



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHARMACOGNOSY

THE ASP NEWSLETTER VOLUME 44 ISSUE 3

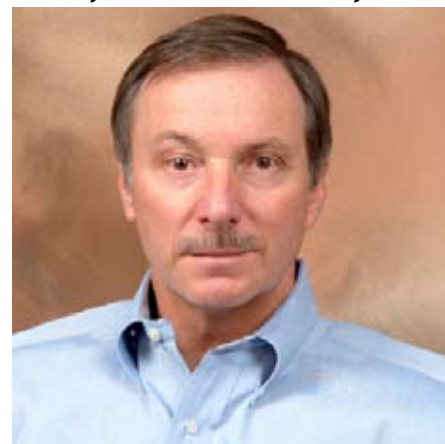
ASP Presidential Address

It is with a great sense of pride and enthusiasm that I greet you as ASP President for the first time. I received the trusty gavel from President Baker on August 7, 2009, in Athens, Greece, following a truly inspirational joint meeting of ASP and the four European Societies. Although there is seldom a lack of enthusiasm among natural products scientists, the spirit at the 49th ASP Annual Meeting in Greece was overwhelmingly positive. From that particular vantage point, the future outlook for natural products research appears to be highly promising.

My own view of the future for natural products research, and drug discovery in particular, is similarly optimistic. We, as natural products scientists, have never had better tools with which to probe the intrinsic questions that underlie the production and utility of these fascinating "secondary" metabolites. On the chemistry side of the business, advances in separation technologies and spectroscopy have greatly facilitated our ability to resolve the identities of natural products encountered in screening programs. The tools of structural biology enable a molecular view of the interaction of these metabolites with their macromolecular

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by ASP President Dr. Guy Carter



Dr. Guy Carter

RICHARD WANTULA, WYETH RESEARCH

New 2009 ASP Awards Deadline December 15, 2008

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Fall 2008

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1959 - 2009: Our Golden Anniversary!

by Dr. Roy Okuda

The 50th Anniversary Meeting of the ASP will be held June 27 to July 1, 2009 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii. Nearly a half century ago, the founders of the ASP met in a small conference room at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and drafted the articles of incorporation for the ASP, thus establishing the ASP as one of the world's preeminent professional societies concerned with the scientific study of natural products. In preparation for our Golden Anniversary, the ASP has been working diligently to celebrate this important milestone in our history. The culminating event will be the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the ASP, and we hope as many members as possible can attend.

Located in the middle of the Waikiki Beach strip, the newly renovated Sheraton will be our official meeting hotel, and the location of all scientific sessions and social activities. The location of the Sheraton can hardly be more perfect as the beautiful blue Pacific Ocean is on one side, and the other three sides are surrounded by hundreds of shops and restaurants within just a few minutes walk. You should certainly venture outside of Waikiki to see other sights and sounds of the island, and many locations are easily reached by a short bus or taxi ride.

The scientific program will feature 10 eminent speakers from throughout the world, who will collectively give a broad perspective of the current state of the pharmacognosy, natural products, and related topics.

The program will also include contributed oral talks organized into topical areas, and a large poster session that can accommodate more than 500 posters. Because of the proximity to the Pacific Rim, we anticipate a strong participation of our colleagues from Asia, in particular from Japan, South Korea, and China. Even colleagues from more distant places, such as

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Editor's Corner



The 2008 49th ASP Annual Meeting, in association with our European counterparts, was a great success. About 100 ASP members traveled to Athens the first week of August to join more than a thousand other colleagues from across the world. The science was outstanding, and the venue in Athens was truly remarkable. The organizers, including several ASP members, set a very high bar for future joint meetings. We are excited to report back to you on the awards and various other activities from the Athens meeting.

The next ASP meeting will take place in late June next year in Honolulu, Hawaii. This will mark the 50th anniversary of the Society's founding. ASP past President, Roy Okuda, is spearheading the organization of this golden anniversary celebration, and lays out many of the plans for this special meeting in one of our lead articles in this issue. Despite the upheaval in Wall Street, I hope many ASP will be able to join us for our 50th Annual Meeting.

In our other lead article, ASP President Guy Carter describes his optimism for the future of natural products research. Dr. Carter brings an industrial point of view to the Society, and reminds members of the interdisciplinary nature of natural products research. This is an important year for ASP on many fronts, and Dr. Carter provides a clear vision of his aspirations as ASP President.

We continue with our regular columns, including Dr. Georgia Perdue's Brief News from Washington, where she describes the suggested changes in peer-review at NIH, and talks about the new leadership at NIH-NCCAM. We also welcome new member Dr. Joe-Ann McCoy, and see how important ASP members can be in recruiting new members to our Society.

IMPACT FACTOR

The *Journal of Natural Products'* impact factor increased in 2007 to 2.551 from 2006's impact factor of 2.418. This is the highest impact factor in the *Journal's* history! The impact factor measures the amount of citations of an average article in a year by dividing the amount of citations from the *Journal* published in scientific literature in the previous two years by the total number of source items published in the *Journal* in those two years.

An increased impact factor represents an increase in the *Journal's* prevalence in the scientific community.

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.phcog.org/employment.html

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ASP Presidential Address

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targets, and thereby provide a window to their biological roles.

Ultimately, it is the biology of these products that continues to drive our research. Fundamental questions regarding the intrinsic biological roles of natural products, as well as the regulation of their expression and so many others, remain open. Ultimately, if we understand the biology of these products, can they be developed for medical or other practical utilities? The answers to many of these questions reside in the realm of basic biology, which owing to its cryptic complexity, reveals itself ever so gradually. We typically address the issue of practical application through random testing of materials rather than on the basis of any fundamental biochemical understanding. Either way, one has to believe that there are an unlimited number of such lines of investigation worthy of academic or industrial research.

As an industrial scientist engaged in natural products drug discovery, I have witnessed the gradual decline of natural products screening as a primary platform. As disappointing as this trend has been it has not diminished the industry's interest in natural products with outstanding biological activities. Indeed, while most major pharmaceutical companies are no longer maintaining dedicated resources and infrastructure for natural products screening, they do actively seek solid developmental candidates through external collaborations. In my opinion, these are great opportunities for smaller companies and academic groups to realize the potential of their own particular research effort for further development. The hurdles for making these connections are admittedly high and are often complicated by bureaucracy. One of the benefits that participation in ASP and its sponsored activities provides is a networking opportunity that may facilitate such collaborative efforts.

Turning attention to the ASP, as we are now preparing to celebrate our 50th anniversary, the society continues to evolve according to the interests and composition of our membership. We are fortunate to have a number of long-standing members including our Honorary Members, who continue to provide strong support and guidance. You should all be aware that ASP functions through a network of dedicated volunteers that serve on our various committees. The list of these committees can be found on our website, www.phcog.org. Committee assignments provide insight into the operations of the Society and offer greater opportunities to contribute. We welcome your participation and new ideas. If you have an interest in greater involvement please do not hesitate to contact anyone through the website.

As noted in the report of the Membership Committee, by Dr. Diane Swaffar, we are also targeting modest growth over the next year, and your help in recruiting for this effort is critical. We anticipate a number of outreach programs including enhancing our representation around the world, particularly in countries where natural products research is historically strong.

Finally I want to emphasize what a special year 2009 will be for the ASP. The 50th Anniversary Meeting will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, June 27 to July 1, 2009, and will feature a number of events that celebrate the history of the society. You will learn more about these throughout the year in the *Newsletter*.

I look forward to interacting with many of you in the next year to enhance the role of ASP in promoting natural products research around the world.

ASP Foundation Board Welcomes Pettit

by Dr. Robert Krueger

The ASP Foundation Board at the 49th ASP Annual Meeting in Athens, Greece, recommended to the ASP Executive Board, that Dr. George Pettit be appointed as an at-large member of the Foundation's Board of Directors. Dr. Pettit has had a very distinguished career as a natural products scientist and has been very supportive of the ASP and its Foundation. It is with great pleasure that the ASP Foundation Board welcomes Dr. Pettit to its membership.

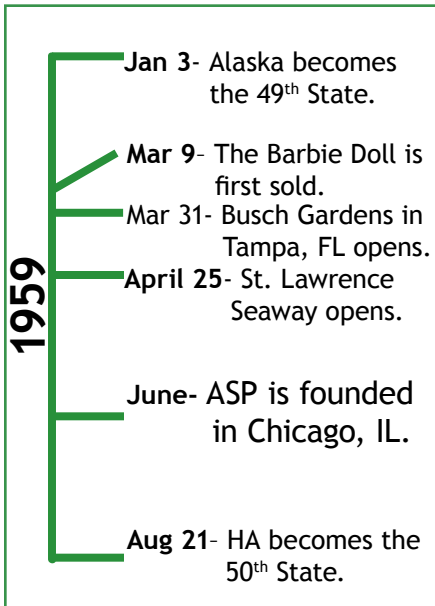


Dr. Pettit

1959 - 2009: Our Golden Anniversary!

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Europe, may find a trip to Hawaii to be possible, affordable, and very appealing. Thus, in addition to being a celebration for the ASP, this meeting will truly be an international event, and offers an excellent opportunity for interaction and discussion among active researchers from many countries.



A very special social program is planned, both to commemorate our special anniversary and to reflect the unique location of the meeting. On Saturday, June 27, 2009, a program on the 50 Years of History of the ASP will be presented from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Sheraton, so plan your travel accordingly! This will be a multimedia presentation chronicling the evolution of the Society from inception to the present day. An Opening Reception will follow the program. On Monday night, under the stars and next to Waikiki Beach, weather permitting, we will have a spectacular luau! This buffet will feature a menu of traditional foods which reflect Hawaii and other cultures found in the Islands. The luau also includes the exciting Legends of Polynesia revue, including audience participation. The meeting will close on Wednesday evening, July 1, with the ASP Annual Banquet.

Travel to Hawaii:

Virtually all domestic United States airlines have service to Hawaii, and many international carriers as well. For most airlines, you can now begin booking flights for summer 2009. As you are probably aware, airfares are very volatile due to high oil prices. A more detailed discussion on suggestions on booking your air travel appears on the meeting webpage. It is difficult to predict what will happen next year, but historically, fares are highest if booked within one or two months before the travel dates.

Hotel Reservations:

We have arranged an outstanding set of rates and concessions with the Sheraton for our hotel room block. Details will be posted soon on the meeting website, but in summary, we have four room types which will range from \$185 to \$237, plus just under 12% hotel tax. The Sheraton normally charges \$50 for a third person, and an additional \$50 for a fourth person, but for ASP 2009, these charges are *waived*. However, note that some of the room types are smaller, and may not be appropriate for four adults, but may work for three adults, or two adults and one or two children. Please read the website article carefully, and choose the room type that best fits your needs. Even without these concessions, these rates will be better than typical rates available at the Sheraton, and any other beachfront hotel in Waikiki. We are told that our rates will be among the lowest seen for the Sheraton for the foreseeable future, so this is your chance to stay in this landmark hotel for an affordable price! For example, the Ocean View rooms will only be \$237 + tax and offer a commanding view of Waikiki Beach and the Pacific Ocean. You will not get this in a higher-priced room in New York or Chicago!

ASP Members Will Have the First Chance to Book Rooms:

A URL containing the Sheraton reservation link for ASP 2009 will be sent to all ASP members in early January 2009. Two weeks later, the URL will be posted on the meeting webpage, so all others may book remaining rooms. Our block of rooms is limited, so you should reserve your room as soon as the reservation system opens. **The deadline for reserving rooms is May 27, 2009, or sooner if rooms sell out.**

Student Rooms:

A very limited number of rooms at the Sheraton will be available for students who plan to attend the meeting. These rooms are limited to a maximum of two people each, and will cost \$110 + tax. This is not a misprint! Preference will be given to students working for ASP members who will present papers at the meeting. A special email will be sent to ASP members in the fall, with instructions on how students may request these rooms. If more requests come in than are

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rooms, a selection will be made by lottery. These rooms are intended for two students each, so applications should consist of two people who will share the room.

Meeting Registration and Abstract Submission:

Both of these items will be active on the meeting site in early 2009. ASP members will receive an email to alert you when the sites open. Deadlines for both early registration and abstract submission will be May 1, 2009.

Attendees from Outside of the United States:

Starting in early January, when the meeting registration and abstract submission sites open, the Scientific Program Committee will review abstracts as soon as possible, and send you a letter of acceptance, which may be used with your travel visa application. Be aware that the process of visa application may take many months in some countries, so submit your abstract within a realistic timeframe. You should check with the United States Consulate in your country.

General Travel and Meeting Information:

Weather in Hawaii during the time of our meeting is typically in the 80s F°, 30s C°, during the day. Breezy trade winds usually keep the climate comfortable at all times. Bring an umbrella as rain is possible but usually brief, and may be followed by a beautiful rainbow. For those who are sensitive to the sun, bring a hat, and high SPF lotion. Of course, whatever you forget can be purchased nearby. For those with children, daycare facilities are available in the Sheraton or nearby. Attire at the meeting is casual, with "Aloha" wear being strongly encouraged! Do not bring suits, other than bathing suits!

There are several dozen restaurants of all food styles and price ranges within 1-2 blocks of the Sheraton. You will find familiar chains, as well as one-of-a-kind local places for "grinds." For those on a budget, there are many options nearby where you can get a full meal in the range of \$10. The number of restaurants expands exponentially if you go a bit farther away. You would need several months to try them all!

The meeting website contains detailed information and links describing local transportation, shopping and sightseeing. A Tuesday afternoon tour program will be developed as the meeting nears.

Please refer to the ASP website for updates and additional information. We are looking forward to hosting many ASP members, other colleagues, and families to celebrate the ASP's most significant anniversary!

Currently Confirmed Speakers

Nina Etkin

Universtiy of Hawaii

Daisuke Uemura

Keio University

Tomas Hudlicky

Brock University

Franz-Josef Marnier

University of Cologne

Valerie Paul

Smithsonian Institute

Justin Du Bois

Stanford University

Bradley Moore

UC San Diego/Scipps

Ho'olu komo la kua ("Please join us")
at the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the ASP!



49th Annual ASP Meeting a Resounding Success!

by Dr. Nick Oberlies

The 49th Annual Meeting that was held in Athens, Greece, August 3-8, 2008, was a big success. This was the 7th Joint Meeting with ASP's sisters societies, Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung, Phytochemical Society of Europe, Società Italiana di Farmacologia, and hosted by l'Association Francaise pour l'Enseignement et la Recherche en Pharmacognosie. There were 28 full lectures, 120 contributed oral talks, and 1150 poster presentations.

Each day was full of scientific knowledge, with talks covering many aspects of natural product research from plant and marine origins. Many innovative techniques and unique results were presented in both the symposiums and parallel sessions.

The social program included a grand opening reception on a rooftop patio, overlooking the brightly-lit Acropolis. Meeting attendees were also treated to traditional Greek food and folk dancing, with a tour to Aegina, Poros, and Hydra on the meeting's last day.

In total, there were over 1100 attendees, and thus many of us were able to reconnect with old friends and colleagues, as well as form new relationships across the globe. From North America, 143 scientists attended, and at least 105 of these were ASP members.

The ASP conducted an Executive Committee and a Business Meeting during the conference. One of the major outcomes was a commitment by the ASP to host the 8th Joint Meeting, which will be held in New York City in 2012. Moreover, in keeping with the spirit of the Olympics, all of the societies agreed that a joint meeting every four years would be convenient for planning purposes.

In short, a good time, both scientifically and socially, was had by all parties involved. Our colleagues in Greece deserve a warm thank you from all of us for hosting such a great meeting!



Attendees from the ASP Executive Committee in Athens, Greece.

NIKOLAOS FOKIALAKIS



The 4th GA Young Researcher Workshop

by Professor Anna Rita Bilia and Dr. Anastasia Karioti

Following the tradition of the last international *Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung* (GA) congresses, GA organised the 4th Young Researchers' Workshop. The Workshop took place on Sunday, August 3, 2008, on the occasion of the 7th Joint Meeting of GA, AFERP, PSI, ASP and SIF in Athens, Greece.

It was organised by Professor Anna Rita Bilia and Dr. Anastasia Karioti from University of Florence, Italy, with Dr. Thomas Efferth of the German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany, and Dr. Guido Jürgenliemk of the University of Regensburg, Germany, as co-chairs.

About 75 participants attended the workshop, and 70 abstracts were submitted from young researchers from 26 countries worldwide. The scientific program included 12 lectures of selected young scientists working in the field of pharmacognosy and analytical phytochemistry and covering diverse fields such as isolation and structural elucidation of novel compounds, phytochemical analyzes on herbal medicinal plants and marine organisms, molecular target biochemical research, analytical innovations in food, medicinal plants, and cosmetics, ethnopharmacology, and synthesis of natural products.



AMY KELLER

Young Researchers Workshop Chair Professor Bilia (second from left), with Co-Chairs Drs. Karioti, Efferth, and Jürgenliemk.

The students who presented their work were Wael Abdel-Mageed (University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom), Aikaterini Argyropoulou (University of Athens, Greece), Angelyne Benavides (University of Salerno, Italy), Sri Fatmawati (University of Kyushu, Japan), Carmen Lategan (University of Cape Town, South Africa), Doris Lechner (University of Graz, Austria), Yorgos Papastamouli (University Victor Segalen in Bordeaux, France), Boutanya Rhourri-Frih (University of Orleans, France), Christian Strüh (University of Freiburg, Germany), Pattaraporn Vanachayangkul (University of Florida, United States of America), and Lok-Hang Yan (University of Paris, France).

The presentations were of high scientific caliber and well-presented. The participation of the audience was intense and enthusiastic. In most cases, the panellists were



AMY KELLER

Young Researchers Workshop participants.

limited solely to the coordination of the discussion between the students, making this workshop a unique opportunity for the participants to expand their own studies by acquiring new ideas knowledge in a most constructive, friendly, and international atmosphere.

The three award-winning presentations were Aikaterini Argyropoulou for "Secondary metabolites of the genus *Marrubium*: Strategies of isolation and structure elucidation," Sri Fatmawati for "Aldose reductase inhibitors from *Ganoderma lucid*," and Boutanya Rhourri-Frih for "Classification of resinous plants based on the LC-MS and the LC-UV finger-prints: Similarities and differences between the plants chemical compositions using ACP and CAH." Mr. Keyvan Dastmalchi was also bestowed an award for grateful appreciation for his vivid and most valuable involvement in the discussion.

All awards have been sponsored by Bionorica AG, and were given on Monday, August 4, 2008.



SYLVIA VOGI

Dr. Kopp, Professor Bilia, Ms. Rhourri-Frih (a winner), Dr. Efferth, Dr. Karioti, Ms. Fatmawati (a winner), Ms. Argyropoulou (a winner), and Dr. Juergenliemk.

Crews Accrues Research Achievement Award

by Amy Keller

Dr. Phil Crews was awarded the 2008 Norman R. Farnsworth Research Achievement Award. Dr. Crew's lecture on August 4th, 2008, at the 49th ASP Annual Meeting in Athens, Greece, was entitled, "Discovery of Inspirational Marine Natural Products: Some Effective Paradigms and Significant Outcomes." Dr. Crews is in the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, Santa Cruz, California.

Dr. Crews told the *Newsletter*, "It was a great honor to receive the Research Achievement Award this year. An incredible extra reward was the opportunity to present a talk before the very broad group of colleagues participating in the joint meeting in Athens, Greece. Overall, this was a truly exhilarating experience."

This award is named after past ASP President Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth and is the society's highest honor. The awardee is chosen by committee based on outstanding contributions to natural products research. The award consists of a \$5,000 honorarium, and travel funding for the winner to present an award talk at the annual meeting.



Drs. Bodo, Crews, and Baker at the award presentation.

Prisinzano Wins Suffness Award

by Amy Keller

At the 49th ASP Annual Meeting in Athens, Greece, Dr. Tom Prisinzano was awarded the ASP Matt Suffness Young Investigator Award by past President Bill Baker, on behalf of ASP. Dr. Prisinzano's award lecture on August 7th, 2008, "Discovery and Development of Novel Agents to Treat Drug Abuse," focused on his current research directions. Dr. Prisinzano is currently at the Department of Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas.

Dr. Prisinzano relates, "Winning the Suffness Award is a tremendous honor and I am very proud to be among this group of distinguished researchers. This recognition of my research efforts would not have been possible without the hard work of my very talented research team and the support of my family."

This award is named after past ASP President Dr. Matt Suffness, with nominations of ASP members being made by other society members. The award consists of complimentary registration to attend the annual meeting, along with up to \$1,000 in travel funding.



Drs. Baker, Prisinzano and Krueger at award presentation

ASP Awards Deadline: December 15, 2008

by Dr. Phil Proteau

The deadline for receipt of applications for 2009 ASP travel grants, research grants, and research awards has been established as December 15, 2008. This deadline applies to all awards administered by the ASP Awards Committee. The deadline will allow the Awards Committee to evaluate applications and make decisions by early 2009, providing sufficient time for recipients to make arrangements to attend the ASP 50th Annual Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, June 27 to July 1, 2009.

Additionally, in order to have a high level of graduate student participation at the Annual Meeting, ASP will fund 25 graduate student travel grants in the amount of \$1000 each for students to present their work at the meeting. Details about application requirements for specific grants and awards will be posted on the ASP Awards and Grants website (www.phcog.org/awards/awardgrant.html) by September 15, 2008.

2008 ASP Award and Grant Recipients

Congratulations to all American Society of Pharmacognosy award and grant recipients!

Norman R. Farnsworth Research Achievement Award

Phil Crews
University of California



Matt Suffness
Thomas Prisinzano
University of Kansas



Research Starter Grant

Roger Linington
University of California

Travel Grants for Active Members

Tanja Goedecke
University of Illinois

Esperanza Carcache de Blanco
Ohio State University

D. John Faulkner Travel Award

John Berger
County College of Morris

Student Travel Awards

Sarah Robinson
University of California
Matt LeBar
University of South Florida
Ahmed Orabi
University of Louisiana

Carrie Waterman
University of the Sciences, Philadelphia
Mario Figueroa
National Autonomous University of Mexico
Pattaraporn Vanachayangkul
University of Florida

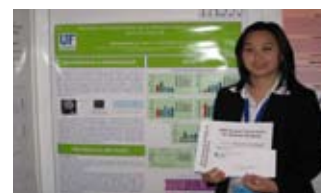


Nature's Sunshine Travel Award

Thomas Burdick
University of Illinois

Lynn Brady Travel Awards

Ayano Imai
University of Illinois



Jose Carlos Aponte
University of Louisville

Yanpeng Hou
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

Undergraduate Research Awards

Kristen Wheeler
University of South Florida

Daniel Kozera
University of Winnipeg



2008 ASP Award and Grant Recipients

Graduate Student Travel Grant

Ende Pan
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

Graduate Student Poster Awards

Lukasz Kutrzeba
University of Mississippi
Cassandra Quave
Florida International University

Prasanna Sivaprakasam
University of Mississippi
Nor Aini Saidin
Imperial College London

John Bowling
University of Mississippi

ACPE Curriculum Guide Available

by Dr. Robert Krueger

As part of a recent sabbatical with the Council for Responsible Nutrition in Washington, D.C., during the fall of 2007, ASP member Dr. Robert Krueger generated a curriculum guide that addresses the American College Physician Executives (ACPE) topics concerning core knowledge in the "Pharmacognosy and Alternative and Complementary Therapies." The guide, a 56-page user-friendly PC-compatible minidisc, addresses seven of the eight topics, numbers 44-47 and 49-51, of ACPE's Accreditation Standards versus Functional Categories.

This guide was sent to the Deans of the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) list of accredited schools and colleges of pharmacy in the beginning of the summer. About 50 copies remain, if any ASP member would like a copy and did not receive one from the original distribution.

This guide does not provide detailed lectures on the required ACPE topics but rather provides a framework in which a faculty member responsible for presenting the topics can become fully informed to better instruct students. The content consists of statements, principles, web sites, references, some Power Point discussions, suggested student activities, demonstrations, and a list of dietary supplements, both botanical and non-botanical, to cover. Particular attention has been paid to recent changes in regulations and laws impacting the area.



Due to the size of the guide it is not possible to email it, however it can be mailed to those who are interested. Please contact Dr. Krueger at Kruegerr@ferris.edu and provide a complete mailing address to receive a copy at no charge. Copies will be sent until the supply is exhausted. Dr. Krueger would like to acknowledge the support of Ferris State University in granting his sabbatical and the invaluable assistance of the leadership and staff of the Council for Responsible Nutrition in preparing

Brief News From Washington

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➤ **The National Cancer Institute's Rapid Access to Interventions Development (RAID) Program** is secure. It has the full backing of the NCI Director, John Niederhuber, who wants to "increase its robustness," and continue to expand and strengthen it. Use it!

➤ The National Institute on Aging reported in July that **resveratrol** "slows age-related deterioration and functional decline of mice on a standard diet, but does not increase longevity when started in middle age."

A New Brochure to Recruit New Members to ASP

by Dr. Diane S. Swaffar

Last spring, ASP President Dr. Roy Okuda requested that the ASP Membership Committee come up with some sort of recruitment brochure that could advertise ASP as a way of attracting new members. Dr. Diane Swaffar took the lead and designed a brochure that has evolved from a tri-fold to a quad-fold one. ASP is pleased to report that, after many hours of revisions and fine-tuning, the final brochure has been approved at the ASP Annual Meeting in Athens, Greece and is posted on our website (www.phcog.org/Recruit.html).

This colorful brochure is now a quad-fold and contains an application for joining the ASP. Included in the new brochure is the mission of the ASP, a description of pharmacognosy, detailed reasons for joining, membership categories and dues, encouragement for students to join, an application, list of annual meetings, membership benefits, and contact information.

As representative natural sources of drugs, the 2007-2008 Chair of the Membership Committee and incoming President, Dr. Bill Baker, provided some great images of marine organisms, microbes, and plants along with a paclitaxel structure. A focus of the brochure stresses the importance of ASP to students and why they should join. There is brief mention of the Younger Members Committee. The brochure also directs potential new members to the ASP website.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHARMACOGNOSY

Established in 1959, our society is approaching its 50th Anniversary. We are committed to promote and develop the science of pharmacognosy and all aspects of those sciences related to natural products.



**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN
THE STUDY OF
NATURAL PRODUCTS?**

www.phcog.org

Membership in ASP has been relatively stable over the last few years, and there are currently 1,207 members. However, it was felt that the Society could do much better in terms of growth and that there was a need to do more to promote awareness and membership among other colleagues, many of whom may know little or nothing about ASP. In fact, after a visit last year to a company focused only on natural products, ASP President Dr. Roy Okuda was disappointed to find that the company had only *one* employee who was a member of ASP! Dr. Okuda lamented that unfortunately, he had nothing to hand out to promote the society - only to refer the company employees to the ASP website, which is not very effective. The new ASP brochure provides an opportunity for distribution at conferences and other meetings that are attended by society members. Now with the availability of the brochure for distribution, the Membership Committee hopes that there will be no more missed opportunities, and that the society's membership will experience growth. It is the ASP's desire to increase membership totals for the 50th Anniversary Celebration in Hawaii next year.

All ASP members are now able to print their own copies of the brochure from the website at www.phcog.org/Recruit.html. The brochure is available as a pdf file and there are instructions for printing it correctly, otherwise the flip side of the brochure will be upside down. Also, it must be printed on legal-size paper, or otherwise the margins will be out of proportion and the brochure too small to read. After printing, fold the brochure in half and then in half again (so that it folds on the white lines). The Membership Committee encourages you to click on the above link and print out at least one copy of the brochure. Go tack it up on your bulletin board, put it in your department office, lab, or on your reception desk, or otherwise display it in a visible location where you work so that others can learn about the society. Recruit your students, colleagues, and employees! Let others know about ASP! I challenge you all to try to increase our total membership numbers. If each current member successfully recruits just one new member, then membership in ASP would double.

This new brochure is meant to be dynamic and will change with new dates, meeting venues, etc. Please be sure to check the website periodically for an updated brochure. The last revision date appears on the back of the

brochure just under the ASP logo. If you have any suggestions for changes/updates to the brochure, please e-mail me at dswaffar@usn.edu. I welcome any and all comments or suggestions for improvement of this new member recruitment tool.

Lastly, Dr. Swaffar would like to thank former president Dr. Roy Okuda and the members of the Membership Committee for their input and taking the time to read through all the revisions - Dr. Nam Cheol-Kim and past Chairs Drs. Bill Baker and Guy Carter. The Membership Committee, with its new Chair, Vice President/President Elect Dr. Ted Molinski, will be working to increase total membership numbers by distributing the brochure and raising visibility to non-members at international conference venues.

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.

Nutraceutical, Functional Foods, Natural Health Products, and Dietary Supplements

Taichung, Taiwan
November 14-17, 2008

www.isnff.org

Society for Economic Botany: 50th Annual Meeting

College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina
May 31 - June 4, 2009

<http://2009.sebconference.org>

International Conference on Herbal Medicine: "Evaluation of Quality, Efficacy, and Safety"

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India
February 26-28, 2009

www.herbalconference2009.com

50th Anniversary Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy

Honolulu, Hawaii
June 27 - July 2, 2009

www.phcog.org/AnnualMtg/Honolulu.html

8th Annual Oxford International Conference on the Science of Botanicals

The University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi
April 6-9, 2009

www.oxfordicsb.org

57th International Congress & Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Plant Research

Geneva, Switzerland
August 16-20, 2009

www.ga2009.org

New Members of ASP

ASP would like to welcome the year's 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 eight domestic full members, four international full members, and two associate members. We look forward to meeting you and learning more about you and your work.

Full Members

Monica Bender
Plainfield, Illinois

Dr. Thushara K. Diyabalanage
Frederick, Maryland

Dr. RuAngelie Edrada-Ebel
University of Strathclyde, United Kingdom

Dr. Sherweit El-Ahmady
Cairo, Egypt

Mr. Leon E. Goity
Santiago, Chile

Dr. Samir K. Gunjan
Lexington, Kentucky

Dr. Rajkumar Kiran Kalapatapu
New York, New York

Ms. Tracie D. Locklear
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Joe-Ann H. McCoy
Asheville, North Carolina

Richard Roesler
Spring, Texas

Dr. James L. Sullivan
Hendersonville, North Carolina

Dr. Moelyono Moekti Wardoyo
Bandung, Indonesia

Associate Members

Chang Hwa
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Uchenna John Unachukwu
Bronx, New York



Meet a New ASP Member

by Dr. Diane S. Swaffar

ASP welcomes many new members to the Society this year. We are especially pleased to feature a diverse new member, Dr. Joe-Ann McCoy. She is the new Director of the Medicinal Germplasm Repository at the North Carolina Arboretum and Bent Creek Institute located in the Appalachian Mountains in Asheville, North Carolina. We are grateful to Dr. McCoy for giving us the opportunity to get more acquainted with her.

How did you hear about the ASP?

I attended and presented a poster at the 2004 International Congress on Natural Products Research in Arizona which was joint meeting of ASP, AFERP, GA, and PSE.

Why did you join the ASP?

The 2004 meeting was one of the best medicinal plant conferences I had ever attended. After meeting ASP member Dr. John Cardellina this year at the 7th Annual Oxford Conference on the Science of Botanicals (and ASP Interim meeting) in Oxford, Mississippi, and hearing his enthusiasm about the ASP, I decided to become a member.

Do you belong to any other scientific societies?

Yes, I am a member of American Botanical Council, Society for Economic Botany, Sigma Xi, and the USDA-NPGS-PGOC Medicinal Plants Subcommittee.

What are your current research interests in pharmacognosy?

My specific research interests include identification and procurement of genetically diverse collections of medicinal taxa suitable for research purposes, germplasm collection, distribution, and long-term storage and management, development of germination protocols, tissue culture research, isolation and fungi identification, and the distribution of high quality, reproducible research plant materials.

Can you describe what you do in your current position?

My role here at the Germplasm Facility is to establish diverse collections of native medicinal plant germplasm representing a broad range of taxonomic, genetic, and biochemical diversity and to curate those collections through the long-term storage of seed, DNA, vouchers, and associated passport data. I also identify and provide appropriate species for research projects conducted with collaborative scientists. I am responsible for managing data associated with the collection and conducting research to improve germplasm collection methods. In addition, I develop collaborations with various private and public institutions by identifying appropriate accessions for screening and analysis. Further information on our research projects can be obtained at <http://www.bentcreekinstitute.org>.

What is your scientific background?

I completed my doctoral research in Plant Physiology at Clemson University (CU). This research focused on the development of seed and rhizome propagation protocols for *Actaea racemosa* L. (black cohosh) and analysis of associated triterpene glycosides. My M.S. in Plant Physiology at CU was focused on developing in vitro propagation and HPLC analytical methods for *Hypericum perforatum* (St. John's wort). Prior to my current position, I was in Ames, Iowa where I served as medicinal plant curator for the USDA North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station and the NIH Iowa State University Center for Research on Dietary Supplements. I have worked with various aspects of medicinal plant collection, propagation, and analytical research for the past 13 years.

What would you like to achieve through your membership?

I would love to meet and develop collaborative projects with researchers and companies interested in screening and analyzing our native flora and also keep abreast of new research techniques.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

I enjoy hiking, biking, camping, reading, traveling, music, and plant collecting. I'm also reading "The Winds of Change: Climate, Weather, and the Destruction of Civilizations" by Eugene Linden and "Collapse" by Jared Diamond.



MARINE MOSULISHVILI

Dr. Joe-Ann McCoy, taken in The Republic of Georgia on a medicinal plant collection trip in November 2007.

Brief News From Washington



by Dr. Georgia Perdue

➤ The final report, **“Enhancing Peer Review: Implementation,”** was presented in early June at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director’s Advisory Committee meeting by Dr. Lawrence Tabak, Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and co-chair of the peer review working groups. “We were guided by three important principles,” said Tabak, of do no harm, maximize the freedom of scientists to explore and focus on high-risk, high-impact research.” Highlights include:

Engage the Best Reviewers: To better accommodate very busy people, spread the 12-session reviewer commitment over a four to six year period and share duties among colleagues as appropriate. Continue the flexible deadlines for reviewers, and continue to pilot and evaluate new types of electronic reviews. Enhance a creative recruitment strategy to recruit a greater number of extramural and intramural people. Formally acknowledge the efforts of all reviewers and make their efforts more intellectually rewarding. Compensate those who have served a minimum of 18 full study section meetings for their time and effort. Provide

additional training and mentoring to all study section chairs, reviewers, and scientific review officers.

Improve the Quality and Transparency of Reviews: Modify the rating system by having less emphasis on the fine methodological details and more emphasis on the potential scientific impact. There will be five specific review criteria: impact, the investigator, innovation or originality, the project plan and its feasibility, and the environment. All applicants will receive specific feedback and an average of the scores for each of the five criteria. The summary statement will be realigned with the explicit rating criteria. The shortened and redesigned applications will align with the new review criteria, starting with 12 pages for R01s and other R series, F awards, and K awards.

Ensure Balanced and Fair Reviews Across all Scientific Fields and Career Stages: Policies will be developed to fund a minimum number of early stage investigators and new NIH investigators. **The Transformative Research Pathway will be expanded** to encourage risk-taking by applicants and a new investigator-initiative **Transformative R01 Award** program, funded within the NIH Roadmap at \$250 million over five years, will be created. And, over the next five years, NIH will invest about \$750 million to expand and continue the Pioneer, EUREKA, and New Innovator awards. The need and rate for resubmissions, especially from those applicants who have a high rate of being funded, will be reduced, as will the rate of resubmissions from applicants who have a very low score or no likelihood of funding. To increase efficiency, policies will be established to carefully balance the success rate between the first and second amended applications such as A0, A1 and A2 submissions.

Develop a Permanent Process for Continuous Review of Peer Review: This includes evaluating different methods of ranking applications and evaluating electronic reviews.

An ad hoc peer review task force, to be chaired by the NIH Deputy Director, will be formed to develop the detailed plans and to implement all the recommendations. “We cannot precipitously change things,” cautioned Dr. Tabak, who extended kudos and thanks to the NIH Director, saying, “Elias had the courage to take this on. He was very hands on throughout the entire process.”

➤ **The Public-Private Partnerships** program is now part of the NIH Office of Science Policy in the Office of the Director. When NIH cannot provide the resources, partnerships are formed with academia, industry, private, and for-profit entities. **The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has such a partnership with Eli Lilly for early phase drug discovery for tuberculosis.** Ten years ago, Congress authorized **The Foundation for NIH** to create public-private partnerships to support biomedical research which enhances NIH priorities.

➤ Since Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) practices are already in the real world, how can the **NIH National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)** more effectively focus its study of herbals and other biological remedies? Dr. Josephine Briggs, the new Director of NCCAM, wants NCCAM’s focus to be on **“CAM ‘Real World’ Effectiveness.”** She told the Center’s Advisory Council that NCCAM’s portfolio has been stronger in efficacy studies rather than effectiveness research. She wants answers about how we can build a portfolio of research to test “real world” effectiveness, which conditions and which CAM modalities are ready for this type of study, and what methods are best?

Dr. Briggs also asked her Council to think about which interventions are most promising, what resources are needed for this approach, and how NCCAM should set priorities. And, can NCCAM bridge basic science and translational research? Dr. Briggs noted she had attended the International Congress of Pharmacognosy in Oxford, Mississippi, traveled to China with Secretary Michael Leavitt to help sort out the heparin contamination problem, and paid a visit to the Purdue Botanical Center. She has been listening to Council members, advocates and critics of CAM, practitioners and leaders of NIH institutes and centers, all of which “strengthened her convictions about CAM” and increased her awareness of what is driving this research area.

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David J. Slatkin, Ph.D, Treasurer
The American Society of Pharmacognosy
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ASP Membership

Full Membership

Full membership is open to any scientist interested in the study of natural products. Dues are \$75 per year. In order to receive the Journal of Natural Products the subscription rates are as follows: United States, Canada, and Mexico: \$157 (Print Edition), \$70 (Web Edition), \$140 (Archive Web Edition); All other countries: \$247 (Print edition), \$70 (Web edition), \$140 (Archive Web Edition).

Associate Membership

Associate membership is open to students of pharmacognosy and allied fields only. These members are not accorded voting privileges. Dues are \$25.00 per year. In order to receive the Journal of Natural Products the subscription rates are as follows: United States, Canada, and Mexico: \$98 (Print Edition), \$70 (Web Edition), \$140 (Archive Web Edition); All other countries: \$163 (Print Edition), \$70 (Web Edition), \$140 (Archive Web Edition).

Emeritus Membership

Emeritus membership is open to retired members of the Society who maintained membership in the Society for at least five years. Dues are \$10.00 per year. These members receive the ASP Newsletter. Emeritus members may subscribe to the Journal of Natural Products at the Full Member rates.

Honorary Membership

Honorary members are selected by the Executive Committee of the American Society of Pharmacognosy on the basis of meritorious service to pharmacognosy.

Present Honorary Members are:

- Dr. Arnold R. Brossi, National Institutes of Health • Dr. David P. Carew, University of Iowa
- Dr. John M. Cassidy, Oregon State University • Dr. Geoffrey A. Cordell, Natural Products, Inc.
- Dr. Gordon C. Cragg, National Institutes of Health • Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth, University of Illinois at Chicago
 - Dr. Harry H.S. Fong, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Dr. James E. Robbers, Purdue University • Dr. E. John Staba, University of Minnesota
- Dr. Otto Sticher, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology • Dr. David J. Slatkin, Chicago State University
- Dr. Hildebert Wagner, University of Munich • Dr. Mansukh Wani, Research Triangle Institute

Additional information about membership may be obtained by writing to the Treasurer of the Society:
David J. Slatkin, Ph.D, Treasurer, The American Society of Pharmacognosy,
3149 Dundee Road, #260, Northbrook, Illinois 60062. Email: asphcog@aol.com

