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## **Natural Health Products Segment**

**Presentation: Standards without Borders: Protecting the Public Health in the Modern World**

**Wednesday, September 23, 2009; 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

**Author: Michelle Boudreau**

**Affiliation: Director General, Natural Health Products Directorate  
Health Products and Food Branch  
Health Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada**

The *Natural Health Products Regulations* have been in force since January 1, 2004, and were put in place to help assure that Canadians have access to natural health products that are safe, effective and of high quality, while respecting freedom of choice and philosophical and cultural diversity.

Natural health products (NHPs) are defined in the Regulations as vitamins and minerals, herbal remedies, homeopathic medicines, traditional medicines such as Traditional Chinese Medicines, probiotics, and other products like amino acids and essential fatty acids. To be licensed for sale in Canada, evidence supporting the safety, efficacy and quality of a natural health product is assessed by Health Canada. Canadian sites which manufacture, package, label and import NHPs are also assessed, based on good manufacturing practice standards, in order to obtain a valid site license.

This session will provide an overview of the definition and scope of the Canadian regulatory system for natural health products, and touch on challenges, opportunities and initiatives related to Canada's future directions in the regulation of natural health products.

### **Headquarters**

12601 Twinbrook Parkway  
Rockville, Maryland 20852  
+1-301-881-0666

### **Europe/Middle East/Africa**

Münchensteinerstrasse 41  
CH-4052 Basel, Switzerland  
+41 (0)61 316 30 10

### **USP-India Private Limited**

ICICI Knowledge Park  
Genome Valley  
Labs 7-10, Phase III  
Turkapally, Shameerpet  
Ranga Reddy District  
Hyderabad 500 078, A.P., India  
+91-40-2348-0088

### **USP-China**

Building 11  
Lane 67 Libing Road  
Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park  
Shanghai, 201203, China  
+86-21-51370600

### **USP-Brazil**

Avenida Ceci, 1600 - Tamboré  
Barueri/SP, Brazil  
06460-120  
+55-11-3245-6400