Over the counter herbal supplements can have toxic effects

The University of California San Francisco, Fresno (UCSF-Fresno) Continuing Medical Education program will host the sixth annual primary care symposium focusing on alternative medicine on Saturday, May 5. The program is designed to provide clinicians with the latest scientific evidence relating to the safety, efficacy, and quality of herbs, vitamins and dietary supplements in order to understand better the current usage of herbal medicines by the general public.

**Time:** 8am to 5pm  
**Date:** Saturday, May 5  
**Place:** University of California Center  
Office of Continuing Education  
550 E. Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, California

News Conference Participants include:

**Charles Farr, M**  
Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Medicine  
Director, Continuing Medical Education, UCSF-Fresno

**Richard Geller, MD**  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
UCSF Department of Clinical Pharmacy

**R. William Soller, PhD**  
Senior Vice President and Director  
Institute of Science and Technology, Washington DC

**Cathi Dennehy, Pharm.D.**  
Assistant Clinical Professor  
UCSF Department of Clinical Pharmacy

**Background**

UCSF-Fresno provides continuing medical education for area physicians on a continuous basis. The continuing medical educational forum will look at case studies highlighting the toxic effect of herbals—including how one adolescent athlete drinking an over the counter herbal-based energy enhancer died from its toxic effects. Additionally, medical experts will participate in a panel discussion concerning the safety of over the counter herbal medications and their use.

**Note to media:** Case study presentations on the toxic effect of herbals will be held from 3:15pm to 4:15pm. The panel discussion on the safety of over the counter herbals will be held from 11:45am to 1pm. For more information on the day of the press conference, contact Tracy Osuna at 260.8752.

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