

Posted on Mon, Apr. 25, 2005

## MEDICINE

# Grapefruit reactions detailed on website

The website at [www.Druginteraction.org](http://www.Druginteraction.org) offers information on how grapefruit juice interacts with enzymes in the body affecting the way certain drugs are metabolized.

BY SUSAN SALISBURY

The Palm Beach Post

Confused about which drugs interact with grapefruit juice?

Help is available at a new website launched this month by the University of Florida and Tufts University.

"Food and other nutrients can impact the effectiveness of prescription and over-the-counter drugs with clinically significant results," Veronika Butterweck, an assistant professor and co-director of UF's Center for Food-Drug Interaction Research and Education, said in a statement.

In the 1980s, scientists discovered that grapefruit juice inhibits the CYP3A4 enzyme, which metabolizes certain drugs and may enhance the body's absorption of the drugs, causing side effects.

The website at [www.DrugInteractionCenter.org](http://www.DrugInteractionCenter.org) contains a database of grapefruit-drug interactions along with supporting scientific literature. Consumers will find information about specific drugs under the section labeled "Professionals," or they can search for a specific drug by name.

A color-coded system using green, yellow and red dots indicates whether a drug reacts strongly, moderately or on a clinically insignificant level with grapefruit juice. Alternative, non-interacting drugs are also listed.

In 2003 pharmacology experts from the two universities established UF's Center for Food-Drug Interaction Research with money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.