



# **FRANKINCENSE**

European Herbal Practitioners Association's Newsletter  
February 2004

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## **EHPA Registration**

On 27 January, the EHPA was registered at Companies House as a private company limited by guarantee, number 05344999.

## **New Postgraduate Studies in Integrated Healthcare**

From early 2005, the Peninsula Medical School at the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth, in partnership with the Faculty of Health and Social Work at the University of Plymouth, will offer a taught Masters programme of modules leading to a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or MSc in Integrated Health Care. For further information, see Peninsula's website [www.pms.ac.uk](http://www.pms.ac.uk)

## **MHRA Consultations**

### **1. Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee**

This consultation (MLX318) invites comments on updated proposals for the creation of a new advisory committee on herbal medicines. This Committee would advise Ministers directly on areas for which the Committee is responsible, for example the registration scheme to be introduced under the Directive on Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products and unlicensed herbal medicines. Membership of the Committee would, collectively, encompass: knowledge of the main herbal traditions present in the UK; a wide range of relevant scientific expertise; the practice of healthcare; and lay membership. You are invited to submit your views on this proposal, to the MHRA by 22 April 2005. For further information, see [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk).

### **2. The Medicines for Human Use (Kava-kava) (Prohibition) Order 2002**

This consultation (MLX 319) invites interested parties to submit evidence and representations as to whether the prohibition of Kava-kava in unlicensed medicines should continue. Based on the existing evidence, and the independent expert advice previously received, the MHRA's current view is that the prohibition remains justified and should continue in force. However, the MHRA will review this position carefully in the light of all responses to this consultation. In particular, in the event that new evidence is presented supporting the safe use of Kava-kava in unlicensed medicines, the MHRA will assess, taking independent expert advice as necessary, the scope for modifying or lifting the current prohibition. You are invited to submit your views on this proposal, to the MHRA by 30 April 2005. For further information, see [www.mhra.gov.uk](http://www.mhra.gov.uk).

## **Parliamentary Group for Integrated and Complementary Healthcare**

Founded in 1987, the Parliamentary Group is an All-Party Group based at Westminster which provides a focus for all activities relating to complementary healthcare in Parliament. The Group works to stimulate well-informed debate and contributes to the development of knowledge and policies on the subject. The EHPA is pleased to make a financial contribution towards supporting the Group during 2005, which has been a strong voice in support of complementary health over a number of years at Westminster.

## The Foundation for Integrated Health receives grant from DH

The Department of Health has announced that it is awarding a grant of £900,000 to The Prince of Wales's Foundation for Integrated Health, for its ongoing work on supporting the regulation of complementary therapies. The three-year grant will begin in April 2005.

Michael Fox, Chief Executive of The Prince of Wales's Foundation for Integrated Health said, "The Department of Health's recent White Paper on Public Health emphasised the importance of individual choice in healthcare. With 1 in 5 of the UK population now choosing to use complementary therapies, this grant underlines their commitment to patient safety within an enhanced regulatory framework. It is a huge support to our work.

"The Foundation believes that the public needs to have access to properly qualified, competent and insured practitioners. Our programme has achieved much in building the confidence of the complementary and conventional sectors over the past 5 years. Over the next few years we would like to see the introduction of statutory regulation for acupuncture and herbal medicine, and major progress in the voluntary self-regulation of other complementary professions".

For more information about the Foundation's work, see the website [www.fihealth.org.uk](http://www.fihealth.org.uk).

## Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The ATCM held a reception to celebrate its 10th birthday on the evening of 8th December 2004 at the Royal College of Physicians in London. Among the distinguished guests attending the celebration were Lord Rea, Lord Clement-Jones and Lord Chan from the House of Lords, Ian Stewart MP from the House of Commons, Steve Catling from the Department of Health, Rui Yu Li the Minister of Chinese Embassy, Michael McIntyre, Chair of European Herbal Practitioners Association, Ron Bishop, Chair of British Acupuncture Council. The other attendees include delegates from TCM community in the UK, members of TCM Accreditation Board, distinguished doctors and scholars of western medicine, and guests from other CAM professions, TCM and acupuncture educational institutes, DLA upstream, and members of ATCM.

## 2005 Diary Dates

Conference: Admission of Candidates with Disabilities to Healthcare Courses	8 February
Parliamentary Group for Integrated & Complementary Healthcare meeting	8 February
Herbal Forum	14 February
Accreditation Board Meeting	21 February
Department of Health's Acupuncture & Herbal Medicine Workshop	4 March
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
Accreditation Board Meeting	25 April
Conference: University of Southampton, Developing Research Strategies	28 April
EHPA Education Meeting & Council Meeting	9 May
Conference: Diversity and Debate in Alternative and Complementary Medicine	28 June - 1st July