

Moments from the 47th Annual Meeting



Meet a New ASP Member

ASP welcomes many new members to the Society this year. Among them is Dr. Richard “Rick” Staub, a new employee of the biopharmaceutical company Bionovo Inc. This company is developing botanical drugs for treating cancer and hot flashes in menopausal women by isolating bioactive compounds and investigating their mechanisms of action, relates Dr. Staub. We are grateful to him for granting us the opportunity to get more acquainted with him and his work.

Why did you join ASP?

At the recent ASP Annual Meeting, I was interested in presentations by FDA officials and other dignified speakers concerning chemistry, manufacturing, and controls guidelines. Further, I wanted to develop contacts and share techniques and knowledge with other members that would assist me and my colleagues to better develop our products at Bionovo Inc.

What are your research interests in pharmacognosy?

My research at Bionovo Inc. involves the activity-guided isolation of compounds from herbs used in Traditional Chinese Medicine. We are developing products for women’s health issues, specifically targeting the estrogen receptor, and also products for the treatment of cancer.

What is your scientific background?

My graduate work and previous employment involved research on the toxicology and metabolism of pesticides. Though there are many similarities between pesticides and drugs, I am a relative



Dr. Rick Staub and his son Derek with a 15 pound king salmon they caught on the Sacramento River in California in September, 2005.

newbie to pharmacognosy having worked for only about three years now as a natural products chemist.

What would you like to achieve through your membership?

Since I am still new to this field, I hope to acquire a much broader understanding of pharmacognosy from other members and through the opportunities offered by ASP.