

# ODS Programs: 2005 - Strategic Plan 2004-2009

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Thank you for the invitation.

Present at the creation of DSHEA and followed the establishment and evolution of this office. Congratulations to Director Paul Coates and the entire staff (past and present) for the hard work it has taken to fulfill the daunting task of the Congressional mandate. Personal aside, in 10 years I have not gotten questions about this agency that I usually receive which is the why haven't they (fill in the blank) question. Reading through the notebook to prepare for this meeting, I was reminded of all that has been accomplished in the past decade.

## Random Remarks and Thoughts in the Future Planning for ODS

Disclaimer

### 1. Evidence-based Reviews(EBRs)

- to date reviews have been initiated at the directive of Congress; probably will continue - recognize EBRs are expensive and time consuming, propose taking proactive approach - suggest the 12-20 herbal ingredients with the most questions concerning their safety, use - may demonstrate need for research because dearth of information, concerns

### 2. Research Program

- approach of concept to research work plan: conference-EBR-initiative-funding
- EBRs should help generate directions that promise the most useful in terms of priority setting - reactivate the planned ephedra research plan
- address increasing questions about interactions among supplements and with drugs, etc.
- botanical research centers: unique aspect, need separate reporting mechanism
- analytical methods and reference materials: critical importance

### 3. Communications

- multi-language materials for consumers, etc.
- track dissemination of hits on the ODS website and other use of materials, ex. retail
- create a dietary supplement information clearinghouse: interagency effort
- become the credentialed source of reliable information on dietary supplements  
ex. trade shows, professional organizations, consumer meetings

### 4. Databases

- continue annual reviews of 25 most interesting/significant research reports on supplements:
  - recognize both time consuming and resource intensive
- track use of CARDS and IBIDS
- continue efforts to improve surveys data collection about supplement use as part of the nutrition monitoring system: consumption frequently questioned, relevance to EBRs
- continue efforts to improve Qn supplement ingredient data bases: relevance to both EBRs, adverse event reports as that system is improved

5. Comments based on my work for and with Congress, not just a costly wish list. Mostly suggest continuing to do what have been doing.