



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHARMACOLOGY

The ASP Newsletter Volume 47, Issue 3



Norman R. Farnsworth Remembered

By Drs. Amy Keller and Harry S. Fong

On September 10, 2011, ASP lost one of its founding members and most accomplished research scientists, Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth. Dr. Farnsworth had suffered from congestive heart failure and diabetes over the past few months. He was 81 years old.

Dr. Farnsworth was a founding member of ASP in 1959 and became the first Vice-President and subsequently the second President of the Society. He and Dr. Varro "Tip" Tyler spearheaded the publication of *Lloydia* as a joint publication of the ASP and the Lloyd Library, and it later became the *Journal of Natural Products*.

ASP President Dr. Barbara Timmermann told the *Newsletter*, "Our ASP family will never be the same without Norman's presence, words of wisdom, sense of humor, and unique personality. He was a man with a big and generous heart. His passing is a tremendous loss for his friends, colleagues, and students in the field of pharmacognosy. This is a very sad moment for the ASP and its members."

Dr. Farnsworth was born on March 23, 1930. He received B.S. (1953) and M.S. (1955) degrees in Pharmacy from the Massa-

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EDITOR'S CORNER



This September, ASP Fellow and Past President, Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth, passed away. The ASP has not only lost one of its founders, but one of pharmacognosy's most influential scientists. In 1959, Dr. Farnsworth and a group of mostly young pharmacognosists began ASP in a basement classroom at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), as an offshoot of The Plant Science Laboratory Seminars. Dr. Farnsworth served as first Vice President, second President, and on numerous committees over his five decades of close involvement with the Society.

Dr. Farnsworth was instrumental in shaping the Society in many ways. He is considered to be the framer of the ASP Constitution. In the early days, he helped to negotiate with *Lloydia* to purchase the journal and make it into the

Society's flagship publication, the *Journal of Natural Products*. More recently, he endowed one of the ASP's scientific awards, now known as the Norman R. Farnsworth Research Achievement Award; this remains the Society's top merit award.

On a personal note, Dr. Farnsworth was always interested in mentoring students and junior faculty. I would see this take shape at Annual Meetings of the Society where there was typically a crowd around him asking for his input on a project or career advice. I know my own career path has been profoundly impacted by Dr. Farnsworth, first as a postdoctoral researcher at UIC, and more recently when I would seek his input (and letters of reference) for my own career advancement. His advice was often both exceedingly useful and blunt.

In this issue of the *Newsletter*, our lead article honors Dr. Farnsworth, but we plan to run more tributes to him, so please contact the *Newsletter* if you have any short (250 words or less) tributes you would like to have considered for publication.

ASP also lost another devoted member recently, Dr. Waqar H. Bhatti, who taught at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, for more than 38 years. His commitment to the Society is reflected in a final bequest from his family made to the ASP Foundation to establish an award in his name supporting student research on therapeutics from natural sources. (Please visit www.pharmacognosy.us for contribution information.) We also celebrate the life of the late ASP member Dr. Arnold Brosi, National Institutes of Health (NIH) Scientist Emeritus, who passed away this summer.

Despite this sad news, we are happy to welcome onboard the new ASP President, Dr. Barbara Timmermann. Dr. Timmermann's letter to the Society appears in this issue. The organizers of the 2011 Annual Meeting provide a detailed report of this successful and excellent meeting, with 571 registered participants in 8 Plenary Lectures, 3 Award Lectures, 27 Invited Lectures, 77 Contributed Lectures, 115 Lectures in total, 47 Co-Chairs of Sessions, and 400 Posters! Congratulations to all involved in planning and executing this seamlessly. We also highlight ASP award winners of all types, and we congratulate all of them on their achievements.

Our regular columns keep us up to date on regulation in "Brief News From Washington," and Dr. Young Ho Kim gives us a tour of his group's work on anti-inflammatory compounds in "Behind the Scenes." The 2012 Annual Meeting will be in New York City, and is a joint meeting with our European sister societies. Dr. Guy Carter, Chair of the Scientific Organizing Committee, along with Dr. Kurt Reynertson, provide a glimpse at what the program will entail. Please visit the website, www.icnpr2012.org. Hotel reservations can be made now, and abstracts will be accepted starting in January.

I wish everyone a productive and peaceful autumn season.

Dr. Edward J. Kennelly

EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

The Society offers a placement service to aid our members in seeking positions or employees. This service is available only to ASP members and is free to both the applicant and the employer.

For more information see the services website.

www.pharmacognosy.us/?page_id=163

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Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth Remembered

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“His love, devotion, dedication and advocacy for the Society have always been second to none. Norman is the most unforgettable cigar chomping character I knew. He was the quintessential renaissance man. He was fiercely honest, transparent, ethical, and loyal to his friends, colleagues and collaborators. He was mentor and friend to all who wanted to interact with him.”



chusetts College of Pharmacy. In 1959, he obtained a Ph.D. in Pharmacognosy from the University of Pittsburgh. He started his career at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy, serving as Department Head from 1958, while still a Ph.D. candidate, until 1970.

He was recruited to the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in 1970 and headed the Department of Pharmacognosy and Pharmacology from 1970-1982. He was the founding director of the Program for Collaborative Research in the Pharmaceutical Sciences (PCRPS) from 1982 until his retirement on August 31, 2011. Dr. Farnsworth was honored by UIC with designations as a Senior University Scholar in 1988 and as a Distinguished Professor of Pharmacognosy in 2001.

Dr. Farnsworth became an ASP Fellow in 2006; ASP Fellows are selected “because of their continuing, high level contributions in the field of natural products and records of sustained achievement within their sub-disciplines.” Indeed, as Fellows are expected to further the science of natural products research, Dr. Farnsworth



continued his research and travels well into the present day, serving the role as both an ASP and natural products ambassador.

According to Dr. Harry S. Fong, Dr. Farnsworth’s first graduate student, friend and collaborator of 56 years, “His love, devotion, dedication and advocacy for the Society have always been second to none. Norman is the most unforgettable cigar chomping character I knew. He was the quintessential renaissance man. He was fiercely honest, transparent, ethical, and loyal to his friends, colleagues and collaborators. He was mentor and friend to all who wanted to interact with him.”

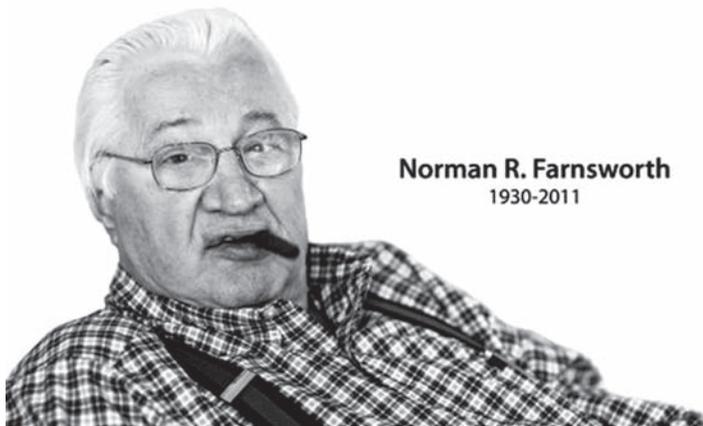
Dr. Farnsworth invented *NatPrAlert*, a relational database, in 1975. He was a pioneer in conducting drug discovery research on natural products with teams of interdisciplinary scientists, each bringing a different set of knowledge and skill to the project. He also initiated a new paradigm of pharmacognosy research on botanical supplements employing botanically, chemi-

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Above right: Dr. Farnsworth at home; Below: Dr. Farnsworth with hula dancers at the 50th Anniversary Meeting.



Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth Remembered



Norman R. Farnsworth
1930-2011

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cally, and biologically standardized herbs for mechanistical and clinical evaluation for women's health; this approach can be applied to research on a multitude of other disease targets.

Longtime ASP member Dr. Georgia Perdue told the *Newsletter*, "I knew Norman for 50 years and we felt a special kinship because of our ties to both Lynn, Massachusetts and our alma mater, the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. He was a member of my doctoral committee and also trained me in the then new technologies. He was a fierce protector of the word pharmacognosy, because several in the society wanted to change its name to more "modern" terminology, resulting in his lament to me: 'After I am gone, that will be the end of the name pharmacognosy. The younger generation will eliminate pharmacognosy not only from the name of the society but everything else. They have no appreciation of its origins or meaning.'"

Dr. Farnsworth's memorial service was held Wednesday, September 14, 2011, in the North Shore Baptist Church in Chicago. The service had a very family-like atmosphere and reflected his life-long attitude toward his family, friends, colleagues, and students. The service began after a final viewing where two of his beloved cigars could be seen in his upper pocket. Norman's final funeral service and interment in the Pine Grove Cemetery, with full military honors, were held in his native Lynn, Massachusetts, on September 16, 2011.

Close to 200 people were in attendance at the Chicago service, and many of them were from UIC, College of Pharmacy. Past ASP Presidents including Drs. Harry Fong, Geoff Cordell, A. Douglas Kinghorn, and Jim McAlpine were there. Remembrances were made by his niece Ms. Bonnie Carden, Dr. Harry Fong, and Norman R. Farnsworth Professor of Pharmacognosy Dr. Chun-Tao Che. Drs. Paul Coates, Jerry Bauman, Steve Swanson, D. Doel Soejarto, Guido Pauli, and Surasak Pratuangtham served as pall bearers.

Family members and old friends who were unable to attend the Chicago services came out in force in Lynn, Massachusetts. Former ASP Presidents John Cardellana and Harry Fong, ASP Associate Treasurer Dr. Guido Pauli, as well as former students and

ASP members Drs. Daniel Fabricant, Barry O'Keefe, and Mark Bohkl, and American Botanical Council Executive Director Mr. Mark Blumenthal were also in attendance.

Ms. Carden said that he "always made everyone feel included." This sentiment was echoed by many of the attendees. Dr. Nam Cheol Kim remembers the monthly "Farnsworth Party" open only to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. According to Dr. Kim, issues and concerns were discussed that were not expressed to others easily. Dr. Kim told the *Newsletter*, "I felt that under his umbrella I was always protected. He listened to my problems as if they were his own and tried solve them." UIC will also host a celebration in honor of Dr. Farnsworth on Tuesday, November 15 from 4-6 p.m at the College of Pharmacy, followed by a 7 p.m. dinner at Greek Islands.

Direct your RSVP and any questions to Deb Fox (dfox4@uic.edu). Replies are kindly requested by Nov. 7; please indicate your intention to attend either the reception, dinner, or both. ■

Donations to UIC's Norman R. Farnsworth Chair in Pharmacognosy can be made at <http://bit.ly/pEfspY>. Donations to ASP's Farnsworth Fund can be made at https://asph.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=form_126.

Dr. Nam Cheol Kim contributed to this article.

He was a fierce protector of the word pharmacognosy, because several in the society wanted to change its name to more "modern" terminology, resulting in his lament to me: 'After I am gone, that will be the end of the name pharmacognosy.

—Dr. Georgia Perdue

Dr. Farnsworth addresses the public



ASP Presidential Address

By Dr. Barbara Timmermann

It is an honor to serve as president of the American Society of Pharmacognosy, an organization that strives for the betterment of human health through natural products sciences research, collaboration and dissemination. It is a particular honor to serve during the year that the United Nations has proclaimed “The International Year of Chemistry (IYC 2011).” This yearlong celebration was designed to bring the field of chemistry to the forefront, encourage interest among young people and generate enthusiasm and creativity among future chemistry scholars.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of Maria Sklodowska-Curie’s Nobel Prize in Chemistry and provides us a great opportunity to celebrate the many contributions of female scientists worldwide.

We know the science of chemistry is essential to address the future challenges of food, shelter, water, energy and health, but a large percentage of the public is unaware of these facts. Even our Society’s name “Pharmacognosy” often elicits the already infamous question, “Pharma... what?” I am continually amazed that this question comes not only from the public, but also from scientists in disciplines other than ours. It is vital that we continue to emphasize the unique nature of our discipline and of our Society members who are engaged in complementary fields of natural products sciences, including but not limited to plant, microbial and animal biodiversity as sources of medicinal agents; biochemistry and genetic engineering; synthetic, organic, and combinatorial chemistry; analytical chemistry and method development; and ethnobotany and intellectual property issues related to access of natural resources.

Our Society will continue to play an important role in contributing to global health and improving the world through research and the education of non-chemists about plants and their role in providing safe and effective medicines. No other professional society is better suited to place a collaborative emphasis on these studies.

Although our members are trying to address the challenges of future generations, funding in the United States has been inadequate and could decline further in the coming years. We



Dr. Barbara Timmermann

must continue to promote our field in the classroom, through public outreach, communication with policymakers and with excellent research.

As your President, I will work to establish partnerships with our sister societies around the world. Together, we will demonstrate the value of pharmacognosy and inform the public that natural products sciences are essential in addressing our most serious global health issues.

At the recent ACS conference in Denver, I met with the executive committee of the Medicinal Chemistry Division to explore opportunities for our organizations to collaborate. We share many areas of interest, specifically drug lead discovery and development from natural products. I had similar discussions with members of several European medicinal plant societies and Asian research institutions at the recent GA International Congress in Turkey.

After these meetings, it was clear to me that we all share the need to better understand traditional medicines and botanical dietary supplements and that we recognize the vital role that natural products sciences play in terms of global health. I will also continue to strengthen relations with other foreign organizations as we are working on a global matter that needs solutions from the global community. We are united by the common subjects of biodiversity, chemistry, biology and health.

In the coming year, we must find ways to effectively communicate with the public and with our policymakers. Only through communication will we increase awareness of our discipline and support for our research. I will continue to pursue new and better ways to communicate science news to the public. We will reach out not only to science journals, but also to the mainstream media. To that end, I will work with our distinguished group of ASP Fellows. They have much to offer the natural products science community, including a broad base of knowledge that ranges from drug lead discovery to combinatorial biosynthesis and the advancement of lead candidates to the clinic and governmental regulations. I will ask this group to be the “voice” of our Society.

And to the younger members of our group, you are the future

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ASP Presidential Address

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of our Society. You bring motivation and excitement to the Annual Meetings, and your voices are heard during the business meetings and presentations. I will continue to support your opportunities for mentoring and participation at our Annual Meetings through an increased number in travel grants and awards. I will support a joint meeting between you and your peers during the upcoming conference in New York. Our society has a rich tradition of mentoring, and senior scientists are eager to consult with you, whether it is to discuss career development or just to share a personal story or laughter with you.

I encourage you to keep informed by visiting the official ASP (www.phcog.org) website, and invite you to submit contributions to the *Newsletter*.

Planning is well under way for the 2012 International Congress on Natural Products Research (2012 ICNPR) July 28- August 1, 2012 in New York City. This event will be sponsored by the ASP and our sister societies from Europe. More information, including a program and updates are available on the website. I look forward to seeing each and all of you at this event!

Finally, I would like to thank each of you for this opportunity to serve as your President. ■

ASP Members Named ACS Fellows

By Dr. Amy Keller

Two ASP members, Drs. Lester Mitscher and David Wiemer, have been inducted this year as American Chemical Society (ACS) Fellows. ACS announced 213 new Fellows, and notes “these distinguished scientists are being recognized and honored for their significant contributions to the science and for providing excellent service to the ACS.”

Dr. Mitscher told the *Newsletter* that being named an ACS Fellow, “is a surprising and humbling experience.” Dr. Wiemer mentioned, “I do appreciate the recognition, but the nicest part is hearing from friends around the country who have sent their congratulations.”

Although Dr. Mitscher is proud of many things in his career, “Receiving a public recognition from colleagues whose work and accomplishments I have long admired is extremely gratifying. My colleagues have been very generous in their appraisal of the work that my students and colleagues have performed. If I have accomplished anything lasting, it is surely the outstanding students and postdocs that I have had the privilege of working with.”

Dr. Wiemer related that, “I am most



Dr. David Wiemer

proud of the 43 students who have completed their Ph.D.s working with me so far. But from a standpoint within ACS, I have made approximately 150 visits to local sections as an ACS tour speaker, and that would be my most significant contribution to ACS.” ■



Dr. Lester Mitscher

“I do appreciate the recognition, but the nicest part is hearing from friends around the country who have sent their congratulations.”

—Dr. Mitscher

“I am most proud of the 43 students who have completed their Ph.D.s working with me so far”.

—Dr. Weimer

“Natural Products, New Waves of Innovation” 52nd Annual Meeting of the ASP

By Drs. Bradley Moore and William Gerwick

This year's Annual Meeting of the ASP was held at Paradise Point Resort in San Diego, California from July 30-August 3, 2011. It was truly a great pleasure for the scientific and local organizing committees to see so many of our colleagues take pleasure in the really wonderful venue and respond so positively to the stimulating and diverse scientific program; attendees appeared to thoroughly enjoy themselves at the social events, coffee breaks and included buffet lunches. Of course, it was a tremendous amount of work on the parts of many people, but it was truly worthwhile when we saw what an effect the meeting had on our colleagues, our scientific society of the ASP, and ultimately our discipline of natural products science.

Canada, Mexico, Panama, United States), Europe (Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Iceland, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom), Australasia (Australia, China, French Polynesia, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, Taiwan), and Africa (Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa). Truly, we are an international community! Overall, during the conference week we had 8 Plenary Lectures, 3 Award Lectures, 27 Invited Lectures, 77 Contributed Lectures, 115 Lectures in total, 47 Co-Chairs of Sessions, 400 Posters, 2 Saturday workshops (NMR and Bioassays), and 2 lunch time workshops (NMR and Chromatography).

The meeting started on Saturday with two very well attended workshops; one was held by our Principle Conference Sponsor,



The final number of registrants was 571, and all dimensions of the Natural Products Sciences were represented, including large pharma, cosmetic, food and beverage companies, small biotech (especially well represented!), government (National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration) and academic researchers of all types. A total of 28 countries were represented at the meeting, including North America (Brazil,

Bruker Instruments, on new developments in NMR spectroscopy, and the second by several of our colleagues at the University of Mississippi lead by Dr. Babu Tekwani on the topic of bioassays. Between these two, nearly 200 people were in attendance, attesting to the popularity of technical workshops as a part of the ASP Annual Meeting. Throughout the day, the Executive Committee met to discuss the business of the society and hear committee re-

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DR. BRAD MOORE

“Natural Products, New Waves of Innovation” 52nd Annual Meeting of the ASP

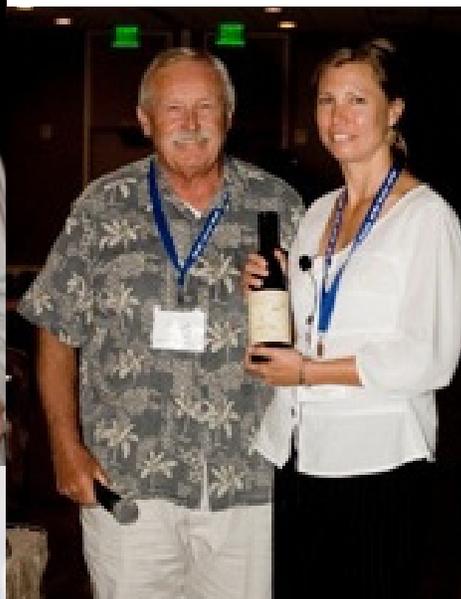
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ports. We appreciate their considerable dedication to the Society, and hope they enjoyed and were inspired by the view and hospitality! The main event was our Sunset Ballroom and Deck Reception in the evening for all of the conference attendees. A delicious assortment of foods was accompanied by fine beverages and musical entertainment, and many renewed and new friendships were in evidence as we watched the sunset over San Diego's Mission Bay.

Sunday morning we were welcomed by Dean Palmer Taylor, the Founding Dean of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at University of California, San Diego (UCSD). This was followed by the scientific program with excellent plenary lectures that were amplified upon by invited and contributed talks after the morning break. Overall in the week, we had plenary talks and follow up symposia on the following 8 topics: Plant and Fungal Natural Product Genetic Engineering, Mechanism of Action of Bioactive Natural

Products, Dietary Supplements/Botanicals, Natural Products, Chemical Ecology, Microbial Biosynthesis, “Omic” Approaches to Natural Product Discovery, New Frontiers in Marine Natural Products, and Natural Product Synthesis. Each plenary speaker was congratulated on stage at the end of their lecture with a fine bottle of Pelican Ranch wine, a product of our own Dr. Phil Crews at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Additional sessions focused on Microbial Natural Products, Analytical Chemistry of Natural Products, Natural Products from Plants and Microorganisms, Nutraceuticals, Taking Natural Products into the Clinic, Natural Products from Latin America, General Natural Products, Small Biotechnology Companies and Natural Products, New

Methods in Natural Products, and Bioactive Natural Products. Clearly, the interests of the ASP membership are very diverse, and this was nicely captured in these excellent lectures, symposia and sessions. New to the ASP meeting tradition was the inclusion of lunch as a part of the registration. This worked wonderfully, in part because the weather was perfect throughout the week, and the hotel put together some very tasty buffet lunches at a good price; this allowed the members to fully spend lunch breaks catching up with friends and colleagues, as well as meeting new ones around this casual setting. In addition, some took advantage of the sponsored



Products, Dietary Supplements/Botanicals, Natural Product Chemical Ecology, Microbial Biosynthesis, “Omic” Approaches to Natural Product Discovery, New Frontiers in Marine Natural Products, and Natural Product Synthesis. Each plenary speaker was congratulated on stage at the end of their lecture with a fine bottle of Pelican Ranch wine, a product of our own Dr. Phil Crews at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Additional sessions focused on Microbial Natural Products, Analytical Chemistry of Natural Products, Natural Products from Plants and Microorganisms, Nutraceuticals, Taking Natural Products into the Clinic, Natural Products from Latin America, General Natural Products, Small Biotechnology Companies and Natural Products, New

lunch workshop by Bruker, a new concept within the meeting program, to hear additional new advances of NMR applied to natural products. Poster Session I had fully 200 posters and immediately afterwards, buses efficiently moved all of the conference attendees to the Birch Aquarium high above the Pacific Ocean and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography for a beautifully catered dinner and refreshments. They were the perfect accompaniment to the aquarium displays and setting sun over the Pacific (unfortunately, no Green Flash was seen).

Monday was a repeat of Sunday in all respects, but with a lunch

DR. BRAD MOORE

“Natural Products, New Waves of Innovation” 52nd Annual Meeting of the ASP

workshop sponsored by Teledyne and Poster Session II, also with 200 posters. In the evening, various groups ventured out and around San Diego to sample the local restaurant and nightclub scene. Award-winner lectures were delivered by Dr. Pieter Dorrestein of University of California, San Diego, as winner of the Matt Suffness Award, Dr. Ikhlas Khan of the University of Mississippi for the Tyler Award, and Drs. Murray Munro and John Blunt of the University of Canterbury as joint recipients of the Norman R. Farnsworth Research Achievement Award. These were followed by the annual business meeting, which was conducted in highly ‘efficient fashion’ by outgoing ASP President John Beutler (e.g no controversial issues were raised).

Between the continental breakfasts, coffee breaks, lunches, afternoon breaks and poster session refreshments, and evening dinners, nearly 9,600 meals were served during the 5 days of the conference! In reflection of the scope and complexity of the meeting, total revenues amounted to just over \$400,000 with expenses being about \$370,000. The \$30,000 “profit” will be returned to the ASP to help offset the \$50,000 contribution that the society made to help reduce the room rates for all attendees staying at the resort. We particularly appreciate the support of our industrial sponsors of the conference: Platinum level (\$20,000), Bruker Daltonics/Biospin; Gold Level (\$15,000), California Sea Grant; Silver Level (\$10,000), Celgene Corporation; Bronze Level (\$5,000), Sequoia Sciences and Symposium Sponsors (\$2,500), Indena, and Tom’s of Maine.

The final banquet was enjoyed by all (student and postdoctoral registrants had the banquet included in their ‘reduced’ registrations), and we were entertained on the stage by a number of our members, including ex-President John Beutler, new President Barbara Timmermann, and annual “roaster” Dr. Barry O’Keefe (he



really outdid himself this year!). The evening finished with a new tradition, a President’s Reception overlooking the Mission Bay that was open to all registrants and accompanying persons. Clearly, many attendees were not ready to call it “a night” after the banquet, and it was a pretty noisy bunch until the wee hours of the morning!

The organizers want to especially thank a Conference Organizer who came to our “rescue” at a critical point in the development of the conference, Ms. Moira Igor of IM Hospitality Consulting in San Diego, California (IMhospitalityconsulting@gmail.com). Due to her recent move to San Diego with her husband Dr. Martin Tresguerres at Scripps, she offered her services and insights at no cost; however, we will be seeing more of Ms. Igor as she will be assisting the New York ASP 2012 Annual Meet-

ing, and perhaps others in the future. We also want to deeply thank Dr. David Slatkin and his assistant, Ms. Laura Stoll, for their many months of effort to take care of all of the business and financial issues involved in putting on this conference. There is much more work involved in these aspects than is realized by the general membership, and these two people deserve our heartfelt thanks and appreciation!

Finally, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, we thank the ASP members and other attendees for joining us for a memorable week of natural products science in San Diego! It was a joy for us to showcase our beautiful San Diego environment to the ASP and their families. Perhaps in another 20 years we will see you all back here in San Diego once again! ■

The Organizing Committee was co-chaired by Drs. Bill Gerwick, Bill Fenical, Brad Moore, and included Drs. Pieter Dorrestein, Lena Gerwick, Paul Jensen, Ted Molinski, Alban Pereira-Badilla, Ms. Irma Soria-Mercado, Drs. Mike Burkart, and Yu-Liang Yang.

DR. BRAD MOORE

Research Achievement Award Winners: John Blunt and Murray Munro

By Drs. Amy Keller, John Blunt, and Murray Munro

This year's awardees of the Norman R. Farnsworth Research Achievement Award, Drs. John Blunt and Murray Munro, received their award and gave their presentation at the ASP Annual Meeting, July 30-August 3, 2011. A unique aspect of this award presentation was that it was given jointly by both awardees.

According to Drs. Blunt and Munro, "this was particularly gratifying as it was a very visible recognition that collaborative efforts can be recognized; the combination of different strengths in one cause can be a very powerful and productive approach. Perhaps that was what Jack Vaughan had in mind back in 1970 when the Blunt/Munro partnership was initiated."

Drs. Blunt and Munro are both born-and-bred New Zealanders (Kiwis). Dr. Blunt got his university education in Christchurch at the University of Canterbury and Dr. Munro at the University of Otago. Being Kiwis they naturally both headed overseas for post-doctoral experience; Dr. Munro traveled to Liverpool to study alkaloid isolation, biosynthesis, and synthesis. Dr. Blunt went to Wisconsin where he focused on unraveling aspects of the Vitamin D research.

They both arrived back to the Department of Chemistry at the University of Canterbury about the same time in the late 1960's and a perspicacious Head of Department, Professor Jack Vaughan, encouraged them to join forces as natural products research was not strong at Canterbury at that time. An interest in marine natural products developed in the early 1970's and has continued to this day. The rationale for this focus was the then novelty of the subject area and New Zealand having a long coastline with a rich diversity of marine species.

Their initial work was with red algae, but soon transferred to marine invertebrates and an emphasis on the detection



Drs. Murray Munro (left) and John Blunt holding a sample of the marine sponge *Lissodendoryx* spp, a species that they studied for over 20 years that yields an array of new halichondrins.

and isolation of compounds with pharmaceutically-interesting biological activity. Another focus of their research was the development of better and smaller scale approaches to isolation, implementation of new technologies, especially NMR, techniques and the development of databases to make the task of dereplication of natural product extracts simpler and less time consuming.

These themes, along with relevant examples of significant bioactive finds, were in their award presentation at the Annual Meeting. Drs. Blunt and Munro told the *Newsletter*, "how pleasing it was that Southern Hemisphere chemistry had been recognized with the Research Achievement Award, the great honor that the American Society of Pharmacognosy

had bestowed on us, and the recognition that marine natural products is now a mature branch of chemistry. We are also greatly appreciative of the contributions made over many years by research students, post-docs, and other collaborators." ■

...the combination of different strengths in one cause can be a very powerful and productive approach...

Ikhlas Khan Awarded ASP Tyler Prize



ASP member Dr. Ikhlas Khan was awarded the Tyler Prize at the ASP Annual Meeting, July 30-August 3, 2011. The award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding scientific contributions to the broad field of dietary supplements, with special emphasis on botanicals. The contributions are usually in an area of phytochemistry, pharmacognosy, or pharmacology.

Dr. Khan told the *Newsletter*, "I would like to thank the ASP awards committee for the great honor of being selected as the 2011 Tyler prize recipient. The significance of this prize is in the overall recognition of the combined research of several years' worth of hard effort from graduate students, post docs, research scientists, visiting

scholars, and collaborators towards a common goal of fully characterizing botanical dietary ingredients for the common good of science. I am both honored and humbled by this award."

Dr. Khan serves as Assistant Director of the National Center for Natural Products (NCNPR) FDA's Center of Excellence for Botanical Dietary Supplements; the mission of the NCNPR is to identify botanical ingredients or products of potential safety concerns due to phytochemical constituents, or potential adulterants or contaminants.

Dr. Khan continued to emphasize that plants are overlooked and under-scrutinized by being considered as benign ingredients within the United States; they are often considered as Generally Regarded as Safe (GRAS). "With new regulatory responsibility being provided to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure the safety of botanical dietary supplements, it has become imperative that there are scientifically valid methodologies in place to provide unambiguous identification for plant samples that are entering or are in the market," he mentioned.

"The only way to ensure this level of unambiguity is to take a holistic approach towards identifying botanicals through macroscopic, microscopic, phytochemical, analytical, and genetic

means. All this research starts at the source with quality, authenticated, vouchered botanical specimens that can be utilized as reference standards for the generation of a common profile for each species," said Dr. Khan.

He went on to mention that developing a repository along with a living collection of botanical specimens can aid in generating a fingerprint profile for identification purposes. This can lead to the development of identification techniques using both classical as well as modern methodologies to obtain a fingerprint profile for each species. Utilizing this data to compile libraries of authenticated profiles has led to the examination of both single ingredient materials as well as complex multi-component mixtures for the purpose of identification and safety evaluation.

The Tyler Prize consists of a suitably inscribed plaque, a monetary prize of \$5,000, and travel expenses to the meeting to accept the award. The selection is made by a committee appointed by the ASP President, consisting of a chair, immediate past president of the Society, and chair of the Awards and Funds Committee.

Dr. Khan relates, "The awarding of the 2011 Tyler prize is in recognition of the long-standing research effort of our whole program at the NCNPR, to which we are truly grateful." ■

"The only way to ensure this level of unambiguity is to take a holistic approach towards identifying botanicals through macroscopic, microscopic, phytochemical, analytical, and genetic means. All this research starts at the source with quality, authenticated, vouchered botanical specimens that can be utilized as reference standards for the generation of a common profile for each species," said Dr. Khan.

ASP Annual Meeting Awards

The Newsletter wishes to recognize and congratulate all ASP award winners. Best wishes and congratulations to all.

By Dr. Amy C. Keller

Norman R. Farnsworth Research Achievement Award

Drs. Murray Munro & John Blunt
University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand

Tyler Prize

Dr. Ikhlas Khan
University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi

Schwarting and Beal Awards

Arthur E. Schwarting Award

Dr. Bill Gerwick
University of California, San Diego, California

Jack L. Beal Award

Dr. Kerry McPhail
Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

Dr. Rich Fitch

Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana

Matt Suffness Award

Dr. Pieter C. Dorrestein
University of California, San Diego, California

Research Starter Grants

Dr. Brian T. Murphy
University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Marcy J. Balunas

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

Kilmer Prize

Mr. Hahk-Soo Kang
University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois

Student Research Award

Ms. Valerie Clark
Queen's University, Belfast, United Kingdom

Undergraduate Research Award

Ms. Roxanne Smoker
Concord University, Athens, West Virginia

Lynn Brady Travel Award

Ms. Feifei Zhang
Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia

Ms. Kelly Peach

University of California, Santa Cruz, California

Simi Adiv

Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv, Israel

David Carew Travel Award

Mr. Alejandro Preciado
University of Hawai'i, Manoa, Hawai'i

D. John Faulkner Travel Award

Dr. Brian T. Murphy
University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois

Travel Grant for Active Members

Dr. José G. Napolitano
University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois

Ms. Emily Whitson

National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland

Dr. Wendy Lynn Popplewell

National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland

Student Travel Grant

Mr. Juan J. Araya
University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

Ms. Joo-Wan Nam

Ewha Women's University, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul,
South Korea

Mr. J. Alan Maschek

University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

Wei Gao

University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois

Li Dong

Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

Ms. Jessica Bame

University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina



ASP Member Waqar H. Bhatti's Legacy Continues

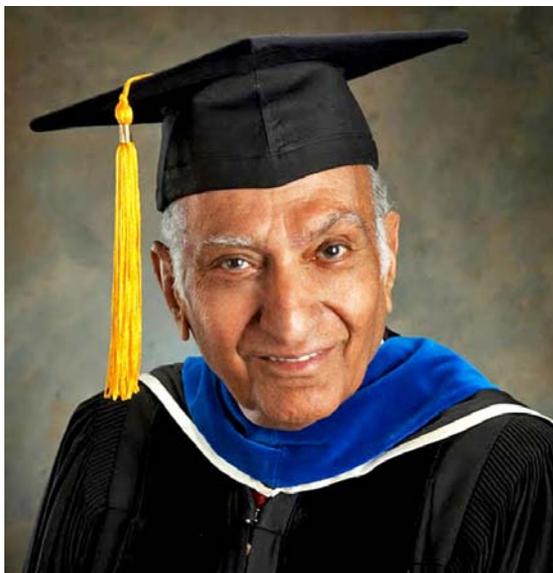
This obituary appears courtesy of the Bhatti Family.

ASP member Dr. Waqar H. Bhatti passed away in Las Cruces, New Mexico, on January 18, 2011. Dr. Bhatti was a Professor Emeritus in the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana, where he taught pharmacy students for more than 38 years.

Dr. Bhatti completed a Bachelors and Masters Degree in Biology in Pakistan and taught for several years in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Peshawar. In 1959, he came to the United States to pursue graduate studies in medicinal botany at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. After completing his doctorate in Biology in 1963, he taught at the College of Pharmacy of North Dakota State University and was a research fellow in pharmacognosy at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1970 he joined the faculty of Butler University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. While serving on the faculty, he completed a Bachelors Degree in Pharmacy and then also worked as a hospital pharmacist.

Dr. Bhatti was deeply committed to the pharmacy profession, teaching, and to all students. He delighted in meeting his former students especially when their children enrolled as students. During his career he taught many courses including History of Pharmacy, Radiopharmacy, Sterile Products, Pharmacognosy, Poisonous Plants, Analytical Techniques, Pharmaceutical Calculations, Nutraceuticals, OTC Products, and various aspects of medicinal chemistry.

Dr. Bhatti was fascinated by natural products, particularly plants, as a source for novel medicinal agents to treat diseases



as well as to manage health and well being. He promoted the pharmacist's role in delivering integrative therapy through the combination of alternative and traditional medical practices. Dr. Bhatti helped to establish an apothecary garden at Butler University. He conducted and published research, served as an invited speaker, was a plant toxicity consultant for the Poison Control Center, mentored high school science students, and actively served in national and local pharmacy organizations.

Dr. Bhatti's hobbies included classical jazz and photography. Dr. Bhatti will be remembered for his love of spicy foods and always wearing a bolo tie. He reached out to everyone

with a smile and a hug or a handshake.

Dr. Bhatti was born in Pakistan on November 22, 1931, He is survived by his wife of nearly 47 years, Martha Carter-Bhatti; three sons, Anwaar and his wife, Irma; Micah and his wife, Emily; and Jared and his partner, Darshan; a daughter, Christina and her husband Jason Madden; and three grandchildren, Andrew, Lina, and Elijah.

A guest book has been created on Legacy.com; you are invited to send a message to the family, share memories of Dr. Bhatti, and light a candle in remembrance. You may also send condolences at: www.lapaz-grahams.com.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations in honor of Dr. Waqar H. Bhatti be made to the American Society of Pharmacognosy Foundation to establish an award in his name to support student research on therapeutics from natural sources; for foundation details see www.pharmacognosy.us. ■

Bhatti Student Travel Award Established

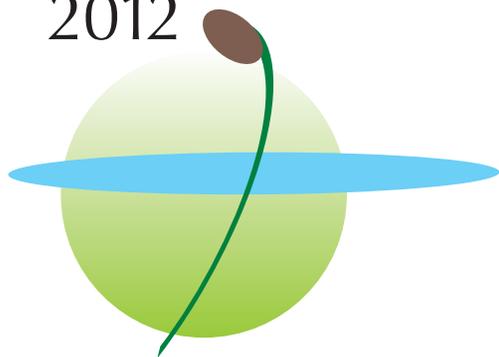
A new travel award, the Waqar H. Bhatti Student Travel Award is named in honor of ASP member Dr. Waqar H. Bhatti, Professor Emeritus at the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana. Dr. Bhatti was dedicated to natural products research as a source of novel medicinal agents to treat diseases as well as to manage health and well being. The award is generously being made possible by the Bhatti Family.

This travel award, named in his honor, will provide \$600 to assist a young natural products scientist to attend a Society meeting and present a paper. Applications are due February 15 of each year. Application details may be found on the General Travel Awards for Graduate Students page of the ASP website.

The Society is grateful to the Bhatti Family for facilitating the mentoring and scientific opportunities of our student members. Please consult the ASP website for donation information. ■

The 2012 International Congress on Natural Products Research: “Global Change, Natural Products, and Human Health”

ICNPR International Congress for Natural Products Research 2012



By Drs. Guy Carter and Kurt Reynertson

The 2012 Annual ASP meeting, July 28-August 1, 2012, will be held in conjunction with the 8th International Congress on Natural Products Research (2012 ICNPR), which is the joint meeting sponsored by the American Society of Pharmacognosy (ASP), and our sister societies from Europe: the Italian Society of Phytochemistry (SIF), the Society for Medicinal Plant Research (GA), the Phytochemical Society of Europe (PSE) and the Pharmacognosy Society of French Speaking Persons (AFERP).

Our venue in Manhattan is the Grand Hyatt Hotel adjacent to Grand Central Station. The Grand Hyatt has reserved 350 rooms at \$264/night (single, double, triple or quadruple). Hotel reservations can now be made using the link at www.icnpr2012.org. This exciting location is in the heart of Manhattan and is close to many of New York's most famous attractions. Our conference will open with a reception on Saturday evening in the Hyatt's

Manhattan Ballroom, which offers stunning views of the vibrant city surrounding the hotel.

The conference program will be densely packed with scientific sessions with most mornings dedicated to plenary presentations and the afternoons divided into parallel oral and/or poster sessions. Some events are also planned in the evenings. A combined scientific/social function has been planned at the New York Botanical Garden (www.nybg.org) on Sunday evening that will provide participants a unique and personalized tour of the Garden. On Monday evening, a panel of opinion leaders will discuss the “Future of Pharmacognosy”.

Some highlights of the scientific program include major award presentations by each of the participating Societies, and a symposium in recognition of the publication of the 75th volume of *The Journal of Natural Products*. There will be symposia with the following topics and confirmed speakers: “The Promise of Biodiversity:” Dr. James Miller, NYBG, Bronx, New York; Dr. Scott Strobel, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut; Dr. John Hooper, Queensland Museum, Queensland, Australia. “Ethnobotanical Drug Discovery:” Dr. Barbara Timmermann, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas; Dr. Michael Balick, NYBG, Bronx, New York; Co-Chairs, Dr. Steven King, NAPO Pharma, San Francisco, California; Dr. Bertrand Graz, Antenna Technologies, Switzerland; Dr. Kelly Kindscher, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas. “Concept to Clinic:” Caspofungin at Merck: Drs. Dennis Schmatz, Ronald Schwartz, Prakash Masurekar, James Balkovec, D. Hughes, and Carole Sable. “Natural Product Technologies:” Dr. Werner Maas, Bruker, Billerica, Massachusetts; Dr. Jean-Luc Wolfender, University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzer-

land; Dr. Nadja Cech, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina; Dr. David Sherman, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

In addition to these topics, symposia and themed contributed sessions are planned on the traditional areas of interest to our membership including: natural products discovery, marine, microbes and plants, metabolism, biosynthesis, analytical technologies, genomics and others. A Young Investigators Program is also under development that will feature the accomplishments of young scientists in an interactive forum. On Saturday, we will offer workshop sessions on NMR and CD methodology as applied to natural product research.

We have been encouraged through interactions with our European colleagues and expect robust participation from their members. The venues at the Hyatt can accommodate 800 people in the expanded ballroom and 200-400 in the smaller ballrooms. We anticipate large numbers of contributed poster presentations and have planned poster sessions on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. These sessions will be divided into two smaller ballrooms capable of showing 120-150 posters each, making our total poster count approximately 800.

Finally, since New York is “the city that never sleeps” we are certain that although our scientific program is intense and runs into the early evening, that our attendees will have ample time to experience the city's culinary and cultural highlights. We will be developing some helpful notes and suggestions for visitors not familiar with New York to help guide these explorations. We look forward to hosting the ICNPR in 2012 and welcome any questions or other input regarding the planning of the conference. ■

Phytochemical Society of North America Holds Golden Meeting

By Dr. Charles Cantrell

The Phytochemical Society of North America (PSNA) will hold its 50th Annual Meeting from December 10-15, 2011, at the Fairmont Orchid Hotel on the Kohala Coast of the Big Island of Hawai'i. In addition to poster sessions and oral presentations, some highlights of the meeting will include award lectures, workshops, concurrent sessions, historical perspective presentations, and special symposia.

Registrants will receive a copy of *Recent Advances in Phytochemistry*, select papers will be featured in a special issue of *Phytochemistry*, and proceedings of the symposium on natural product cancer chemopreventive agents will be published in *Topics in Current Chemistry*. Over 500 abstracts have been received that will be published in the December issue of *Pharmaceutical Biology*.

Discounted rates, (based on availability), have been arranged for PSNA delegates at this award-winning oceanside five star resort. The Fairmont Orchid sits on 32 acres and is surrounded by a breathtaking white sandy lagoon, green sea turtles (honu), and an environment of quiet elegance.

Call for reservations at 1-(800) 441-1414 or reserve your room online. Please mention the PSNA conference when making your reservations! Participants will have an opportunity to explore the Big Island of Hawai'i either on their own or as part of organized tours of unique sites such as Volcanoes National Park.

Please visit our website for more information: <http://psna.uhhconferencecenter.com/>. ■



COURTESY OF THE FAIRMONT ORCHID, HAWAII

We look forward to seeing you at the Fairmont Orchid Hotel, Hawai'i



Above clockwise: Orchid Court Terrace, Front View of Fairmont Orchid, Pau'oa Bay, Pau'oa Beach

Behind The Scenes: Stemming the Tide of Inflammation



by Dr. Amy Keller

This summer, the Journal of Natural Products published an article from ASP member Dr. Young Ho Kim and his colleagues entitled, "Anti-inflammatory Triterpenoid Saponins from the Stem Bark of *Kalopanax pictus*." The Newsletter interviewed Dr. Kim about this exciting research; he graciously gave us insight into the exciting anti-inflammatory activity of *K. pictus* compounds. Please read the full article in the Journal of Natural Products, 2011, 74(9), 1908-1915.

left: *Kalopanax pictus* tree; right: *Kalopanax pictus* bark.



How did you become interested in *K. pictus* and the anti-inflammatory phytochemicals therein?

Kalopanax pictus (Araliaceae) is a deciduous tree growing in East Asian countries. The stem bark of *K. pictus* has been used in traditional medicine to treat some diseases linked to inflammation. With the aim to research bioactive natural products on anti-inflammatory activity, we selected *K. pictus* to investigate chemical components from its stem bark and their anti-inflammatory properties.

Who in your laboratory carried out the research?

All the members in the paper carried out the research, especially the first author Tran Hong Quang.

Could you provide a brief explanation of the work and results in your own words? In what way are the data in your paper new?

This study described isolation of 15 compounds, including five new compounds and 10 known compounds from the stem bark of *K. pictus*. Thirteen of the compounds inhibited TNF α -induced NF- κ B transcriptional activity in HepG2 cells in a dose-dependent manner. The transcriptional inhibitory function of these compounds was confirmed based on decreases in COX-2 and iNOS gene expression in HepG2 cells. The structure-activity relationship (SAR) of the compounds on anti-inflammatory activity is also discussed.



Top row: Bui H. Tai, Nguyen P. Thao, Tran H. Quang, Nguyen T. T. Ngan.
Bottom row: Dr. Young Ho Kim, Seok B. Song

What impact does this research have on natural product science?

This research provides the scientific information including IR, NMR, and MS data and structures of five new compounds, the anti-inflammatory activities of the compounds, and SAR of the compounds on anti-inflammatory activity.

What is a favorite nonscientific activity of your lab?

A favorite nonscientific activity of our lab is traveling.

What is your lab's motto?

Do your best.

What is your greatest extravagance in the lab?

Everything is useful, there is no extravagance at all.

New Members of ASP 2011



ASP would like to welcome new members. The Society's main objectives are to provide the opportunity for association among the workers in pharmacognosy and related sciences, to provide opportunities for presentation of research achievements, and to promote the publication of meritorious research. New members include 12 domestic full members, three international full members, and 5 associate members. We look forward to meeting you and learning more about you and your work.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Dr. Bruce Baldi
Long Grove, Illinois

Dr. Reimar C. Bruening
Fremont, California

Dr. Cecile Debitus
Papeete, French Polynesia

Dr. Brian J. Doyle
Alma, Michigan

Dr. Lena Gerwick
La Jolla, California

Dr. James La Clair
San Diego, California

Dr. Amy L. Lane
Jacksonville, Florida

Dr. Xinyu Liu
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dr. Jayant N. Lokhande
Tuntin, California

Alan R. Ogden
Vancouver, British Columbia

Dr. Jyh-Horng Sheu
Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Dr. Wendy K. Strangman
Wilmington, Nebraska

Dr. Sidney Sudberg
Costa Mesa, California

Professor Dean Tantillo
Davis, California

Amy E. Wright
Fort Pierce, Florida

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ms. Rana Abdelfattah Montaser
Gainesville, Florida

Ms. Mahsa Movahedi
Sheffield, United Kingdom

Mr. Ramiro M. Murata
New York, New York

Mr. Tyler J. Sevco
Lebanon, Pennsylvania

Ms. Bo Zhai
Jonesboro, Arkansas

Meet a New ASP Member

ASP continues to welcome many new members to the Society throughout the year. Dr. Ramiro M. Murata is currently Associate Research Scientist at New York University, College of Dentistry in the Department of Basic Science & Craniofacial Biology. We are grateful to Dr. Murata for taking time from his busy schedule to give us the opportunity to get more acquainted with him.

By Dr. Diane S. Swaffar

Well, first, we are curious to find out how a dentist heard about ASP?

The first time I heard about the ASP was during my PhD program. My mentor and his colleagues work with natural products, so Pharmacognosy always was an area of interest.

So, you are a dentist with a PhD degree? Which degree did you receive first and what other degrees do you have?

I received my DDS degree first and then my MS in Pharmacology and PhD in Pharmacology from the Dental School of Piracicaba, State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Piracicaba/SP, Brazil.

Have you practiced dentistry before obtaining your PhD degree?

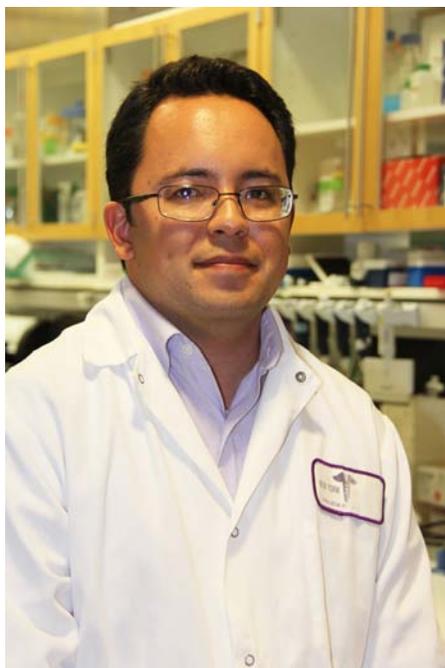
Yes, I worked as a dentist for 2 years in a hospital right after obtaining my MS degree.

What is your scientific background since obtaining your PhD degree?

In 2006, as a PhD candidate, I was a visiting scholar at the Center for Oral Biology, University of Rochester, New York, for 12 months. Since 2008 I have been an Associate Research Scientist at New York University (NYU) College of Dentistry.

What are your current research interests in pharmacognosy?

I have been doing research in pharmacognosy since I was an undergraduate stu-



dent, working first with *Apis mellifera* bee propolis against oral pathogens. During my undergraduate and graduate work I studied the effects of natural products against virulence factors of oral microorganisms *in vitro* and *in vivo* (dental caries in rats) and also the effects of natural compounds against cancer cells. Since last year I have been working as principal investigator in the mentored phase of my K99/R00 grant from National Institute of Health, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. This project relates the influence of natural compounds (benzophenones) on HIV infection and opportunistic infections, such as candidiasis.

Why did you join ASP?

I would like to build collaborations with the members of ASP and stay updated with all the newest research in the pharmacognosy area.

Do you belong to any other scientific societies?

Yes, I am also member of the IADR (International Association for Dental Research), AADR (American Association for Dental Research), and SBPqO (Brazilian Division of the International Association for Dental Research).

What would you like to achieve through your membership?

I would like to interact with the researchers in ASP so we can learn from each other about new techniques.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

Currently I do not have a lot of spare time, but when I have some, I enjoy cycling, cooking and spending time with my family and friends. I'm interested in sports too (swimming, basketball, and soccer).

ASP Mourns Member Arnold Brossi

By Dr. Michael Gottesman and Mr. Mario Brossi

ASP member Dr. Arnold Brossi, a National Institutes of Health (NIH) Scientist Emeritus, passed away on July 16, 2011, at the age of 88. Dr. Brossi was widely recognized as one of the godfathers of alkaloid chemistry and an extraordinary mentor.

An eminent organic chemist, Dr. Brossi for over 20 years was affiliated with Roche, where he was Director of its Chemical Research Department, both in Nutley, New Jersey, and at the company's world headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, before joining the NIH as a Visiting Scientist in 1976. Dr. Brossi continued on to head the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) Medicinal Chemistry Section from 1976 to 1991. His major research interests included the synthesis and study of biologically active natural products as well as drugs used in malaria chemotherapy, cancer and neuropsychiatric disorders. He authored or co-authored more than 400 scientific papers and is an inventor of many patents.

A lifelong believer in international cooperation, Dr. Brossi directed the research of over 40 postdocs from 17 countries while at the NIH. After his retirement from the NIH, he continued teaching and collaborating with scientists and researchers at various schools and universities, including Drew University, Georgetown



Dr. Arnold Brossi

University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the National Institute of Aging (NIA) Intramural Research Program, among others. Dr. Brossi received an Honorary Doctor of Science Award from Bowdoin College (1984); was named an Honorary Member of the Polish Chemical Society (1988); received the Charles Mentzer Prize from the French Society of Medicinal Chemistry (1989); the Alfred Burger Award of the American Chemical Society (1990); was made an Honorary Member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Japan (1990); became an Honorary Member of the American Society of Pharmacognosy (1991); was elected an Honorary Doctor of Science from Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland (1993); received the Medal of Merit, Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic (1994); and was recognized as an Honorary Member of the New Swiss Chemical Society (1997).

Dr. Brossi was born in Winterthur, Switzerland in 1923. When not indulging in his lifelong "hobby" of chemistry, he was an avid fisherman, card player, gourmand and mushroom hunter. A long-time resident of Bethesda, Dr. Brossi passed in his sleep at Sunrise at Fox Hill. He is survived by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren living in the United States and in Switzerland. Contributions may be made to the Children's Inn at the NIH. ■

From the Archives

By Ms. Anna Heran

If you were at the recent ASP Annual Meeting in San Diego, California, then you may know that the ASP archival collection at the Lloyd Library has been processed. The finding aid is online, both in html and as a downloadable pdf file. As a bonus, all the *Newsletters* prior to being sent electronically have been scanned and converted into pdf documents which are available on the Lloyd website: <http://www.lloydlibrary.org/archives/inventories/asp.html>.

This means that what we have received so far from ASP has all been reorganized, housed in archival storage boxes, and is now available for use by the public at large. It joins many other collections available for research at the Lloyd, including the papers of past ASP Presidents Varro "Tip" Tyler, E. John Staba, the Cincinnati chapter of the Veterans' Apothecaries Association, the Cincinnati chapter of the American Chemical Society, and more.



Part of the ASP collection is a set of digital images, mostly provided to the Lloyd by past ASP President John Beutler. These are all saved on our data server and exist as digital images almost exclusively; however, we added to the digital collections by scanning scrapbook and other images found within the collection. These images are being

slowly added to Flickr, where I hope we can get the help of ASP members in identifying or commenting on identifying people and events in the photos. This adds to the context of the images and enriches the archival collection significantly. Please access the photostream at the following website and click on one of the photo sets to view images associated with a particular meeting or event: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/67350660@N06/>

As always, if there are any questions about the existing collection or the Lloyd in general, donations of personal research materials to the Lloyd, please contact me at the Lloyd Library and Museum at archivist@lloydlibrary.org. ■

Conference Calendar

The *Newsletter* is pleased to announce the following upcoming conferences and meetings. The events portrayed here reflect what listings and notices the *Newsletter* has specifically received. For a more extensive calendar, please visit the ASP website at www.phcog.org. If you have a conference or event you would like mentioned, please send us relevant information, including any graphics or appropriate fliers, at asp.newsletter@lehman.cuny.edu.

International Symposium on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

Antigua, Guatemala
November 20-23, 2011
www.antigua-ishs.com/

Plant Natural Products from Biodiversity to Bioindustry

Alexandria, Egypt
December 8-11, 2011
www.bionats.org

Phytochemical Society of North America 50th Anniversary Meeting

Hilo, Hawai'i
December 10-15, 2011
www.psna.uhhconferencecenter.com/

Natural Anticancer Drugs

Olomouc, Czech Republic
June 30-July 4, 2012
www.nad2012.com/

International Congress on Natural Products Research 2012

New York, New York
July 28-August 1, 2012
www.pharmacognosy.us



Increase of ASP Student Travel Awards

By Dr. Will Jones

A great thing about the ASP is the strong commitment to promote student research and participation in the Annual Meeting through student travel awards. The application deadline for awards towards the 2012 Annual Meeting in New York City will be February 15, 2012; see the Grants and Awards webpage for more details <http://www.pharmacognosy.us/grants-and-awards/>. There will be an increase in travel awards for the 2012 Annual Meeting, and students are encouraged to apply.

The current members of the Awards and Funds Committee are Drs. Will Jones, Wendy Kelly, Kirk Manfredi, Melany Puglisi-Weening, Phil Williams, and Tony Wright, and as Chair, I have been really impressed with their dedication and effort.

In February, applications start to come in, most of them coming in just before the deadline. Then, we begin the review process, checking that they meet the specified criteria, scoring them on scientific merit, and ranking them against other applications in the same category. The committee works with the ASP Foundation to determine the number of awards of each type that can be funded in the current year. (The better the Foundation is doing, the more awards we can fund!) We strive to focus

on the science, maintaining fairness, and rewarding innovative ideas and excellence. For anyone who is not sure if they should bother applying, just remember that any qualified applicant has a chance, and we are delighted when we get applications from groups that have never been given awards.

To apply to the poster award competition, students indicate that they would like to enter their poster by submitting their abstract. A group of roving judges drop by the posters during the sessions to judge on content, presentation, and clarity. The averaged scores from the judges are used to select the winners, who then get a \$150 check from the ASP Foundation and get recognized at the Banquet.

This year's poster sessions and the student poster award competition were great! The winners were Sherif Elshahawi (Oregon Health & Science University, Portland), Kelle Freel (University of California, San Diego), Yitlai Chow (Kyoto University, Japan), Tom Wyche (University of Wisconsin-Madison), and Tomoe Kusayanagi (Tokyo University of Science). Thanks to the members who chipped in to serve as judges this year, including Drs. Amy Wright, Nam-Cheol Kim, Kirk Manfredi, Rick Fitch, Tawnya McKee, Ikhlas Khan, Cindy Angerhofer, Stefan Gafner, and Jimmy Orjala, to name a few. ■

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Brief News From Washington



By Dr. Georgia Perdue

➤ At the July **President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology (PCAST)** meeting former DuPont Chairman of the Board, Chad Holliday,

who now chairs a committee made up of representatives from universities, businesses and government, including former Senator Bill Frist, M.D., from Tennessee, gave a progress report on the National Academy of Sciences study on the future of research universities, entitled, "*Are American Research Universities Riding on Thin Ice?*" The report is due out the end of the year. He said research universities need to operate more efficiently and that businesses and government are in a "new age of partnership," adding that "power can be created with all three working together." Holliday noted, "if we are not careful, we will lose research universities. The ability to communicate the value of these universities to the American people is not easy"

➤ Sometime in September the Senate plans to vote on the reconciled Patent Reform Act now called **America Invents Act (S.23)**.

➤ David Kappos, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States **Patent and Trademark Office**, (PTO) told PCAST that the new patent reform bill will allow small businesses and large innovators a faster avenue because a large numbers of rules have been eliminated. "We will now have an efficient processing system.... [which] will reduce the backlog of 765,000 applications to 690,000 because of new improved efficiencies and policies which will break up the applications into those needing immediate attention and those that do not" He noted that the PTO is entirely funded by user fees [which Congress has used for other purposes]. In the reconciled bill, Congress will still retain control over these monies; the PTO might get to keep some of the money. PCAST co-chairman Eric Lander called the new legislation "exhilarating."

➤ Senator Dick Durbin (D- Illinois) has introduced the **Dietary Supplement Labeling Act of 2011 (S.1310)**. He wants labeling tightened by requiring Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to differentiate between a food product and a supplement. He is concerned about products on

store shelves whose ingredients may not be considered safe by FDA. This has caused an uproar in industry. Stay tuned!

➤ At the June National Cancer Institute (NCI) National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) meeting, Dr. John Bucher from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences presented the 12th Report on Carcinogenesis. He reported that people are exposed to the known carcinogens **aristolochic acids**, which are included in some herbal remedies. While primarily sold in Europe, these products can be purchased over the internet.

➤ Look for a Request for Applications (RFA) from the National Cancer Institute (NCI): **SBIR II Bridge Awards to Accelerate the Development of Cancer Therapeutics, Imaging Technologies, ...Toward Commercialization**. NCI expects to fund 5-10 awards at about \$30 million per project; it is a 3-year issuance. This RFA is intended to help extend promising projects, provide incentives for partnerships, and "facilitate third-party investment earlier in the development process by giving priority to applicants who can raise substantial third-party funds." Anticipated award date is September 2012.

➤ At the June meeting the NCI Board of Scientific Advisors (BSA), NCI Director Harold Varmus announced the appointment of **Dr. James Doroshov, as deputy director for Clinical and Translational Research**, saying "that is a big load off my mind." Dr. Doroshov was former director of the Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis (DCTD). Dr. Varmus also announced that DCTD will be co-managed by Dr. Joseph Tomaszewski, DCTD deputy director and Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program Director Dr. Jeff Abrams.

➤ Also at the BSA, Dr. Varmus noted that **NIH received a 1% reduction in its budget for FY 2011**, saying "we were spared the executioner's knife and given the surgeon's knife." Dr. Varmus noted, "this is worse news for NCI than for the other institutes because of the size of its commitment base, partly due to the increase in the average size of new grant awards [funded] with American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) money and the new construction program at Shady Grove." While NCI will fund 800-900 new research projects instead of 1,250, it will try to keep up its grant portfolio, where "new ideas come from," by funding 1,100 new investigator grants.

➤ To help **combat drug resistant infections such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)**, Represent-

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tative Phil Gingrey (R-Georgia) has reintroduced the bipartisan bill, **Generating Antibiotics Incentives Now Act, (GAIN ACT) H.R. 2182**, which seeks to encourage drug companies to develop antibiotics that target resistances. FDA would be required to give priority review to such antibiotics and put them on the fast track approval program. The companies would be given extended patent exclusivity. (For a list of co-sponsors and a detailed list of targeted pathogens see H.R 2182).

➤ It was evident at the BSA meeting that Dr. Varmus is miffed with Congress when he said the “political climate is pretty awful [re:] funding NIH. We have been ignored by the House....We were given some words of solace at the Senate appropriations hearings; [they] would like to do more for us but are trapped.” The hearing room was “half empty. That should never have been the case. It should have been packed with our advocacy groups, our scientists and others including the general public. We need to do more to get these people out to these hearings.” [the statements are tantamount to lobbying which is forbidden].

➤ It is anticipated that the NIH **National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences** (NCATS) will be established in 2012.

➤ Dr. James Doroshow spoke at the NCI BSA meeting about the “**Cancer Drug Shortages: A Critical Problem.**” He outlined the problem of recurrent drug shortages of many injectable oncology drugs, “not those on patent, but up to 30 to 35 **intravenous old generic compounds** that are ... at risk.” A lot of attention has been focused

on cytosine arabinoside “an irreplaceable agent in the treatment of acute myelogenous leukemia.” Others include vincristine sulfate injection, etoposide solution for injection and many more, including anthracycline antibiotics. “As drugs get older and older, there are fewer and fewer companies which continue to market the compound [partly] because they are harder and harder to make. The raw materials are no longer available in the United States. Over 80% come from India or China which means that there is less say in what is produced. Also, the manufacturers use the same machines to make several medicines which leads to contamination. The FDA estimates that this alone causes 10% of injectable shortages.” Thirty years ago this was not a problem. In the next year or two many important drugs will come off patent which is why NCI is looking for solutions. A couple ideas put forth include: “leverage NCI’s infrastructure for new drug development to provide short term supplies as shortages arise; NCI, FDA and professional societies work together to formulate long term solutions in the private sector for all therapeutic categories.” Two bills under the same name, “**Preserving Access to Life-Saving Medications Act,**” have been introduced to address this problem; one by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota) (S. 296) and its twin in the House (H.R. 2245) by Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colorado). Provisions in the bills do not make drugs available when there is an acute shortage. They require a Government Accountability Office (GAO) Study to find out, among other things, how the FDA identifies and responds to drug shortages and requests the FDA to examine possible causes of these shortages. Stay tuned. ■

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