

Interview with Toby R. Gouker about:  
**USP course “TLC for  
Dietary Supplements”**



Toby R. Gouker,  
Vice President USP

**Q:** How was the collaboration between USP and CAMAG for this USP course *TLC for Dietary Supplements*?

**A:** USP considers CAMAG as a valuable ally in the dissemination of good, practical scientific information on the compendial practice of TLC and HPTLC. Dr. Reich's participation as a USP Expert Committee member was instrumental in aligning both USP and CAMAG's objectives for this course offering.

**Q:** How was the Feedback from participants?

**A:** The participants found the course content to be very insightful; they specifically highlighted the portions of the course that involving use of the equipment. They indicated that the demonstrations on the equipment significantly enhanced their learning experience. Students also appreciated the opportunity to take the course under the direction of Dr. Eike Reich. They consider him an expert in the field and they now also appreciate his expertise as a presenter.

**Q:** What are the plans for future USP courses on TLC?

**A:** USP will continue to identify subject matter associated with TLC that is related to compendial compliance and aligned to industry needs. These courses will be created with the student in mind, incorporating a variety of delivery options, ranging from hands-on lab sessions to online offerings.

Thank you.

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# CAMAG

Flash

July 2008

## CAMAG and USP have joined forces to provide the botanical industry with state of the art training in modern TLC.



U.S. Pharmacopeia  
The Standard of Quality<sup>SM</sup>

Last year the FDA released cGMPs for the dietary supplements industry<sup>1</sup>. While large companies must already be in compliance by now, medium and small companies still have one to two years to incorporate the necessary measures. Two elements of the regulation are of great importance: all incoming material must be tested for identity and suitable, scientifically appropriate methods have to be employed for that purpose. TLC, particularly its high-performance version HPTLC, is a most suitable tool for reliable identification, detection of adulterants, and assessment of overall quality of botanical materials.

CAMAG has developed broad expertise in development and validation of HPTLC methods for identification of botanicals and medicinal plants<sup>2</sup> and has been actively promoting HPTLC for almost a decade. The USP includes about 40 monographs for botanical dietary supplements. All feature TLC methods for identification. Currently these monographs are under revision and being modernized by introducing images of TLC and HPTLC results as part of a compendium. With this project USP is preparing to take the lead in providing quality standards also for the botanical industry.

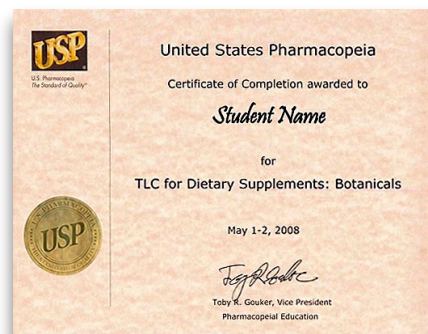
<sup>1</sup> Current Good Manufacturing practice in manufacturing, packing, labelling, or holding operations for dietary supplements (cGMPs), US FDA/CFSAN, Rockville, MD, 2007.

<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~lrd/fr07625a.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.camag.com/laboratory/methods/herbals.html>

The USP course – *TLC for Dietary Supplements: Botanicals* – offered in collaboration with CAMAG provides participants with in-depth information about standardized TLC/HPTLC methodology that is necessary for successful application of compendial methods and the scientific basis for the development and validation of new HPTLC methods.

At the end of April 2008 the course was offered twice in Wilmington, NC, where the participants were able to take advantage of CAMAG's fully equipped laboratory. The next offering will be September 29 in



USP Certificate

Salt Lake City, UT, in connection with the annual meeting of the United Natural Products Alliance (UNPA).

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