

BIOSCIENCES FEDERATION

The Medicines for Human Use (National Rules for Homeopathic Products) Regulations 2006

About the Federation

The Biosciences Federation (BSF) is a single authority representing the UK's biological expertise, providing independent opinion to inform public policy and promoting the advancement of the biosciences. The Federation brings together the strengths of 42 member organisations (plus two associate members), including the Institute of Biology which represents 40 additional affiliated societies. This represents a cumulative membership of over 65,000 individuals, covering the full spectrum of biosciences from physiology and neuroscience, biochemistry and microbiology, to ecology, taxonomy and environmental science. The Biosciences Federation is a registered charity (no. 1103894).

Comment on The Medicines for Human Use (National Rules for Homeopathic Products) Regulations 2006

The Biosciences Federation supports policy-making underpinned by sound scientific evidence, therefore the MHRA's decision to accept homeopathic 'provings' as data on efficacy is of extreme concern to the Federation. The new regulations do not comply with the MHRA's duty to ensure the safety and efficacy of medicines, and to provide clear, honest advice to the public. It is vital that the decisions of regulatory bodies are free from political, special interest, or media influence, and that they are based on the best available evidence. In this case it would seem that the MHRA has bowed down to industry pressure.

Openness

The Biosciences Federation is pleased for this comment to be publicly available and will be shortly placing a version on www.bsf.ac.uk. Any queries regarding this comment should be addressed to Dr Caroline Wallace, Science Policy Advisor, Biosciences Federation, c.wallace@iob.org

Appendix

Member Societies of the Biosciences Federation

Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour	British Psychological Society
Biochemical Society	British Society of Animal Science
Bioscience Network	British Society for Developmental Biology
British Andrology Society	British Society for Immunology
British Association for Psychopharmacology	British Society for Matrix Biology
British Biophysical Society	British Society for Medical Mycology
British Ecological Society	British Society for Neuroendocrinology
British Lichen Society	British Society for Plant Pathology
British Mycological Society	British Society for Proteome Research
British Neuroscience Association	British Toxicology Society
British Pharmacological Society	Experimental Psychology Society

Genetics Society
Heads of University Biological Sciences
Heads of University Centres for Biomedical
Science
Institute of Animal Technology
Institute of Biology
Institute of Horticulture
Laboratory Animal Science Association
Linnean Society
Nutrition Society
Physiological Society

Royal Microscopical Society
Royal Society of Chemistry
Society for Applied Microbiology
Society for Endocrinology
Society for Experimental Biology
Society for General Microbiology
Society for Reproduction and Fertility
Universities Bioscience Managers Association
UK Environmental Mutagen Society
Zoological Society of London

Associate Member Societies

The BioIndustry Association

The Wellcome Trust

Additional Societies represented by the Institute of Biology

Anatomical Society of Great Britain & Ireland
Association for Radiation Research
Association of Applied Biologists
Association of Clinical Embryologists
Association of Clinical Microbiologists
Association of Veterinary Teachers and Research
Workers
British Association for Cancer Research
British Association for Lung Research
British Association for Tissue Banking
British Crop Production Council
British Inflammation Research Association
British Marine Life Study Society
British Microcirculation Society
British Society for Ecological Medicine
British Society for Parasitology
British Society for Plant Pathology
British Society for Research on Ageing
British Society of Soil Science
Fisheries Society of the British Isles
Freshwater Biological Association
Galton Institute
Institute of Trichologists
International Association for Plant Tissue Culture &
Biotechnology
International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation
Society
International Biometric Society
International Society for Applied Ethology
Marine Biological Association of the UK
Primate Society of Great Britain
PSI - Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry
Royal Entomological Society
Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Scottish Association for Marine Science
Society for Anaerobic Microbiology
Society for Low Temperature Biology
Society for the Study of Human Biology
Society of Academic & Research Surgery

Society of Cosmetic Scientists
Society of Pharmaceutical Medicine
UK Registry of Canine Behaviourists
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare

Additional Societies represented by the Linnean Society

Botanical Society of the British Isles

Systematics Association