



## Functions of the EHTPA Council

**Accreditation Board** – this is independent from the EHTPA council but reports to it and acts on the EHTPA council's recommendations to maintain educational standards in herbal medicine. Please note that the EHTPA member fees are not used for accreditation/validation purposes or for payment of the EHTPA's Accreditation Board (AB) board – the AB is completely self-financing.

**BHMA** – the EHTPA works closely with the BHMA on its in-house Herbal Practitioner Supplier Scheme (HPSS) and on a variety of other quality and safety issues.

**Cross-tradition collaboration** – the EHTPA provides a forum for herbalists from diverse traditions to come together to share their knowledge, just as herbalists have done for millennia. The EHTPA Council is keen to support future collaborations between all herbal medicine Professional Associations which will be of benefit to every herbalist, no matter which tradition they practise. The EHTPA council is working to increase membership of the EHTPA. There is also an exciting new venture with other organisations representing Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) practitioners that will be announced later in the year.

**DoH and MHRA meetings** – the Co-Chairs work closely with the Department of Health and Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) on the proposed review of Schedule 20/potent herbs. This review has been postponed for the present time due to the current long-standing Brexit issues. The Co-Chairs also frequently ask the MHRA to remove products from general sale to the public that contain Schedule 20 Part 1/Part 2 and restricted herbs as only herbalists and health professionals are authorised to prescribe or provide these herbs. This will have a beneficial effect for all herbal practitioners.

**EUROCAM** – EUROCAM is a Europe-wide foundation that unites organisations representing CAM practices. Its aim is to promote the contribution of CAM to better health in Europe. Due to the uncertainties surrounding the UK's role within the EU, the EHTPA has suspended membership of EUROCAM at this time, which represents a major cost saving. However, our European colleagues are kindly keeping us updated of any major developments. The Co-Chairs communicate with Ton Nicolai (the EUROCAM Spokesperson) frequently to keep abreast of political issues in Europe. For example, an update about the issues facing CHM practitioners in Spain was recently sent to the RCHM for distribution to its members.

**Fees** - the current EHTPA fee per practitioner is a discounted £30.00 per year and has been for the last two years (decreased from the usual £60.00 per year). This reduction has been as a result of substantial restructuring of the EHTPA (the co-chairs do not receive a salary and the EHTPA no longer employs a salaried secretary). With the change of status from a limited company to an unincorporated association, the EHTPA also saves considerable money on accounting fees. These savings have been passed on to members and the EHTPA council is keen to keep the yearly fee as low as possible.

**GDPR** – the EHTPA advised all Practitioner Association members on GDPR matters before the changes last May. The EHTPA continues to keep updated with changes in this field and will update members from time to time, when necessary.

**Herbalist.org.uk website** – this is an essential part of the EHTPA's profile-raising activity for herbal medicine. It is a non-affiliated site, which means that claims can be made without breaching CAP/ASA regulations – [www.herbalist.org.uk](http://www.herbalist.org.uk).

**HerbMark** – this EHTPA venture has been praised by the MHRA for raising quality and safety standards in the herbal practitioner arena. All PAs should encourage member herbal practitioners to display the HerbMark in their clinic and advertising as a mark denoting high quality and safe herbal practitioners. <http://ehtpa.eu/standards/herbmark/>.

**Main EHTPA website [www.ehtpa.eu](http://www.ehtpa.eu)** – a source of information for everybody interested in herbal medicine and associated educational standards within the UK. The site is currently being reviewed and updated. It will have to change domain immediately when (if) Brexit occurs (as the UK then automatically loses the ability to use the .eu domain). We already have a replacement domain ready at [www.ehtpa.org](http://www.ehtpa.org). It can be activated quickly if we leave the EU on 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**Political issues** – the EHTPA Co-Chairs deal with political and legislative issues affecting herbal practitioners. They regularly attend the House of Commons to discuss matters with ministers.

**Questions** – the EHTPA Co-Chairs regularly answer email questions from members of the public and various health and CAM practitioners, covering a wide range of areas including potential safety issues and side-effect reports, accredited herbal medicine courses, and information on finding a medical herbalist for particular medical conditions.

**Research** – a menopause scoping review is being carried out that covers all herbal traditions. This builds on the current completed scoping studies on general herbal medicine (cardiovascular conditions, type 2 diabetes mellitus, skin conditions, irritable bowel syndrome, respiratory conditions, antimicrobial resistance, arthritis, gynaecological conditions and depression), type 2 diabetes, antimicrobial resistance and pyrrolizidine alkaloid-containing medicinal herbs.

**Safety** - the EHTPA also updates members from time to time regarding safety issues – for example the work carried out by the EHTPA council on the pyrrolizidine alkaloid issue three years ago, and the more recent update on kratom, cannabis and *Artemisia annua* (qing hao) sent to members. The EHTPA council sets guidance on safety and good practice so that all member Professional Associations work to the same standards.

**Seminars** – the EHTPA plans to run a workshop examining the use of CBD later this year or in early 2020.

**Statutory Regulation (SR)/Campaigning** – to respond to the ever-changing landscape in which herbal medicine exists, to create awareness of herbal medicine throughout UK society and to be prepared to immediately engage in the pursuit of SR, should that option become available again in the future.

**Current EHTPA Council members (as of 29/07/19)**

Co-Chair: Chris Etheridge

Co-Chair: vacant

AB Chair: Harvey Woolf

Treasurer: Peter Eaton

Tamdin Bradley (BATTM)

Lloyd Gee (URHP)

Beth Ingham (RCHM)

Ginny Kemp (CPP)

Laura Yarham (URHP)