



Letter to the Editor

Via online submission 1/17/08

Re: *Clinical Cancer Research*, "Herbal/Hormonal Dietary Supplement Possibly Associated with Prostate Cancer Progression"

We are writing to identify at least one error in your pending January 15 issue and to respectfully request that you issue a correction.

The article, which is to be published in *Clinical Cancer Research* ("A Herbal/Hormonal Dietary Supplement: An Association With Prostate Cancer Progression?"), is titled inaccurately and likely makes the same error in its text. This title misidentifies an illegal drug product as a dietary supplement, and erroneously claims that "hormonal dietary supplements" may "promote the progression of prostate cancer."

A press release from the authors' institution quotes the lead author of the pending article as stating that the current U.S. regulations provide "little oversight or assurances" that dietary supplement labels "provide accurate information for consumers." This is not accurate, however, since dietary supplement labels are required by law to declare all product ingredients. Those who market illegal drugs, whether as prescription drug counterfeits or by calling them dietary supplements, do not observe these laws.

The correct description of the unidentified product, trusting that the researchers' analysis was accurate, is that it is an illegal drug that was misrepresented as a dietary supplement. The American Herbal Products Association decries the presence of such products in the marketplace and applauds any and all efforts by government regulators, the medical community and consumers to see that they are promptly removed and that marketers of such unlawful drugs are dealt with severely.

We respectfully request that you either correct this matter before publication, or that you issue a correction in a future issue. We have contacted the second author on this matter as well.

Thank you very much.

Michael McGuffin  
President  
American Herbal Products Association