

# AAOM Herbal Medicine Committee Report

The primary agenda of the AAOM Herbal Medicine Committee (HMC) is to work to ensure that AOM providers continue to have uninterrupted access to the entire Chinese Materia Medica. At this time, it is our opinion that the best way to accomplish this, and to address the inadequacies of DSHEA for AOM, is to create a special regulatory category for Chinese herbal medicines used by AOM professionals.

The HMC has explored options for administrative changes to achieve this end and has determined that legislation may be necessary to create a separate category for herbs, which would include the OM herbal pharmacy.

This year, the AAOM HMC's Dave Molony met with the FDA along with the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA). In attendance were Dave Molony, Mark Thoman, AAOM, Michael McGuffin, AHPA, Thomas Henteleff, AHPA attorney, and Thomas Tsay, KPC Products. The meeting was hosted by Jeff Shuren, Assistant Commissioner, FDA.

In summary, the FDA agreed to allow tian hua fen, gua lou ren, gua lou pi, gua lou shi, bing lang, and da fu pi to be

imported. Animal products will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and will no longer be banned based on animal origin. The FDA will continue to detain all imported products containing ephedra. The FDA will modify its import alert on Aristolochic Acid (AA) to allow import of those plants that do not contain AA but which may be confused with plants with do. Despite these determinations, our Vendors Committee continues to report difficulties with importation of legal herbs.

The FDA's determinations, combined with recent seizing of ephedra by the FDA and delays of legal herbs at US borders, have produced a need for stronger measures to retain our pharmacopoeia. The HMC concurs that the AAOM can best participate in effectively passing legislation for a separate category for herbs by banding together with other professional associations. As the Traditional Medicines Congress has already begun this process, the AAOM supports this endeavor towards legislation.

Dave Molony and Claudette Baker represent the AAOM HMC at the Traditional Medicines Congress. The Congress included representatives from AAOM,

AHPA, the Alliance, Naturopaths, the Herbalists Guild, NCCAOM, and the Council of Colleges. The intent of this Congress is to explore options with regard to the preservation of practitioner access to herbal medicine. Our representatives report that the Congress has developed a legislative document for a separate category for herbal medicine. The Congress has released the document for public comment. Please go to the AAOM web site for more information at [www.aaom.org](http://www.aaom.org). The Congress hopes to attain a sponsor and financial support to attempt to pass the legislation after it has undergone peer commentary and is finally approved by all participating parties.

The HMC continues to receive questions regarding the Codex Alimentarius Commission. At this time, the HMC feels that there is no immediate concern, but we will continue to monitor the issue and keep our members informed.

All AAOM members are encouraged to contact the AAOM legislative and Herbal Medicine Committees and the AAOM web page for information and updates at [www.aaom.org](http://www.aaom.org).

*Dr. Atara Noiade*

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