

You too could have a Diploma in Old Wives' Traditional Medicine

An apple a day will keep what away?

What happens to your hair if you don't eat your crusts?

If you think you can answer questions like these and your hands are clean, why not become a registered practitioner of Old Wives' Traditional Medicine?

The new **Voice of Young Science School of Old Wives' Medicine** will hit the streets of London on 8th September to start providing diplomas for people to practice Old Wives' Traditional Medicine, registering members of the public who can correctly answer questions about traditional cures and advice.

Find out if you can become an Old Wives' Medicine practitioner outside the **Department of Health** on Whitehall on **Wednesday 8th September from 11.30** where young scientists and medics will be launching the scheme.

*The assessment is **FREE OF CHARGE** and will only take a couple of minutes. Just like the proposed Department of Health scheme, **we will not test your medical knowledge.***

To find out why Voice of Young Science (VoYS), a group of PhD students, post-docs and young medics who stand up for science have been driven to launch the Old Wives' Traditional Medicine scheme, read on.

The Department of Health is proposing a professional registration scheme for practitioners of traditional medicine – which will regulate everything *except* whether a practitioner has any medical training.

- These proposed regulations would not ensure that the practitioners have medical training, or that the treatments would actually work.
- These regulations are for practitioners of Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine and other Traditional Medicine Systems.
- The scheme focuses on traditional methods as the basis of its accreditation, not evidence.
- The justification for the scheme is claimed to be concerns about hygiene, English fluency and criminal records, despite the fact that there are already schemes to assess these.

These proposed regulations are misleading and will put people at risk.

- The proposed professional registration scheme imitates the regulation of science-based medical practice and implies that treatments are equivalent to evidence-based medicine.
- They will give the impression that the practitioners have the knowledge, skills and attributes of qualified medical practitioners.
- We are confronted with the possibility of misdiagnosis, the failure to provide suitable medical treatment and dangerous drug interactions, which the scheme is more likely to enhance than prevent.
- Following the introduction of professional accreditation and regulation in other alternative medicine practices, we have seen the introduction and rapid expansion of pseudoscientific qualifications in universities.

There is no public benefit from these proposed regulations and the DH must not adopt them.

We have one chance to affect the decision on this before the regulations come in. Please make a difference.

- Come down to the Department of Health on Whitehall from 11.30 on 8th September to get your diploma. Urge your friends, colleagues and family to pop by too. The more people we have there, the bigger the impact.
- Young scientists and medics: join VoYS in their School of Old Wives' Traditional Medicine. Drop Julia an email (jwilson@senseaboutscience.org) to say you'll be there and bring a lab coat if you have one!
- Get tweeting (#oldwivesmed), blogging and update your Facebook status with "Come and get a diploma in Old Wives' Traditional Medicine [LINK to this page]".
- Follow us on twitter @voiceofyoungsci for updates and news.