

The Faculty welcomes a new CEO

Gill Graham interviews the new CEO of the Faculty of Homeopathy, Deshini Newman MA (Cantab) MBA FRSA

I had the pleasure of chatting with Deshini, just three weeks into her new role as CEO of the Faculty. She brings a wealth of international experience in business and education, building high performing global operations. Her role just prior to joining the Faculty was as Managing Director of one of the world's largest non-profit associations of certified cybersecurity professionals. Prior to this, Deshini held several education leadership roles. In 2019, she was recognised as one of the 50 most influential women in cybersecurity in the UK and in February 2021 as one of the 30 most influential female leaders in cybersecurity during the pandemic. She is a regular speaker at UK and International conferences and is a trained media spokesperson.

It was clear from the start that Deshini's intentions in joining the Faculty were to bring her high-level professional skills to meet with her own holistic experiences and expectations. She grew up in Durban, South Africa, a city with an active homeopathic community. Her first

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experience with homeopathy was as a child, when she experienced an “unsightly, scaly rash on her hand, which would not go away”. Her family took her to a neighbour, Dr Krish Naidoo, from Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, who practised homeopathy. He treated the rash, which never came back. From then on, she was interested in different approaches to healing, spurred on by her grandmother who would always use natural medical solutions. Recently, she has used Bach flower remedies, with great success when “dealing with a challenging situation” that impacted on her well-being. She states that “people need to have a choice” and she is aware of the often-negative effect on the mind and body of conventional, pharmaceutical drugs.

In joining the Faculty, she has achieved her wish to work in the field of Alternative and Complementary Medicine, whilst “doing something where I can use my skills and experience, to really make a difference. I feel privileged to have been entrusted with this role. Everything brought me to this point”. Had she not had the experience of senior roles in education, membership, and leadership, she would not have been able to fulfil the demands of a Chief Executive position. As it stands, she has qualities which meet both criteria; invaluable

first-hand knowledge as recipient of homeopathy, and the business acumen to head up one of the world's leading homeopathic organisations.

Deshini says there is much to do in the Faculty. She “would love to create a platform where patients and homeopathic providers have a voice and are able to speak out, to share experiences, without fear of judgement.” This would engender a solid, supportive network, planting the seeds of growth and positivity. Responses to those who have little understanding of our profession (aka: sceptics) would include “statistics, research, and positive case studies, and be undertaken in a dignified, professional way”.

Global membership expansion will also be considered, the purpose being “to engage like-minded homeopaths throughout the world and build on partnerships; we all need to work together, that way, we have a louder voice”.

Deshini's vision for the Faculty reflects the passion she has for business and homeopathy, and she embodies it. I asked for a few lines as to how she intended to achieve her goals, going forward. She indicated an artwork behind her desk showing Audrey Hepburn and references her favourite Audrey quote, which leaves one with no doubt as to her expectations:

“Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I'm possible.”

Gill Graham

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