



FRANKINCENSE

European Herbal Practitioners Association's Newsletter

February 2007

Council News

Changes on Council

The EHPA would like to welcome two new members to its Council. Geoffrey Mead replaces Elizabeth Young from the Maharishi Ayurveda Practitioners Association, and Alison Morton replaces Krystyna Krzyzak from the National Institute of Medical Herbalists. We would like to thank both Elizabeth and Krystyna for their contribution to the EHPA during their time as Council members.

Regulation Update

DH Consultation of Regulation Reviews

In July 2006, the Department of Health (DH) published two reports following the recent reviews of the statutory regulation of healthcare professionals in the UK. Sir Liam Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer, led a review of the regulation of the medical profession and Andrew Foster, former Head of Workforce, led the review of the regulation of non-medical professionals. The DH is scheduled to publish its White Paper on regulation by the end of February 2007. This is will be the Government's response to consultation on these reviews and will outline DH policy regarding healthcare regulation. In particular, the DH is likely to make clear whether it expects regulation of herbal medicine, acupuncture and TCM to be accomplished via the Health Professions Council or whether a new stand-alone Council is possible for these soon-to-be statutorily regulated professions

Professional Regulation

The DH Steering Group on acupuncture, herbal medicine and traditional Chinese medicine has now met three times and is beginning to develop its recommendations on the regulation of these professions.

The most recent meeting was held on 28 November 2006 at the DH offices in Leeds chaired by Professor Michael Pittilo. A new lay member, Jonathan Coe - CEO of the Charity Witness, was welcomed to the group. Neither the HPC nor the DH fielded a representative at this meeting.

The MHRA representative stressed the need for regulation of practitioners to be achieved by the time of the full implementation of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive in 2011 so that practitioners could initiate the manufacture of their own medicinal products without the need for a full medicines licence (see detail of MHRA proposals later in this newsletter).

Professor Pittilo undertook to approach the General Osteopathic and Chiropractic Councils to see if there was any possibility of these professions joining with acupuncture/ herbal medicine and Chinese medicine to form a new Statutory Council as an alternative to the Health Professions Council (HPC) route suggested by the Foster Review. Both Councils are, for the time being, keen to maintain their independence.

Professor Pittilo reported on a meeting with the CEO of the HPC. It appears that the HPC is keen to act as a regulatory home for these professions. Advantages of the HPC route are the relative speed with which regulation would be achieved and the low registration fees. The Steering Group, through the Stakeholder Groups, is currently looking at adapting the HPC standards for the acupuncture, herbal medicine and TCM professions as a starting point.

Stakeholder Chairs Meetings

To date there have been three Stakeholder Chair meetings which includes the Chairs of the Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine and Chinese Medicine Groups as well as the Steering Group Chair. The aim of these meetings is to coordinate the work of the three stakeholder groups as they carry out the tasks of preparing documents for statutory regulation. The last meeting of the Stakeholder Chairs Meeting took place on 19th January 07. This meeting outlined the tasks to be undertaken by the Stakeholder Group Meetings (see below).

Herbal Medicine Stakeholder meetings

The EHPA leads on the Herbal Medicine Stakeholder Group which has to date met twice. Work is now being undertaken within this group to match existing documentation, as published in the Herbal Medicine Regulatory Working Group report, against a range of HPC documents in order to prepare for statutory regulation. These include Standards of Proficiency; Conduct, Performance & Ethics; CPD; and Training and Education including tradition-specific Scope of Practice statements.

If it should turn out that the Government determines that herbal medicine/ acupuncture and TCM should have its own Council, these documents will still serve their purpose as much of the documentation is generic in nature. One new document that the Stakeholder Group has decided to write is a brief account of the holistic approach characteristic of this sector's traditional practice. It is intended that this paper will also reflect on appropriate research approaches for evaluating herbal and traditional medicine treatments.

Copies of the Steering Group minutes, together with other relevant documents are available on the EHPA website www.ehpa.eu.

Medicines Legislation Reform

In January 2007, the MHRA published a number of discussion papers on reform of S12 (1) of the Medicines Act 1968. These discussion papers review the application of Section 12(1), in particular making recommendations about who should be allowed to use S12(1), the requirement for a face-to-face consultation, the possibility of statutorily regulated herbal practitioners commissioning the manufacture of herbal medicines by a third party and the possible extension of S12(1) to non-herbal ingredients. These papers are available on the EHPA website www.ehpa.eu and are out for consultation. The closing date for responses is 30 March 2007.

Regulation Conference

The EHPA will be hosting a Regulation Conference in London on Saturday 12 May. Confirmed speakers include Professor Mike Pittilo, chair of the DH Steering Group on the Regulation of Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine and TCM, Richard Woodfield, Head of Herbs Policy at the MHRA and Alison Denham, Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee. A programme with complete details of speakers will be available on the EHPA website shortly. The Conference aims to bring participants up to date with the latest developments with regard to statutory regulation and proposed changes to 12(1) of the Medicines Act 1968.

New Health Minister

Earlier this month, the DH announced that Lord Hunt would be taking over responsibility of healthcare regulation from Andy Burnham. Lord Hunt was the Health Minister from 1999 to 2003 and thus is familiar with our work on statutory regulation and medicines legislation reform.

Education Update

Ayurveda

The Ayurvedic portion of the EHPA curriculum has been peer reviewed and the Education Committee will consider the next version at its meeting on 12 March.

Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum is being updated to include changes needed following recent institutional accreditations and to bring it into line with current practice in other professions. There are new reading lists and the element on Clinical Practice has been changed to include the recommendations of our Working Group on Clinical Practice. Once agreed by the Education Committee, the revised curriculum will be on the EHPA website www.ehpa.eu.

Accreditation Update

Accredited Programmes

The EHPA Accreditation Board has accredited a total of six programmes to date: two additional institutions are at an earlier stage in the accreditation process. Of the eight institutions in total, three offer Western Herbal Medicine and five offer Traditional Chinese Medicine programmes.

Joint working with BAAB

Institutions that have programmes accredited by the British Acupuncture Accreditation Board (BAAB) and/or EHPA will shortly be receiving a questionnaire for completion. The questionnaire will help gather views from Institutions about the current accreditation process(es) so that the two boards can begin to consider ways of working together in order to minimise duplication and workload for institutions that are accredited by both boards.

Learning Outcomes and Clinical Hours

As outlined in earlier newsletters, Core Curriculum clinical learning outcomes are in the process of being revised, following which a decision will be made about the minimum number of clinical hours required in order to achieve them. Whilst decisions are awaited, institutions in the process of planning curriculum changes for validation or accreditation purposes are urged to contact the Chair of the board so that they can be kept up to date with developments.

The Clinical Learning Environment

Please refer to the EHPA website (standards) for recent board guidance issued www.ehpa.eu.

Publicity and Advertising

Please refer to the EHPA website (standards) for the latest board requirements www.ehpa.eu.

2007 Diary Dates

EHPA Accreditation Board meeting, London	12 February
EHPA Education Committee Meeting on Clinical Hours, London	20 February
Herbal Forum, London	26 February
Chinese Medicine Working Group meeting, London	26 February
Herbal Medicine Stakeholder meeting, London	5 March
Parliamentary Group Meeting on Regulation, London	6 March
DH Steering Group Meeting, London	9 March
EHPA Education & Council Meeting, London	12 March
Acupuncture Stakeholder Meeting, Liverpool	14 March
Chinese Medicine Working Group meeting, London	26 March
Parliamentary Group meeting, London	27 March
EHPA Education Committee Meeting on Clinical Hours, London	3 April
EHPA Accreditation Board meeting, London	16 April
Chinese Medicine Working Group meeting, London	23 April
DH Stakeholder Chairs meeting, London	27 April
EHPA Regulation Conference, London	12 May
EHPA Education & Council Meeting, London	14 May
Chinese Medicine Working Group meeting, London	21 May
DH Steering Group Meeting	25 May
EHPA Accreditation Board meeting, London	4 June
Chinese Medicine Working Group meeting, London	25 June
Acupuncture Stakeholders Meeting	27 June