

## **"Big Brother" to Study Supplement Safety**

In a letter to dietary supplement manufacturers the US Food and Drug Administration has contracted the National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine (IOM) to help it develop a protocol for reviewing the safety of dietary supplements.

“Given the increasing role of dietary supplement products in the US marketplace, a comprehensive and authoritative review of the state-of-the-art knowledge base on the available safety data on the broad range of ingredients used in dietary supplement products in the US marketplace is urgently needed,” the agency said.

The \$1 million contract “has been let in order to provide an appropriate protocol for the agency to use in reviewing the safety of dietary supplements,” the FDA said in the letter.

Under the terms of the contract, the IOM will form a committee to determine ways to assess the safety of dietary supplement ingredients. The project, which began September 30, will continue through September 29, 2002. The IOM has recently begun the process of seeking candidates to serve on the committee.