



Contact Us

If you would like to become a AONH Member, upgrade to the Elite Membership, or register for our Annual Natural Health Care Conference, please email:

info@aonh.org or call
202-505-AONH (2664)

Upcoming Events

- AONH Monthly Webinar, Wed., Feb. 22, 2012 at 7:00 pm EST.

AONH Members will receive an email invitation to join us for the AONH Monthly Webinar. The Speaker is **Naturopath, Jeffrey Essen** and the subject is **“Leaky Gut: The Fundamental Health Crisis”**.

- AONH Monthly Webinar, Wed., Mar. 14, 2012 at 7:00 pm EST.

AONH Members will receive an email invitation to join us for the AONH Monthly Webinar. The Speaker is **Sherri Tenpenny** and the subject is **“Vaccine Basics: Answering Your Questions about Vaccine Safety”**

- AONH Annual Natural Health Care Conference, Nov. 8-10, 2012

The AONH Annual Conference joins health care advocates and providers for an enlightening program geared to the up-to-date natural health care practitioner. Registration for the event is normally \$299. **Register before Feb 29, 2012 for a \$100 discount.** Event will be held in the Atlanta, Georgia metropolitan area.

ISSUE

01

JAN
2012

QUARTERLY
JOURNAL OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF
NATURAL HEALTH

AONH NEWS



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The Mission of Your Association

AONH is dedicated to public education and the professional development of natural health care around the world. Our aim is to unite our like minded members and speak as one voice and with one purpose.

Getting Involved

Associate, Select, and Elite Memberships are available.

For further information on benefits you or your company can receive, please register for membership by visiting: www.aonh.org

NATURAL HEALTH CARE UNDER ATTACK

Natural medicine advocates believe the public's fundamental basic human right of choice is under attack.

Currently, more than 100 countries regulate herbal medicines in varying degrees, as countries attempt to protect their populations from counterfeit and poor quality or adulterated herbal products. Safety concerns have focused on the powerful effects of some herbal remedies and the way they interact with conventional drugs (4). For example, St John's Wort can interfere with some contraceptive pills, while ginkgo and ginseng are known to have a similar effect when used with the blood-thinning drug Warfarin (3).

The European Union's Traditional Medicinal Products Directive, originally passed in 2004, and effective as of April of 2011, is meant to regulate the sale of herbal medicinal products online and in-store. Under the EU law to qualify as a "long-established traditional medicine," products must have been in use for the past 30-years (15-years within the EU in general). The enforcement of this law not only handicaps innovation within the

natural health industry, but effectively eradicates all herbal medicines (i.e Chinese, Western, and Ayurvedic) and any other medicinal herb from the European Union as well as the United Kingdom. Under these standards, regulation limits access to only pharmaceutical drug-based treatments.

Numerous professionals have voiced their indignation as this regulation does away not only with products, but with the practitioners themselves! The natural health care community is concerned with establishing a distinction between charlatans and professionals in industry just as much as the need to distinguish counterfeit products from products based on sound science. However, this April, 2011 EU solution sacrifices natural medicinal product and practitioner as well as the individual's right to choose!

Reaction

In France, a petition against the directive has been launched



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How Can You Support these Issues?

As this issue clearly shows, the future of natural supplements is in the balance. Perhaps the single most important thing a US citizen can do is write their state senator stating their support of natural health care.

With regard to the issue raised on page three's IN THE NEWS section, Constituents living in the state of Wisconsin for instance, must write (before April 2012) supporting Senate Bill SB-280 -The Wis. Consumer Choice and Wellness Act- that protects consumer access to complementary and alternative health. People residing in other states can make a difference by forwarding this newsletter and corresponding links to friends or relatives alerting them of the need to protect their fundamental right to choose.

Suggested reading:

<http://www.fda.gov/food/guidancecomplianceregulatoryinformation/guidancedocuments/dietarysupplements/ucm257563.htm>

http://www.naturalnews.com/034575_health_freedom_Wisconsin_consumer_choice.html#ixzz1l2kzjJWa

<http://www.wihfc.com/>



by a group of natural remedy stakeholders calling itself ‘Le Collectif por la Defense de la Medecine Naturelle’. Dr. Robert Verkerk, executive and scientific director of the UK-based Alliance for Natural Health, said: “The problem is that [synthetic chemical ingredients] are deemed necessary by formulators in order to meet the pharmaceutical stability standards set by the EU directive. Forcing non-European herbal traditions into a straitjacket would effectively corrupt these great traditions (1)”. There is real and growing concern that many valued herbal remedies which have been around for thousands of years will simply cease to be available to the public(6).

On the Home Front
The US is gradually incorporating greater restrictions through manufacturing regulations set by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These regulations sometimes lack adequate definitions in establishing appropriate criteria to accept or exclude products from the market. Legal challenges have proved the agency’s need to redefine and reconsider a new approach when enacting restrictive policy and have made considerable gains in re-establishing certain positive parameters in natural health care.

Pearson v. Shalala I -1998
The US Congress authorized the FDA to pre-approve health claims on foods (including dietary supplements). In fact,

the FDA had only approved ten claims during the ten years that followed due to the undefined and difficult standards set. Dirk Pearson and Sandy Shaw, supplement manufacturers, sued the FDA in federal court for refusing to allow four health claims on their products which they argued were supported by science. Their premise was based on the First Amendment and the FDA’s failure to define their standard for accepting a health claim (10). The D.C. Appeals Court stated: “We agree with appellants that the [Administrative Procedures Act] requires the agency to explain why it rejects their proposed health claims—to do so adequately necessarily implies giving some definitional content to the phrase “significant scientific agreement.”...It simply will not do for a government agency to declare—without explanation—that a proposed course of private action is not approved...“The agency must ... articulate a satisfactory explanation for its action....To refuse to define the criteria it is applying is equivalent to simply saying no without explanation (9)”.

Pearson v. Shalala II -2000
Late 2000 saw Pearson return to court filling another lawsuit against the FDA

arguing the health claims that adequate intake of folic acid by pregnant women could prevent neural tube defects. The court stated “It is clear that the FDA simply failed to comply with the constitutional guidelines outlined in Pearson I. ...Additionally, the FDA’s conclusion that the ‘weight’ of the evidence was against Plaintiffs’ Folic Acid Claim was arbitrary, capricious and otherwise in violation of law (9)”.

Enough is Enough
The Association of Natural Health believes public safety is a shared concern for all professions. The ethical

principle and oath “to do no harm to human life” is driven by the individual and collective well-being of our society.

We at the AONH acknowledge the importance of both traditional and western medicines. Neither should be discarded when the primary objectives are the restoration of health and the prevention of illness. The challenges we face today offer a unique opportunity for us to take part in directing the course our governments take in writing policy. As proven by other countries which utilize both natural and allopathic medicines effectively, integration of natural medicine can prove to be the backbone of primary care in working alongside conventional medicine in a safe, efficient, regulated manner.

As we begin 2012, let us strengthen our resolve to advocate natural health care through education, encouragement and support. There are many ways to support our cause. Your membership entitles you to benefits, but also places shared responsibility to crusade for effective policy on your shoulders. Please continue to do so by supporting the AONH, and like organizations, in the battle for freedom of choice.

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IN THE NEWS

FDA: Regulation, or possible ban on dietary supplements?

The FDA has proposed draft guidelines for new dietary supplements, which resonate the European Union’s legislation. Essentially under these protocols, both innovation and development of supplements containing new ingredients would have to go through a selective process established by the FDA. The definition for “new ingredients” include any added after 1994, as established by the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act passed by Congress.

Limiting product development by eliminating the addition of new ingredients will cripple the advancement of natural health. (see page two on how to get involved in this issue)



HOW DO YOU JOIN?

Act today!

Email us at info@aonh.org or call 202-505-AONH (2664)

Your membership is yearly and entitles you to many benefits.

SPREAD THE WORD

Pay it forward

By signing up as an Elite AONH Member you will receive a montly one-page newsletter from the AONH which you may customize and utilize to spread the word to your mailing lists, patients or clients.