

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:
<https://bhma.info/hpss/>

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 collaboration with other organisations representing Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) practitioners in the UK and EU.

DHSC and MHRA meetings – the President works closely with the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) on the proposed review of Schedule 20 Part 2/potent herbs. This review has been postponed for the present time due to the current long-standing Brexit issues. The President also frequently liaises with 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. The EHTPA represents herbal medicine in the EU for EUROCAM.

Fees – at the current time EHTPA membership is free for Professional Associations and their members, and has been for the last few years. This free membership has been made possible as a result of substantial restructuring of the EHTPA (the President and Council 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 in June 2020, the EHTPA also saves considerable money on accounting fees.

GDPR – the EHTPA has advised all Practitioner Association members on GDPR matters before the current legislation started on 25th May 2018. The EHTPA continues to keep up-to-date with changes in this field and will update members from time to time, as and 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.

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.org/standards/herbmark/>.

Main EHTPA website www.ehtpa.org – a source of information for everybody interested in herbal medicine and associated educational standards within the UK. There is a members' page as well, with access to Continued Professional Development videos, past EHTPA seminars and herb-drug interaction tables.

Political issues – the EHTPA President deals with political and legislative issues affecting herbal practitioners. The President regularly attends the House of Commons to discuss matters with ministers.

Questions – the EHTPA President regularly answers questions from the media, 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. Quality and safety research on

practitioner supplies, is also being carried out in conjunction with the British Herbal Medicine Association and the University of Westminster, to ensure standards.

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 six years ago, and updates 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.

Training webinars – the EHTPA runs regular CPD training events that are recorded for all members to access via the EHTPA's member's page.

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 25/04/24)

President: Chris Etheridge
AB Chair: Harvey Woolf
Finance Officer: Peter Eaton
Tamdin Bradley (BATTM)
Lloyd Gee (URHP)
Alex Jacobs (RCHM)
Martin John (RCHM)
Ginny Kemp (CPP)

Observers (as of 25/04/24)

Sue Clark (APA)
Emma Schade-Stylli (AMH)
James Wiltshire (NIMH)