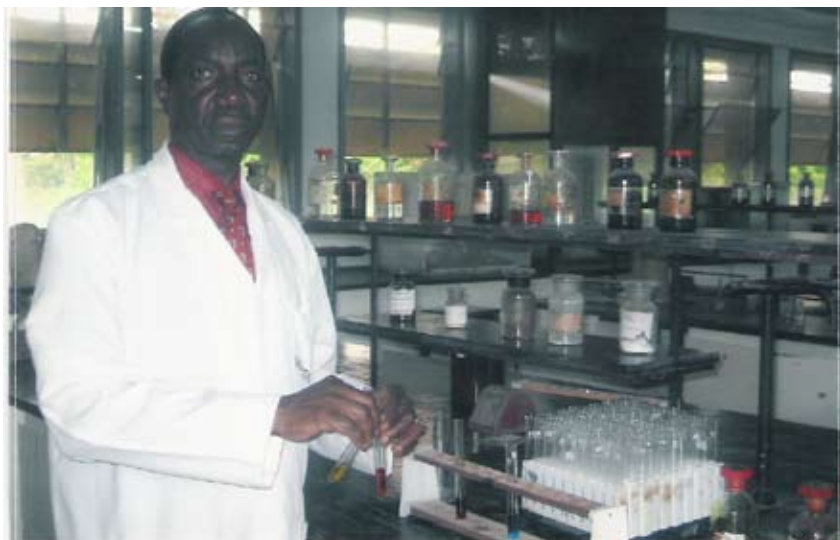


Meet a New ASP Member

by Dr. Diane S. Swaffar

ASP welcomes many new members from all over the world to the Society this year. We are especially delighted to feature our new member from Nigeria, Dr. Joseph Adetunji Aladesanmi. He is Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacognosy at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria, where he has been for 25 years. We are grateful to him for giving us the opportunity to get more acquainted with him.



Dr. Joseph Aladesanmi in the lab.

Why did you join ASP?

I have my Ph.D. in Pharmacognosy (Phytochemistry) and I have been teaching pharmacognosy since 1982 and became a Professor of Pharmacognosy in 1996. I feel that I now need a good and wider international exposure for easier networking and to further my professional advancement.

What are your research interests in pharmacognosy?

In the realm of phytochemistry I am especially interested in the scientific evaluation of folkloric claims on the Nigerian medicinal plants and traditional herbal medicines. My interests include biotechnology (microbial transformation of natural products) and activity-directed isolation and identification of biologically active compounds from crude drugs obtained locally. My research activities have the ultimate aim of drug development and development of functional foods and nutraceuticals.

What is your scientific and academic background?

I obtained a B.A. in Biology from Olivet College in Michigan and a B.S. in Biology & Chemistry from the University of Massachusetts. My graduate work was conducted at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy where I received my M.S. in Pharmaceutical Microbiology and Ph.D. in Pharmacognosy. I conducted postdoctoral research there on the phytochemical investigation of many *Dysoxylum* species and also did a sabbatical at the University of Arizona. I have also conducted phytochemical research in Germany under the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) program and at Tufts University, where I determined the major flavonoids in dry tea. For the last 25 years I have been researching biologically active compounds from Nigerian medicinal plants.

What would you like to achieve through your membership?

I would like to project myself and the subject of pharmacognosy internationally as it is not being taught in many universities abroad, especially in the States where this very reputable Society is based. I hope to be able to form research collaborations with colleagues in the areas of natural products chemistry, biotechnology, and functional foods/nutraceuticals.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

When I have spare time, I enjoy lawn tennis and jogging. I am also an avid farmer and grow corn, cassava, and many fruits and vegetables. I also enjoy aquaculture and bee keeping.

Is there anything else that you would like other ASP members to know about yourself?

I have been an active member of the Nigerian Society of Pharmacognosy since 1983 and served as Secretary for several years. I am happy to report that my university will be hosting the Society's Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference and I am the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee. I look forward to also becoming very active in the ASP, and I greatly appreciate this opportunity to get more international exposure so soon upon joining this society!