

Meet a New ASP Member

ASP continues to welcome many new members to the Society throughout the year. We are pleased to feature one of our newest members, Dr. Steven Van Lanen. He is Assistant Professor in the Division of Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, University of Kentucky (UK). We are grateful to him for giving us the opportunity to get better acquainted.

By Dr. Diane S. Swaffar

How did you hear about the ASP?

My colleague Jurgen Rohr has claimed multiple times that the ASP Annual Meeting is the best, most informative conference he attends.

Why did you join ASP?

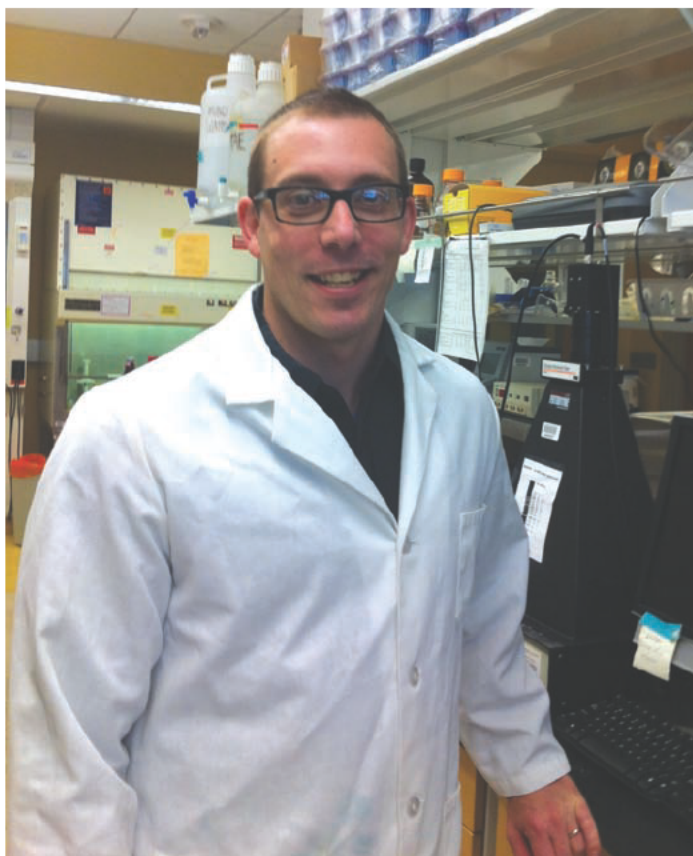
I quickly noticed after browsing the website and looking at the program list for IC-NPR2012 that the people involved in ASP are those that I greatly admire for their scientific contributions. Furthermore, a few of these ASP members have been instrumental in developing my own research program in natural products, and I view being a member as a way to maintain these connections and hopefully to make several more.

What is your scientific background?

I received a B.S. in Molecular Biology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, and a Ph.D. in Chemistry with Dr. Dirk Iwata-Reuyl at Portland State University, Portland, Oregon. Prior to joining University of Kentucky, I did a three-year postdoctoral stint in the laboratory of Dr. Ben Shen at that time at the School of Pharmacy at the University of Wisconsin. I have now been a faculty member at UK since 2007.

What are your current research interests in pharmacognosy?

My group has focused on antibiotic drug discovery from various *Actinomycetes*. We



Dr. Van Lanen analyzing PCR results in his lab.

are particularly interested in how these antibiotic metabolites are biosynthesized and how resistance is manifested not only in the producing organism but also in representative bacterial pathogens. The common thread for our ongoing projects is that the antibiotics, if ultimately applied within the clinic, can be considered new molecular entities or inhibitors of bacterial processes that are distinct relatives to Food and Drug Administration-approved antibiotics.

What would you like to achieve through your membership?

I am hoping that this membership will cul-

tivate interactions with other scientists, allow me to continue to keep up-to-date with the latest and greatest research in the field, and ultimately allow me to contribute to the field by becoming an active advocate of pharmacognosy and the ASP.

What other scientific societies do you belong to?

I am a member of the American Chemical Society and Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

What is this "spare time" you talk about? When I am not in the laboratory, my favorite thing to do is spend time with my wife and two kids, Isabel (5 years old), and Sienna (2 years old). You will often find us snuggled on the sofa reading a book or taking day-trips to local orchards or wilderness reserves. In all honesty, it does not really matter what we do, just as long as we are together!

What are you currently reading?

I am reading "Enzyme Kinetics" by Irwin H. Segel for probably the 10th time. It is my expectation that this is the time I will retain 10% of the information...

What is your favorite movie?

Right now it is "How to Train Your Dragon" since it is one of my daughter's favorites.