

Trade and professional organisations around the world.

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Update 2014 - Aromatherapy organisations:

Please bear in mind that all these organisations are run by members of the aromatherapy trade. They are NOT independent validating organisations as many would have you believe. Trade organisations have a vested interest in promoting their founders and directors who often have training schools and may sell oils. The name of the game is keep the ball rolling by constantly training new people as past members leave due to disenchantment. They rarely tell newer members about past and present problems within the trade. Those problems can include; financial mismanagement; take-over bids using disreputable behaviour; loading committees with their friends; keeping real experts at arms length or blocking members knowledge of them, etc.

Numerous organisations around the world continue validating teachers and courses who provide the standard trade hype. Some give students the impression that they are approved validation authorities, when in reality some are private companies. Some are based around a charity or not-for-profit. Accounts may not be submitted to authorities due to the low turnover, and/or are only seen if a member attends an AGM. That makes holding leaders to account for inappropriate spending difficult.

Most of their member schools still teach the same old junk that has been taught for years. **The real standards of teaching accurate verified information on their therapy do not exist.** When I have challenged what some of these validating organisations are allowing their members to teach, I am met by a firewall of hostility. They do not like their real standards challenged. Instead, they prefer to put up convincing web sites packed with misleading educational jargon, logos of a plethora of organisations, etc.

USA: Beware of organisations set up to look like independent aromatherapy research bodies. For example:

Center for Aromatherapy Research and Education.

Association For International Research of Aromatic science and Education.

These and others are all part of the Young Living empire. That sinister organisation and its distributors have set up hundreds of web sites and blogs in order to ensnare the gullible, and Christians. They do this by using incorrect information and lies about 'biblical oils' and 'messages' from their God.

Aromatic Science.com set up by a doctor? as a way to promote doTerra oils. Convincing looking research papers unless you know what to be on the lookout for.

Learning About Essential Oils.com a site that carries numerous links to oil suppliers and other sources of commercial sales. Seemingly a site established as a money making exercise and with wrong information. See other article 'errors on aromatherapy blogs'.

NAHA in the USA seems to have fallen into the grips of one person Jade Shutes. I am informed by older members who used to take an active role, that they have left, or been driven out. The President has the power to remove anyone they do not like from the various committees. What a crazy constitution, that's even assuming the societies rule book is adhered to. Ms Shutes is actively promoting the internal use of essential oils despite the grave problems associated with that activity. She also has links on her own site to suppliers who make illegal medicinal claims and are selling oils with no known safety data or verified therapeutic use.

The Alliance-aromatherapists.org are an organisation claiming to set standards and offering examinations. They are still largely an organisation of training schools some of whom still teach the

typical aromatherapy nonsense on the therapeutic uses of essential oils. At least they do not promote the internal use of oils, so that's something. They also have publicly accessible accounts - unlike similar organisations.

Beware of Young Living & doTerra and their distributors, almost all they say is a lie and they use mind control techniques to create their cult followers. Believe nothing that David Stewart says about God the bible and essential oils or oil frequencies. These are all marketing lies. The whole thing about frequencies of essential oils was invented in France by one individual and was dismissed as nonsense years ago, but the craziness is still used to sell oils. See Pages 35 to 40 of the review of Gary Young's book for more.

Canada: I see little changed since I wrote the articles on those course in the archive. They continue trying to make themselves look even more professional by claims to adhere to general educational standards. Some of these organisations love to fool people with educational protocols and standards which makes them look good, but when it comes to standards of the subject matter, i.e. aromatherapy they are very lacking in sound facts.

Several of their course providers continue to teach the **chemistry nonsense emanating from teachers from France**. Several continue teaching the therapeutic uses of essential oils on which nothing is known-see here.

Japan: Has several schools and associations who teach the nonsense on therapeutic uses of essential oils based on the major chemical groups in them. These schools tend to use teachers from France or trained in France whose work was discredited many years ago by leading researchers. The fees charged by these schools are outrageous and most of them only seem interested in getting people who they think are 'big names' to validate their courses. Some are purely business ventures aimed at extracting as much money as they can from students and to hell with quality of education.

Even health professionals have been misled by these so called 'names'. As they use the chemical composition theories this sounds more logical to those with a science background. The fact that these teachers from France get the chemistry completely wrong-see *articles archive*-seems only to be noticed by a few of Japans deeper thinkers.

Look to see if the association also sells essential oils. If it does then it may be set up simply as a business and not just an educational organisation.

I know that some of the schools in Japan have obtained validation from UK organisations just so they can mislead their students into thinking their course is of high quality. Their students then set up practice using the faulty and misleading knowledge some of which has the potential to cause physical harm.

The Far East: Several UK and US aromatherapy companies have managed to trade in your countries. So have the biggest confidence tricksters in the UK, US and French essential oil supply trade. You have a habit of believing that if someone has written a book, or is a teacher, that they must be very knowledgeable. That might have been the case in your countries in the past, but most large publishers care nothing about accuracy of books, only in their profits.

In China I am informed that some business people are setting up courses just to ensnare students into parting with large sums of money. Please, if you can read this, pass that on to anyone there who may be thinking of paying for an aromatherapy course. Attempts have been made by business people to pirate my course. I have heard the Chinese Government Education department are validating some courses based on UK trade organisations models. See below and other articles for what I think of them!!

In Korea some courses are run by Doctors. The hope is those who I lectured to will only teach safe ways of doing things. However, I suspect some are also teaching the unverified and dangerous

information originating from certain well known French therapists. Others are teaching the nonsense in certain well known aromatherapy books. So beware and ask questions.

UK: Leaders of some UK aromatherapy organisations continue to mislead people (particularly overseas) by giving the impression they are THE leading trade organisation. Numerous other UK organisations continue down their own paths most of which are still based around beauty therapy trade hype. ITEC give overseas students the impression that they are a respected UK approved validation authority, when in reality they are simply a private company.

The 'standards' all these organisations say they adhere to are a joke. The real standards of teaching accurate verified information on their therapy do not exist. The only change is that UK Government validation authorities are giving credibility to these organisations courses; mainly due to being beguiled by the efforts of certain of the trade's representatives, not on the basis of sound information. The whole educational system in the UK has become embroiled in "procedures and protocols", "codes of conduct", and fixing numbers of hours of study, but NOT quality of information provided. All rubber stamped by a plethora of incompetent Government organisations.

General advice to members of all trade organizations:

Do not assume that as an individual member of an aromatherapy organization that you cannot be held responsible legally for their misdeeds. In the UK, two such associations ran for years with **every member being liable** for any costs awarded against the organization in a court, or for any financial misdeeds of their officers in running the organization. Due to membership apathy, these organizations may be a target for professional confidence tricksters as a means of making a nice comfortable living. You need to ask many questions to find out what your legal obligations are, i.e.:

1. What are the individual members legal obligations in the current structure.
2. Have you ever been provided with a summary of the accounts? If not why not?
3. Is the organization fulfilling its legal obligations such as submitting tax returns, copies of accounts, etc. to the respective authorities?
4. If it has not done that what are the individual members legal obligations?
5. Have the membership or its officers been consulted on hiring and firing of staff?
6. Is the President given such powers to act alone in the constitution?
7. If a member of staff is dismissed illegally, what does this mean for individual members? Could for example the wronged person sue all the members as individuals. Could the organization go into bankruptcy if a wrongfully dismissed staff member sued the organizations? What are your obligations if the organization goes bankrupt?
8. Is the constitution being adhered to in respect of elections? If not what does that mean in legal terms?
9. Do you know if debtors to your organization are being actively pursued?
10. Do you know what expenses are permitted as claimable by the officers? Do you know if a ceiling on expenses is fixed or can they claim whatever they can get away with?

Those and many more should tell you what your obligations as an individual member may entail.
Apathy equals dictatorship, abuse of power and possible debt for members!

Membership apathy prevails in most aromatherapy trade organisations, that equals dictatorship and abuse of power which is common in most complementary medicine associations.

Many Aromatherapy organisations are far from being well founded. The Canadian and US Governments do little to enforce their laws on honest trading.

Aromatherapy as a profession:

The sausage machine of private and public funded training schools continues its work unabated. The trade organisations have never attempted to restrict intake into the trade to make it more professional. They dare not because most of their founder members run schools. Many of these schools started life as beauty training outfits a trade that is notorious for training young therapists, most of whom drop out after a few years through lack of employment opportunities as they age. Thus the cycle continues unabated as a money making racket for the course providers. **With my own course, I will no longer accept new students in the UK wanting to make aromatherapy a career.** This is because prospects for anything other than part time work are remote. I know that even some top name aromatherapy authors cannot make a full time living in aromatherapy.

The poor training endemic in this cottage industry continues unchanged. 99% of aromatherapy education worldwide continues to be based around the error ridden popular books on the subject. See the two articles on AT training for more details on why these books are so poor. **To this day you will see unverified and misleading claims of therapeutic activity for essential oils on leading training school websites including those claiming to be trade association founders.**

In some **UK Government funded centres** students still do not get accurate referenced safety information. Students from these courses have told me that their teachers still use the popular trade books/novels as source materials. They still teach the unreferenced nonsense in most of those books on contraindications of certain oils. I hasten to add that most of these teachers are 'approved' by the trade's leading organisations!!

In some countries the market has not been flooded with thousands of badly trained part timers like it has in the UK, and therefore career prospects are better. On the other hand, in most countries aromatherapy education is still based around the UK and US models which are very low in quality and accuracy.

University and College courses:

In the UK & USA, many of these course are of highly suspect quality. Any scientific aspects such as microbiology, horticulture, A/P etc. are often fine. However, **where they fail**, is their reliance on the works of popular aromatherapy figures for their information about therapeutics. They also rely heavily on incorrect extrapolations of therapeutic activity based on single chemicals as is mentioned in several of my articles. The origin or accuracy of these concepts (which I know comes from the fantasies of certain French therapists) never gets evaluated. Most of these courses use lecturers on essential oil chemistry who have no experience or training within the essential oils or analysis trade.

Several of the leading name teachers on these University courses have been appointed simply on the basis of them publishing books and research articles that gain them a 'name'. The fact their so called 'research articles' have been castigated for their inaccuracy by real experts, rarely becomes public. Scientific and Medical journals are notorious for not printing exposures of errors in such articles. Beware of peer reviewed articles in aromatherapy, the "peers" rarely know enough about the subjects that they are reviewing.

The University administrators assume if a teacher or course is approved by a trade organisation then they should be OK - **far from it!**

I have had reports from students in UK colleges of further education who say their teachers refuse to answer vital questions. Often the teacher will instruct a student to find the answer themselves, that is fine for teaching them how to do documentary research, but is not fine when the answer comes out of an aromatherapy book or from a suppliers web site which it commonly does. Often

the teachers use such research done by students to improve their own lacking knowledge.

Therefore, never assume that because courses are validated by a University that they must be accurate. That is NOT the way modern Universities operate. Their main activity now is putting backsides on seats and to hell with educational quality.

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