

Meet a New ASP Member

ASP is pleased to welcome a new international member to the society this year. One of our new members for 2012 is Dr. Celso Guerreiro Almeida, a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal, and Fundacion Medina, Granada, Spain. We thank Dr. Almeida for the opportunity to learn more.

By Mr. Dan Kulakowski



Dr. Celso Guerreiro Almeida.



Fungal specimens in Dr. Almeida's work.

Bonn, Germany, where I conducted Ph.D. research in novel fungal marine secondary metabolites with my mentor ASP member Dr. Gabriele Koenig (thesis online). After a postdoctoral position at the International Cooperative Biodiversity Groups (ICBG)-Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama studying secondary metabolites from plant-derived endophytic fungi, I am currently in another postdoctoral position at the University of Lisbon/Fundación Medina in a self-built project concerning the biology and chemistry of intracellular mutualistic symbiosis from a fungus and probable endobacteria-produced novel bioactive natural products.

1. How did you hear about the ASP?

I heard about the Society from fellow colleagues in 2007. In 2009, I attended the 50th ASP Annual Meeting in Hilo, Hawaii, and saw the importance and organization of the society.

2. Why did you join ASP?

I wanted to join a collective group with the same research interests, networking with researchers with common interests in the field, and get better fees for conferences!

3. Do you belong to any other scientific societies?

No

4. What are your current research interests in pharmacognosy?

I am interested in fungal (marine and endophytic) bioactive metabolites, Actinomycetes-derived bioactive natural products, intracellular mutualistic symbiosis between fungi and endobacteria, and management of research networks.

5. What is your scientific background?

I graduated with a biology degree in Portugal and followed that with research in Belgium and Brazil (proteomics, genetics, and plant metabolites). I then earned a Masters degree in Pharmacognosy at Leiden University, Leiden, Holland, under my mentor ASP member Dr. Robert Verpoorte. After undertaking a postgraduate position in natural products chemistry in Portugal, I went to the University of Bonn,

6. What would you like to achieve through your membership?

I am interested in research opportunities, research synergies, and acknowledgment of work achievements.

7. What do you like doing in your spare time?

I read books, play sports (especially soccer), find good movies and music, and find time to enjoy social life!

8. What are you currently reading?

A Portuguese book, *A Vida Num Sopros*, by author José Rodrigues dos Santos.

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