



## **Charter: Herbal Medicine Committee**

### **Purpose:**

- **To clarify best practices in the US for Traditional Herbal Medicine (THM).**
- **Promote, protect and inform the best practices of traditional herbal medicine in the USA**
- **ASA Herbal Medicine Committee is responsible for working on national issues related to herbal medicine.**

### **Composition**

**The Herbal Medicine Committee shall be composed of ASA members that are vetted by the Nominating Committee (NC) and approved by said committee. Following approval by the Board there will be a probationary period of 3 months for each new committee member followed by approval by the rest of the standing committee.**

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

- To encourage practitioners to use best practices and to practice within their state practice acts.
- To educate about issues related to herbal medicine and coordinate messaging and efforts with the Public Education Committee.
- To defend access to, and availability of herbal medicine.
- To interface with other stakeholders
- To represent the American Society of Acupuncturists (ASA), and the profession it represents.
- To explore this long term goal: traditional medicine as a third category in FDA regulations
- Monitoring regulatory agencies and legislative changes and respond as necessary.
- To monitor media & respond to issues as needed: respond to unforeseen issues pertaining to the practice of herbal medicine

### **JOB Descriptions**

We have worked as a group on most projects up to this point. We are now moving towards having a variety of working groups to achieve different goals.

**Board Liaison** - Communicates efforts and plans to the board to ensure strategic planning aligns with the national priorities and strategies. They will present projects to the board for approval of funds and annual budget.

## **Committee Chair**

Organize and run the monthly meetings.  
Prepare a monthly report and send it to the board.  
Ensure project deadlines are met.

## **Committee Members**

Responsibilities:

Monthly meetings, generally for an hour. Preparatory reading or follow up actions are common and important for the committee to be successful.  
Ability to take initiative along with the drive to see projects through to completion.  
Accepting of, and receptive to constructive criticism.  
Agree that we are all working together for national goals and may need to set personal or state agendas aside.  
Be able to follow through with commitments made in order to complete projects.  
Take on other responsibilities as a member of a working group.

**Media response working group;** to survey mainstream media and respond appropriately.

- Build an organized online resource document which contains:
  - Common misinformation that has been spread before
  - Prepared responses for common misinformation
  - Links to quality resources, documentation and statements
  - Plug and play scripts for making online response comments
  - Contact list of subject experts who can be alerted to specific issues
  
- Create a core team of responders. Responders will:
  - Collect and build resources listed above
  - Monitor news and social media feeds looking for issues
  - Network on social media asking for support to find issues
  - Have authority to respond quickly on behalf of the ASA
  - Will coordinate with each other to formulate additional responses
  - Will document all online responses for review by the ASA board

### Strategies

- Request from community submissions of best comment responses and resources
- Request links to sites that commonly have bad info, like Forbes, etc.
- Create categories of problem comments:
  - Endangered species
  - Evidence based medicine
  - Everything is an aphrodisiac....
  - MLM marketing
  - Common myths
  - Inappropriate use of science testing- wrong evaluation used= bad info

**Liaison(s)** to: Regulatory agencies such as; FDA/ DEA, FTC, DSHEA, FDA Tariffs

Other stakeholders such as, but not limited to;  
American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) attend semi-annual Chinese Herbal  
Product Committee meetings and invite AHPA to attend ASA CHM meetings.

**Working group** Collaborating with other ASA Committees as needed.

**Other concerns**

How to include, learn from, and not be unduly influenced by the industry.

Conflict in interest statement with declarations of not price fixing or anti-trust.