rollán, Manuel Girela Jiménez, Manuel Pascual y Berzosa, Félix Janer, Francisco de Paula Caldas, Rafael Alonso Pardo, Pío Hernández Espeso, Joaquín Lario, Cayetano Cruxent, Robustiano Torres Villanueva, amongst many others.

In 1845, the first society of Spanish homeopathists was founded, the Hahnemannian Society of Madrid, authorised by Royal Decree-Law of April 23, 1846, and it was the driving force of Homeopathy in Spain, promoter of the creation in Madrid of the Homeopathic Institute and Hospital de San José, open in 1878.

The activity of this hospital centre reached great international renown and enjoyed the collaboration of reputed homeopathists, such as Drs. Anastasio García López, Tomás Pellicer Frutos, Hipólito Rodriguez Pinilla, the siblings Anastasio and Paz Álvarez, Pedro Aróstegui (author of the first doctoral dissertation on Homeopathy in 1850),
Joaquín Pellicer Albadalejo, Luis de Hysern y Catá, and Vicente Vignau. And in recent times, that of Drs. Manuel Torres Oliveros, Anselmo Hernández Jordán, Manuel Sánchez Corona, Joaquín Valenzuela, José Núñez Granés, Miguel Ojeda, Juan Antonio Beleiro, José Riquelme.

Dr. José Núñez y Pernía (1805-1879) was one of the most important Spanish homeopathic physicians of the 19th century. He was appointed chairman of the Hahnemannian Society of Madrid in November, 1845.

Another important homeopathist of this era was Dr. Joaquín de Hysern y Molleras (1804-1883). Dr. Anastasio García López (1821-1897) had a singular relevance. In 1890 the Medical-Homeopathic Academy of Barcelona was founded, with Dr. García López as first honorary chairman.

It was a time when Homeopathy started to decline in Madrid and the homeopathic physicians of Barcelona finally implemented a corporation to join and keep a study dynamics, electing Dr. Juan Sanllehy Metges (1821-1900) as chairman.

In the next decades, the expansion of Homeopathy was constant all over the world. In Spain, Homeopathy continued to be developed, and Dr. Augusto Vinyals Roig (1886-1951), after the 1st International Congress of Homeopathy held in Barcelona in 1924 (organised by the Medical-Homeopathic Academy of Barcelona), estimated that there were 124 homeopathic physicians in Spain in the year 1925, a figure proportionally comparable to that of other countries, such as France, the United Kingdom, or Germany. After this congress, two others were organised in Madrid: in 1929 and in 1933, with a very active presence of Drs. Manuel Torres Oliveros and Anselmo Hernández Jordán - 7th Congress of the International League of Homeopathy- and a significant institutional support, both political and academic, including amongst its honorary members Prof. Santiago Ramón y Cajal and the Rector of the Central University, with lectures given by Dr. Gregorio Marañón and Salvador de Madariaga.

The Civil War of 1936 conditioned our history in all areas, marking a turning point in the evolution of society, culture, and science. With regard to Homeopathy, it meant a loss of continuity over the developments of this medical doctrine in the 19th century. During the post-war era, for various reasons, some possibly political, even though Homeopathy was never banned by the Government, and others resulting of the major economic problems and the poverty affecting significantly the Spanish population. In Madrid the activity of the Madrid Society was minimised in the Fundación Instituto Homeopático and Hospital de San José.

Dr. Enric Peiró Rando (1899-1985) was the key person in Homeopathy in Barcelona, linking the past to the present.

In 1987, Prof. María Teresa Alfonso Galán estimated that the number of homeopathic physicians in Spain was 130. Some years later, in 1995, a national census of homeopathic physicians was created that included 594 professionals.

In the year 2000, Dr. Marcos Mantero de Aspe published his doctoral dissertation titled “El Ejercicio Médico de la Homeopatía en España a finales del siglo XX (análisis médico legal)” (The medical practice of homeopathy in Spain late in the 20th century: medical-legal analysis), estimating that 1,200 physicians practiced Homeopathy in
Spain. In 2010 it is estimated that 10,000 physicians prescribe homeopathic medicines occasionally or regularly.
In 2008, the number of retail pharmacies working regularly or occasionally giving pharmaceutical advice on homeopathic medicines was estimated to be 5,000. In the year 2011, all Spanish retail pharmacies had access to homeopathic medicines in 24 hours.
In recent years, national congresses of homeopathy are held every two years: 2008 in Valladolid, 2010 in Barcelona, and 2012 in Oviedo. The next will be held in Madrid in 2014.
Today it is estimated that there are in the world over 248,400 physicians specialised in Homeopathy. With regard to the number of people using homeopathic medicines or treatments, it is estimated that there are more than 300 million patients all over the world.

Conclusions:
Homeopathy is not very well known in Spain, except to medical specialists and pharmacists. The public in general knows it even less. In the pharmacy degrees of the school of pharmacy of Seville, for example, nothing is studied about it, except briefly in the subject of history of pharmacy and legislative issues. To establish it, Spanish health professionals should know its history in depth, as it is not something new in the Spanish Healthcare System. The statements of this poster, of international dimension, can be a first step to achieve it.

41ème CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL D'HISTOIRE DE LA PHARMACIE

CONTEXTE SCIENTIFIQUE DE LA NAISSANCE DES MEDICAMENTS HOMEOPATHIQUES EN EUROPE CENTRALE. ARRIVE EN ESPAGNE ET DIVULGATION.

Ramos Carrillo A, Mure C, de Rojas Álvarez R, Barelli M.