

Dr. Nirmal Pugh  
University, Mississippi  
Dr. Volodymyr P. Samoylenko  
University of Mississippi  
Oxford, Mississippi

Dr. Sampathkumar  
University, Mississippi

Mr. Yatin Shukla  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Marcio Luis Andrade e Silva  
Franca, Brazil  
Dr. Troy Smillie  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Raju Subramanian  
Amgen  
Thousand Oaks, California

Dr. Ping-Jyun Sung  
Pingtung, Taiwan

Dr. Hemlata Tamta  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Natascha Techen  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Yanhong Wang  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Aruna Weerasooriya  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Jifu Zhao  
Unigen Pharmaceutical, Inc.  
Lacey, Washington

## New ASP Member Profile

*by Amy Keller*

ASP Welcomes many new members to the Society this year. Among them is Daniel Puckett, a senior undergraduate at Concord University in Athens, West Virginia. Mr. Puckett is pursuing a B.S. degree in both Biology and Chemistry. He took time out of his studies to answer a few questions for the Newsletter and we are grateful to him for granting us the opportunity to get more acquainted with him and his work.

### **Why did you join ASP?**

The University that I attend is small with limited resources. I was interested in researching future possibilities of antimicrobials. My school however, did not have many opportunities. Fortunately, I met my very energetic mentor, ASP member Dr. Darrell Crick, who was also interested in natural products for medicinal purposes. We pieced together a starter program and hit the ground running. Research was not enough, I wanted to be affiliated with the community. I found the ASP and knew I wanted to be a member. The Society offers me the connection to others just as interested in pharmacognosy.

### **What are your research interests in pharmacognosy?**

Currently, I am researching the antimicrobial properties of natural products from the southern Appalachian region. I have always been interested in any form of medicine. I find the application

and interactions of chemicals in the human body absolutely phenomenal. I personally feel that there are many things to be offered from nature. I believe we just have to apply time and knowledge to the cause.

### **What would like to achieve through your membership?**

I hope to achieve a better connection and stay updated with the field. Through my membership, I hope to network with others interested in natural products. I feel that societies such as the ASP combine the greatest minds in the field and I want to be part of that group. With all of us working together, it will be easier to reach our goal.

