

# Meet a New ASP Member

by Amy Keller

ASP welcomes many new members to the Society this year. We are especially pleased to feature a member with a wide range of fascinating professional experience, Dr. James Sullivan. He works as a Process Quality Manager at Gaia Herbs in Brevard, North Carolina. We are grateful to Dr. Sullivan for this opportunity to get more acquainted with him.

## How did you hear about the ASP?

I became aware of ASP while reviewing the early herbal monograph works by Roy Upton and the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia group while doing natural products research and analytical chemistry at Hauser Research in Boulder, Colorado.

## Why did you join ASP?

I joined ASP so I can continue to network with other pharmacognosists and to keep current with pharmacognosy work being done worldwide.

## What are your research interests in pharmacognosy?

As a naturopathic physician by trade, I have always had to help pioneer and implement the “old” sciences with the “new” sciences concerning the healing arts and the modern scientific technologies. I believe it is important to continue the research and characterization of botanical materials while utilizing the newer scientific HPLC technologies and including the thin layer and microscopic standard procedure methods. I have had recent training from the FDA in microscopy of botanical materials. I want to continue doing pioneering work in my career where possible for this important science.



Dr. Jim Sullivan

## What is your scientific background?

I graduated from National College of Naturopathic Medicine in 1980 and practiced in Kansas and Minnesota until 1988 when I went into natural products research at Hauser Research in Boulder, Colorado. I was a pioneer scientist, along with other natural product chemists, in the isolation and extraction of the pharmaceutical cancer drug Taxol from the Pacific yew tree bark, approved by the FDA. While at Hauser Research, I extended my analytical chemistry and research experience into various natural products projects including some of the most common herbs in commerce today. Finally, I have spent a lot of time with other herbal companies as a technical advisor and consultant in the quality assurance and quality control laboratory analysis of botanical products, including Eclectic Institute in Portland, Oregon, Rexall-Sundown in Boca Raton, Florida, and currently Gaia Herbs in Brevard, North Carolina.

## Can you describe what you do in your current position?

I am currently a Process Quality Manager responsible for quality assurance functions and overall process quality of herbal formulations in production. I take part in the writing of SOP's and performing QA auditing and regulatory responsibilities of outside contract manufacturers. My process chemistry experience is utilized with all aspects of technical operations with the botanical and nutraceutical receipt of materials, herbal extraction and encapsulation, QC analysis in production, and monitoring of the label and packaging compliances for Gaia Herbs. My current work is to publish scientific applications related to the ethanol-water extraction clean-up of toxic heavy metals from herbs in commerce, particularly from imported herbs.

## Do you belong to any other scientific societies?

I am a member of the American Organization of Analytical Chemists and the American Botanical Council.

## What do you like doing in your spare time?

I like to play golf regularly. I have recently been doing a lot of international travel with interest of the various cultures. I like to collect, dry, and press botanical species archives and placing them on herbarium papers.

## What are you currently reading?

I am currently reading an HPTLC textbook concerning the different ways of method developments currently being used to properly identify botanical species. I review *Phytomedicine* and keep up to date with reading the *HerbalGram* magazine and *Herbal Clips* from the American Botanical Council.