

Meet a New ASP Member

In our winter issue of the Newsletter, we meet new ASP Member Dr. Edyta Grzelak, Postdoctoral Research Associate, at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Pharmacy, Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Grzelak shares her enthusiasm about anti-tuberculosis drug discovery, as well as flamenco music. We warmly welcome Dr. Grzelak to the ASP and look forward to seeing her at future Annual Meetings.

By Dr. Dan Kulakowski

How did you hear about the ASP?

My advisor, Dr. Birgit Jaki, Research Assistant Professor, Institute for Tuberculosis Research, UIC College of Pharmacy, is an active ASP member. She introduced me to the society and highly recommended that I join.

Why did you join ASP?

I am new to the field of natural products research. I have decided to join ASP because, in my opinion, being a part of this society is a great opportunity to interact with natural products scientists and learn from the best.

Do you belong to any other scientific societies?

Yes, I am a member of the Polish Chemical Society.

What is your scientific background?

My background includes BS and MS degrees in Chemistry from University of Maria Curie - Skłodowska, Lublin, Poland. During my Master's degree, I was involved in a project focused on antibiotic residue control in food and environmental waters under the supervision of Dr. Ana M. García-Campaña at the Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Granada, Spain. I became more interested in the field of quality control in food, environment and clinical analytical chemistry, and I decided to continue my education. I received my PhD in Analytical Chemistry in May 2013, working on the development of analytical and microbiological methods for determination of antibiotic residues in foodstuff of animal origin. My research was performed under supervision of Dr. Irena Choma at the Department of Chromatographic Methods, University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska and Dr. Barbara Majer-Dziedzic at Department of Veterinary Microbiology, University of Life Science, Lublin, Poland, and under supervision of Drs. Dolores Barrón and José Barbosa at the Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

What are your current research interests in pharmacognosy?

My current research interests are focused on antituberculosis drug discovery from *Actinomyces* extracts. I am involved in a truly interdisciplinary project that integrates microbiological, preparative, and analytical methods. One of the goals of this project is



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establishing a three-dimensional scheme, HPTLC-bioautography-MS/NMR, for rapid detection of antituberculosis active principles in microbiological fermentation extracts. Being new to the field of natural products research and drug discovery, I consider myself fortunate to have Dr. Birgit Jaki, Dr. Scott Franzblau, Dr. Sanghyun Cho and Dr. Guido Pauli as my advisors and the opportunity to interact with members of the Institute for Tuberculosis Research and Natural Product groups at UIC.

What would you like to achieve through your membership?

I would like to make connections with scientists involved in a similar area of research. I also want to keep informed of activities within the field of natural products research.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

Traveling (backpacking) is definitely my favorite activity. I also enjoy doing yoga, swimming, kayaking, listening to flamenco music, reading travel books, and recently also experimenting in the kitchen. I am also exploring Chicago and the American lifestyle. ■

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