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Regulatory status of herbal medicines; considerations about Cuba

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In the last decade, there has been a global upsurge in the use of traditional medicine, and complementary and alternative medicine in both developed and developing countries. This is one of the main reasons for reinforcing the surveillance of the safety, efficacy and quality control of traditional medicine, complementary and alternative medicines.

This work describes important aspects about the art state of the regulatory status of herbal medicines as well as the main requirements for registering of herbal medicinal products. Besides that, data related with the countries involved in the WHO program for traditional medicine will be showed. The market and the main challenges are analysed in the investigation of the phytomedicines as well as the tendencies in the growth of this attractive sector. Moreover, the main requirements for the registering of herbal medicinal products in Cuba will be showed.

The strategies for the development of herbal medicinal products are showed. The natural health products are considered a very important source for the health.

Biography

Diadelis Remirez Figueredo received her B.A. (1995, Biochemistry) from Faculty of Biology, Havana University, Cuba, and both her M.Sc. (1995, Biomedicine) and Ph.D. (1999 Pharmaceutical Sciences) from National Center for Scientific Research in Havana, and most of the results were done in the Department of Toxicology at the Free University in Amsterdam. Postdoctoral training in Molecular Toxicology and Pharmacology was completed at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Toronto, Canada. She spent 12 years working at the National Center for Scientific Research in the Pharmacology department. Since 2002, she has been working at the National Centre for State Quality of Drugs and Medical Devices, she has acted as referee for Ph.D. thesis and she is an adjunct member of Pharmaceutical Sciences Ph.D. thesis Jury. She has been referee of scientific journals related with natural products. Her other previous academic appointments include lecturer in different international meetings. She has been the recipient of National Award of Pharmacology twice from the Cuban Pharmacology Society. In recent years, she has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Centre that she works. She worked as expert for the evaluation of preclinical platform in South Africa, Council for Scientific Industrial Research (CSIR). She is currently the vice president of Cuban Pharmacology Society. She has been involved in the reorganization of Latin American Society and in the organization of different international and local congress. Her research interests have included *in vitro* and *in vivo* evaluation of hepatoprotective, antiinflamatory and antioxidant effects of Cuban synthetic and natural compounds, and investigation of the molecular cytotoxic mechanism involved in drug toxicity. At present in the Regulatory Agency, she is one of the reviewers for authorization of clinical trials, and the evaluation of safety and efficacy of drugs for registering. Besides that, she is the project leader for Pharmacogenetic guideline. Her research is described in over 30 published research reports.

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