



# FRANKINCENSE

European Herbal Practitioners Association's Newsletter  
December 2004

## Welcome ...

Welcome to the first bi-monthly electronic news update from the EHPA. We hope to keep you informed on issues ranging from the regulation of the herbal profession, progress on the implementation on the Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products, news from around Europe and much more.

## Timetable for Statutory Regulation of Herbal Practitioners

At a meeting with Department of Health (DH) and the MHRA colleagues on 17 December, we learned that the timetable for regulation would be as follows:

- Results from the public consultation on herbal medicine and acupuncture Jan 05
- New Working Group for Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture Apr 05
- Draft S60 Order for public consultation Jun 05
- S60 Order ready Dec 05
- Shadow Council set up, followed by two years of grandparenting Apr 06
- Full CAM (name?) Council in place Apr 08

## Dr Foster Guide on CAM

The EHPA worked closely with other professions, including chiropractic, homeopathy and acupuncture in dealing with the repercussions of the 2004 Dr Foster Guide, which resulted in a positive outcome from the Dr Foster Ethics Committee earlier this year.



Back from l to r: Michael McIntyre, EHPA; Paula Ross, Society of Homeopaths; Amrit Ahluwalia, EHPA  
Front from l to r: Sue Wakefield and Barry Lewis, British Chiropractic Association; Mike O'Farrell, British Acupuncture Council

## **In Europe**

### **The Netherlands**

In October, colleagues from the Chinese Herbal Committee of the Dutch Association for Acupuncture (NVA) visited the UK to attend the EHPA workshop on the DTHMP. We are pleased to announce that the NVA has adopted the EHPA curriculum as a basis for courses in Chinese Medicine available at four Universities within the Netherlands.

### **Italy**

During the summer, the EHPA was approached by Centro Orientamento Educativo in Italy to work with them on the development of a Masters' programme in Phytotherapy.

## **Herbal Forum & the Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products**

The Herbal Forum is an informal group of manufacturer and practitioner associations which represent the UK herbal and complementary medicine sector. The majority of the companies belonging to the Herbal Forum's member associations are small or medium enterprises, SMEs.

The Herbal Forum was created to provide a single point of reference for MHRA and UK Government on the main priorities in the negotiations which took place during the development of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive. Following its adoption, this regular contact with MHRA has continued, in particular to discuss the national implementation of the Directive and its impact on Herbal Forum members. The EHPA sits on the forum.

The new scheme will require traditional herbal medicines to meet specific standards of safety and quality and for the product to be accompanied by the necessary information for the product to be used safely. The normal requirement for medicines to demonstrate efficacy will be replaced by a requirement to demonstrate traditional use. A European positive list will be created containing herbal substances for which traditional use and safety will not need to be demonstrated, although the quality requirements will need to be met. For more information, see [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk).

The Directive was passed into law in April 2004. Each MS has 18 months to set up a registration scheme within its state, which is October 2005. The transitional period lasts for seven years and will close on 30 April 2011.

Issues currently being considered by the Herbal Forum include braille labelling, product information leaflets (PILs), cost of registration, the inclusion of non herbal ingredients and the qualifications of Responsible/Qualified Persons. In addition, the Herbal Forum is discussing Quality Assurance standards of herbal medicinal products with the MHRA.

## **New European Medicines Agency Committee on Herbal Medicine**

In September 2004, the EMEA set up a new committee on Herbal Medicinal Products to develop guidelines on the implementation of the Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products (DTHMP). Each European Member State has two representatives that sit on this committee. Dr Linda Anderson and Sue Harris, both of the MHRA, represent the interests of the UK. For more information, see the EMEA website: [www.emea.eu.int](http://www.emea.eu.int)

## **National Professional Standards**

In September, the National Professional Standards (NPS) for herbal medicine were published. The standards have been developed as a means of bringing together and recognising the different traditions within herbal medicine and defining herbal medicine good practice within the UK. The traditions covered include Chinese Herbal Medicine, Tibetan Herbal Medicine and Western Herbal Medicine.

The standards make the links between education and training programmes and what individual practitioners need to do to be recognised as professional herbal practitioners. These standards are designed to be used across herbal traditions, professional bodies, and education and training

provision to guide practice, and form the basis of education, training and qualifications. The complete standard is available at [www.euroherb.com](http://www.euroherb.com).

## Black Cohosh

The MHRA recently published an article on liver reactions suspected to be associated with Black Cohosh. So far, the number of reports of liver reactions has reached 14. Although there are some licensed combination products which contain Black Cohosh, the majority of products on the market appear to be unlicensed herbal remedies. In order to get more complete picture of how Black Cohosh is available, the MHRA is keen to hear from companies that manufacture or market products containing Black Cohosh or supply it as an ingredient for use by herbal practitioners to provide details of products/ingredients, including units sold or distributed each year. The MHRA would also be interested to hear of any adverse reaction reports related to this product. For further information, contact Leigh Henderson, Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Group, MHRA on 020 7084 2156 or [leigh.henderson@mhra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:leigh.henderson@mhra.gsi.gov.uk)

## 2005 Diary Dates

EHPA Education Meeting & Council Meeting	10 January
Herbal Forum	14 February
Herbal Stakeholders Meeting	11 March
EHPA Education Meeting & Council Meeting	14 March
FIH Conference: Integrating Complementary Therapies in Everyday Practice	19-23 April
CPP CPD Series: Phytotherapeutics for Infertility	24 April
EHPA Education Meeting & Council Meeting	9 May