

INTRODUCTION TO
THE
**INTERNATIONAL
FEDERATION OF
AROMATHERAPISTS**

THE FIRST AND FOREMOST
GOVERNING BODY
REPRESENTING
AROMATHERAPISTS
WORLDWIDE
EST 1985





ABOUT

The International Federation of Aromatherapists (IFA) is the first and foremost governing body for aromatherapy, established in 1985. Set up for the safety of the public, we regulate and accredit standards for both practitioners and course providers worldwide.

Our expert tutors and specialist practitioners, who created and informed the curriculum and qualifying standards for aromatherapists, were taught by some of the most influential names within the field including the pioneers of aromatherapy itself.

We represent the profession and our members interests before Government and international decision-making bodies to strengthen the recognition of aromatherapy as a truly complementary modality. Throughout our illustrious history the IFA has received numerous accolades and commendations for having the highest standards of professionalism in the industry.



ACCREDITATIONS

The IFA is an accredited register of the **Professional Standards Authority for Health and Social Care (PSA)**, a UK body accountable to Parliament. We are referred to by the **NHS** and the **UK Government National Careers Office** and **UCAS** for its courses.

Our journal is registered with the **British Library** and our recently commissioned research trials, conducted by the **Northumbria University**, scientifically proved the use of essential oils with chronic stress.

We are a stakeholder representative for the industry within the **National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)** and the **All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)**.



PIONEERS

Having worked with various Government Health committees worldwide, the IFA is actively involved with elevating academic standards and influencing policy in the Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) field. We innovate courses that meet specific learners' and employers' requirements that cater for niche social and health environments. Enabling postgraduates to work in a multitude of medicinal, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries as well as utilising aromatherapy within the vulnerable and complex needs sector.

The IFA pioneered the integration of aromatherapy into the NHS, paving the way for its clinical application and recognition by the medical profession. More recently, we have established the use of aromacare within London borough special needs schools and city councils therapeutic provision, as part of our commitment to inclusive wellbeing practices.

We are proud of our historic investment in aromatherapy research and successfully commissioned the Northumbria University to scientifically prove the use of essential oils with chronic stress and in the past run successful trials in endometriosis and rheumatoid arthritis at the Royal Masonic Hospital.

CHARITY



As a charity we promote the objective evidence base that supports aromatherapy comprising of clinical trials, case histories, clinical audits and also patient reported outcome data.

Aside from our regulatory functions, we raise awareness of the safe and effective practice of aromatherapy, train care leads, donate funds and initiate various charity projects to integrate aromatherapy into various health and social care environments - one project being so successful it even set a new Guinness World Record.

We pioneer the use of aromatherapy in numerous sectors to not only improve the care available and further validate our work but also to improve the industry we represent.

The IFA continues to be the authoritative voice for the profession and carries on with the same strong sense of purpose, enthusiasm and commitment, which inspired its creation.

Patricia Davis, Founder Member

"It was a time of enthusiasm, excitement, idealism and a sense of pioneering. Before the IFA's inception Aromatherapists had no organisation or representation at all."

Irene Smith, Member since 1985

"The IFA has always kept to its founding ideals. We certainly started something and the IFA has played a leading role in all aspects of Aromatherapy."

Margaret Bonner-Walter, Member since 1985

"The IFA has always had dignity and tried hard to do the right thing, both for its members and for the public."

Pat Christopher-McAlpine, Member since 1985

"My abiding memory of the first meeting of the IFA was how the large meeting room simply buzzed with positivity, activity and enthusiasm."