

Meet a New ASP Member

ASP is pleased to welcome many new members to the society this year. One of our new members this issue is Dr. Catherine Roullier, Assistant Professor at the University of Nantes, Nantes, France. Dr. Roullier took the time to share her work with fungi, and interest in reading with us. We welcome her to the ASP.

By Mr. Dan Kulakowski

1. How did you hear about the ASP?

I first heard about ASP when I was a PhD student. I had the chance to attend the 2009 50th Annual ASP Meeting in Hilo, Hawaii, where I was awarded a travel grant.

2. Why did you join ASP?

I joined the ASP because I recently got to meet different members and I am very interested in the ASP activities. Each time I went to an ASP meeting, I had the chance to attend very interesting workshops, such as the workshop on dereplication in Hawaii in 2009, which was given by Drs. John Blunt and Murray Munro. Last year in New York, I really enjoyed the one about nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR). ASP meetings have always given me the chance to meet several people sharing the same interests. In being a member of the ASP I would like to keep in touch with this community of people, stay informed about the different events the ASP is organizing, and also enhance collaborative opportunities between French and United States labs.

3. Do you belong to any other scientific societies?

Yes, the Pharmacognosy Society of French Speaking Persons (AFERP).

4. What are your current research interests in pharmacognosy?

I am now working on marine-derived fungi, looking for potential new drugs. I am trying to develop and validate new tools for efficient dereplication. As the marine environment is quite rich in halogenated salts, I am currently particularly interested in fungal abilities to produce halogenated compounds.



Dr. Catherine Roullier

SANDRINE L'HERMITTE

5. What is your scientific background?

I graduated as a pharmacist in 2006 and got my PhD in 2010 at the University of Rennes (Chatenay-Malabry), France, under Dr. Joel Boustie. My thesis mainly focused on lichens and their ability to produce interesting compounds to prevent or treat skin cancer. For that purpose, a large part of my thesis concerned the study of a marine lichen growing on the intertidal zone in the western part of France. In 2011, I joined Dr. Ron Quinn's group at the Eskitis Institute, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, where I worked on different projects for drug discovery. I took part in high-throughput screening studies on different relevant targets for therapeutics. I performed extraction, isolation and structure elucidation of compounds from active fractions, together with dereplication and hit expansion. After one year of this post-doctoral experience, I was recruited as an Assistant Professor of Pharmacognosy in the University of Nantes, Nantes, France, in 2012.

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

I am not quite sure right now. First, I would like to keep informed about the ASP activities, but also maybe to get to know other people from this field of research.

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

I like many things such as reading, playing volleyball, cycling, and playing cards with friends on Friday nights, but I do not have much spare time, as I also have my family to take care of.

8. What are you currently reading?

I am currently reading the book J. K. Rowling wrote after the Harry Potter blockbusters (which I enjoyed reading), called *The Casual Vacancy*. This book is completely different. ■