



Letter to the Editor  
Sent via e-mail Jan. 17, 2008  
Re: UT Southwestern Medical Center Study

Dear Dr Roehrborn and Ms Prather-Stafford,

We are writing to identify two errors in your recent press release (online at: <http://www8.utsouthwestern.edu/utsw/cda/dept353744/files/437809.html>) and to respectfully request that you issue a correction.

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

In addition, the press release 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 issue a correction to your earlier press release.

Thank you very much.

Michael McGuffin  
President  
American Herbal Products Association