

Dr. Peter O. Staub

Pharmaceutical Quality Management | GMP | Pharmacognosy & Pharmacopoeia

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Profile

Pharmaceutical scientist and Responsible Person (FvP) with more than a decade of experience in GMP-compliant quality assurance and quality control of herbal medicinal products, phytopharmaceuticals and cannabis. Combining regulatory responsibility (QC-release, method validation, regulatory authority liaison), quality leadership, scientific depth (PhD, publications) and active pharmacopoeia work as expert at EDQM and Swissmedic. Deeply rooted in analytics, quality control and phytotherapy.

Professional Experience

Phytax GmbH, Schlieren *GMP-certified contract laboratory for herbal medicinal products (approx. 10 staff)*

07/2023 – present COO & Responsible Person (FvP)

- Doubled revenue and sample volume within two years
- Established a GMP analytical service for medical cannabis
- Passed regulatory inspections and customer audits without critical findings; renewed GMP certification and obtained licence from the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH/BAG); ISO 17025 accreditation in preparation
- Hold overall technical responsibility for GMP-compliant analysis of herbal medicinal products and cannabis, including laboratory release of raw materials and finished products
- Oversee method validation and verification, and qualification of analytical instruments
- Leadership of the laboratory and QA team (10 scientists and technicians); coordination and qualification of external analytical service providers
- Manage deviations, CAPAs and OOS results; prepare and host regulatory inspections and customer audits
- Handle licensed controlled substances (Swiss Narcotics Act; JARE and MESA reporting to Swissmedic)

06/2017 – 06/2023 Scientific Associate

- Developed a machine-learning-based identification tool for herbal products using infrared spectroscopy (www.phydent.de)
- Rolled out the tool to pharmacies across Germany, including on-site installations and technical troubleshooting
- Performed botanical and chemical quality control of herbal medicinal products under GMP and Swissmedic guidelines

08/2011 – 03/2014 Scientific Associate

- Performed quality control of herbal medicinal products; prepared quality-control monographs for internal use and for publication in the European Pharmacopoeia

Expert Mandates

12/2025 – present Expert, TCM Working Party

European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines & HealthCare (EDQM), Strasbourg

- Drafting European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.) monographs for medicinal plants of Traditional Chinese Medicine

02/2025 – present Expert, Expert Committee for Complementary Medicines

Swissmedic

- Contributing to the Swiss Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Helv.) and reviewing Ph. Eur. monograph drafts

Education

04/2014 – 04/2017 PhD in Neuroscience

Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Cagliari, Italy · Marie Curie Fellow (MedPlant ITN)

Dissertation: *Herbal drugs in European tradition — A phylogenetic, chemosensory and neuropharmacological approach*

07/2011 MSc in Biology (Systematics and Evolution)

Institute of Systematic and Evolutionary Botany, University of Zurich Grade: 5.9 / 6.0 (Swiss scale)

Master's thesis: *Ethnobotanical study of ritual plants of the Bai in the Shaxi Valley, Southwest China*

Languages, Software & Technical Skills

Languages	German (native), English (fluent, C2), Italian (fluent, C2)
Regulatory	EU GMP, Swiss Therapeutic Products Act (HMG/AMBV) ICH Q1–Q14, Swissmedic, pharmacopoeias (Ph. Eur., Ph. Helv., PPRC), narcotics law, food law fundamentals
Analytical	HPLC-DAD, HPLC-FLD, ICP-MS, FTIR, microscopy; method validation and verification
Leadership	Team and department leadership, vocational trainer
QA	Supplier and service-provider qualification, inspection and audit hosting
Software	LIMS, R, Microsoft Office

Professional Associations & Engagement

04/2021 – present Treasurer, Swiss Medical Society for Phytotherapy (SMGP)

04/2019 – 03/2022 President, Swiss Ethnobiology Network (formerly Treasurer)

Selected Publications

Leonti, M., Baker, J., Staub, P.O., Casu, L., Hawkins, J. (2023). *Taste shaped the use of botanical drugs*. eLife, 12.

Staub, P.O., Casu, L., Leonti, M. (2016). *Back to the roots: A quantitative survey of herbal drugs in Dioscorides' De Materia Medica (ex Matthioli, 1568)*. Phytomedicine, 23: 1043–1052.

Staub, P.O., Geck, M.S., Weckerle, C.S., Casu, L., Leonti, M. (2015). *Classifying diseases and remedies in ethnomedicine and ethnopharmacology*. Journal of Ethnopharmacology, 174: 514–519.

Full publication list: orcid.org/0000-0003-4875-7064