

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 Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act (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 and has determined that legislation may be necessary to create a separate category for herbs, which would include the OM herbal pharmacy.

As a result of our meeting with the FDA combined with last year's seizing of ephedra by the FDA, the HMC supports the drafting of legislation in order to create a sub-agency under the FDA for herbal medicine. 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. The AAOM has determined to support the Traditional Medicines Congress (TM CONGRESS), formerly the Herbal Congress. The Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine community is well represented, including Claudette Baker and David Molony of the AAOM's Herbal Medicine Committee, Corinne Axelrod and Mercy Yule of the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Alliance (AOMA), Kevin Ergil of the Council of Colleges of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (CCAOM), and Bryn Clark of the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM). This is the first time that these groups have worked together with national organizations of related professions to address one of the most critical issues facing practitioners and consumers today.

Anyone with an interest in traditional medicines is now invited to review the draft document that the TM Congress has

developed. [A Proposed Regulatory Model for Traditional Medicines](http://www.aaom.org) is posted online at www.aaom.org. Comments can be emailed to tmcongressfeedback@pobox.com. The deadline for comments is March 31, 2006.

The passing of legislation in conjunction with the TM Congress will require tremendous resources, and the HMC is in the process of outlining a strategy to undertake a fundraising campaign for this purpose. We will keep our membership apprised as events unfold.

In other news, the HMC is in the process of developing a strategy to undertake grass roots efforts to reinstate ephedra in each state as a viable herb when prescribed by a qualified DOM. The HMC is also in discussion with regard to adverse events reporting. The HMC believes that a strong adverse events reporting system should be implemented by our profession to further support our claim that our herbal

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pharmacy is safe and effective when utilized by qualified professionals.

All AAOM members are encouraged to contact the AAOM legislative and herbal medicine committees and the AAOM web page/Press Room for information and updates at www.aaom.org.

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