



# THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHARMACOGNOSY

THE ASP NEWSLETTER VOLUME 42 ISSUE 1

## 2006 ASP Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

by Tawnya McKee

The 47th annual meeting of the ASP will take place in the greater Washington, D.C. area from August 5th through 9th, 2006. Please note the date change from earlier announcements! The theme of the conference is "Natural Products on Target".

Symposia include:

- Chemical Biology of Natural Products: Molecular Targets and Molecular Methods
- Synthetic and Biosynthetic Pathways to Natural Product Diversity
- Clinical Evaluation of Herbs and Supplements: Trials, Toxicology, and Drug Interactions

Pre-meeting workshops will be held on Saturday, August 4:

- Botanicals as New Drugs
- Non-Academic Careers for Natural Products Scientists

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## Changes in the ASP Constitution and By-Laws

by Jim McAlpine and Amy Keller

Within the next few months, ASP members will receive a ballot for the vote on proposed changes to the ASP Constitution and by-Laws. Appropriately, changes to the Constitution require a long considered, multi-step process. Voting is the last step in this process and members are urged to exercise their democratic right (and duty). ASP invites members to acquaint themselves with the considerable number of changes that have passed through the various committees, consider them carefully and vote. The full set of changes will be available on the website in a "Track Changes" mode so that they are easy to discern. The following is an explanation of the need for the changes and the effect of each of them.

### Changes in the ASP Constitution and By-Laws

It has been several years, if not decades, since the ASP constitution and by-laws were overhauled, and in the interim we have drifted along "doing what comes naturally". The result is that several of the established practices of the Society were contrary to the constitution. At the request of then president Jim McAlpine, the Constitution and By-Laws committee, under the chairmanship of Nick Oberlies, tackled this problem during the 2004-2005. They came up with a revised Constitution which

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The Society offers a placement service to aid our members in seeking positions or employees. This service is available 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](http://www.phcog.org/employment.html)

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Winter Issue	Nov.	17

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## Editor's Corner

Dear ASP Members,

I am pleased to serve as the new editor for the ASP Newsletter. For the past several years, former editor Renuka Misra has done a remarkable job modernizing the Newsletter, and created an attractive and informative means for our Society to communicate. I want to thank Renuka for her great commitment to the Society.

I have been a member of the ASP for more than a decade, and found the Newsletter to be an excellent way to learn about the Society. When I agreed to become ASP Newsletter editor, I began to think further about the role of the Newsletter in our Society. The ASP's website states, "The purpose of the American Society of Pharmacognosy Newsletter is to serve as the primary source to disseminate information in various scientific disciplines to the membership of the Society. It also serves to convey messages to the membership and to encourage individuals to become members." As I take on the editorship of the Newsletter, I would especially like to emphasize the achievements of both the Society and its members.

In this issue we take a look forward to the Society's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting this summer in Washington, DC, and also consider the implications of changes in the Society's constitution. This issue highlights the honors bestowed on two ASP members, and mourns the passing of an international member. A new column "New ASP Member Profile" begins in this issue, and I hope this will serve as a way to learn about the varied interests of the newest ASP members.

As I begin this new job, I would like to encourage everyone who has information relevant to the Society to send it to me. Ideas for new columns or topics for the Newsletter are most welcome. If you are willing to write an article for the Newsletter, I definitely want to hear from you! Submissions to the Newsletter can be e-mailed to [asp.newsletter@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:asp.newsletter@lehman.cuny.edu) at least two weeks prior to our publication dates. This year we will have three additional issues, Summer (June 1), Fall (September 1), and Winter (December 1).

You will notice that the Newsletter is going toward an electronic distribution system. If you have received a hard copy of this Newsletter, it means that the Society does not have an e-mail address for you. Please let ASP know your e-mail address immediately by contacting David Slatkin at [asphcog@aol.com](mailto:asphcog@aol.com). The leadership of ASP has decided by next year, no paper copies of the Newsletter will be sent to members.

Putting together the Newsletter requires the assistance of many people. I would especially like to highlight the outstanding help I have received from Amy Keller with editing and James Lyles with layout. I want to thank the leadership of ASP, especially President Bill Fenical and Treasurer Dave Slatkin, for their help and support during this transition period. I want to thank the administration of Lehman College, especially Dean William Tramontano, for agreeing to house the Newsletter here, and providing resources for this endeavor.





The William L. Brown Center for Plant Genetic Resources at the Missouri Botanical Garden will be hosting a symposium in honor of Gordon Cragg on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Dr. Cragg, retired Chief of the Natural Products Branch of the National Cancer Institute, will be receiving the William L. Brown award from Dr. Peter Raven. The award will recognize Dr. Cragg's contributions to biodiversity.

Joining the Natural Products Branch in 1984, Dr. Cragg initially worked with the late Dr. Matt Suffness and subsequently became Chief of the Branch until his retirement in 2004. His focus was on the use of plant genetics as sources of novel agents and was fundamentally involved in developing various supplies of paclitaxel. In addition, he was one of the originators of concept of the International Cooperative Biodiversity Group (ICBG); this idea has led to very successful international interdisciplinary programs that focus on the use and maintenance of biodiversity. Dr. Cragg continues to be an active member of ASP as noted by his presidency of the organization during the year 1998-1999 and also receiving an Honorary Membership in recognition of his services to the society.

The symposium itself will cover a wide range of topics related to Gordon's interests. Presenters include colleagues, collaborators and authorities in many fields. To view the full program, please visit the website [www.mobot.org/MOBOT/research/diversity/symposium.htm](http://www.mobot.org/MOBOT/research/diversity/symposium.htm).

## 2006 ASP Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

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Two post-meeting workshops of potential interest to the ASP membership, AOAC Dietary Supplements Methods Validation and Countercurrent Chromatography in Natural Products Analysis are also planned, and links to these workshops can be found on the ASP meeting web site at [www.phcog.org/AnnualMtg/Washington.html](http://www.phcog.org/AnnualMtg/Washington.html).

Please join us at the meeting for an exciting series of presentations covering contemporary developments in natural products chemistry, biosynthesis, drug discovery, drug development, and NIH Road Map initiatives. Abstract submissions for contributed oral talks and poster presentations are encouraged from all academic, industrial, and governmental groups involved in natural products studies. The abstract submission deadline is May 1 for oral presentations and May 15 for poster presentations. All abstracts must be submitted via e-mail and addressed to [asp2006@phcog.org](mailto:asp2006@phcog.org). Instructions and an interactive form for abstract preparation can be found at the ASP meeting web site.

The meeting venue is the Crystal Gateway Marriot Hotel in Arlington, Virginia, which is just across the Potomac River from the heart of Washington, D.C. Lodging information is available on the web site and reservations can be made directly on the secure online reservation system at [www.stayatmarriott.com/Pharmacognosy/](http://www.stayatmarriott.com/Pharmacognosy/). Reservations must be made by July 14 to qualify for the discounted meeting rate. The hotel is conveniently linked to the Metro rail system and is just 3-4 stops from all of the attractions of downtown Washington. In addition, it is only one metro stop from Reagan National Airport (the preferred airport in the Washington area to arrive and depart from). Planned social activities include a welcome reception, a dinner cruise on the Potomac River to Mt. Vernon, George Washington's estate, and the annual banquet. In addition, attendees will enjoy close proximity and easy access to the center of Washington, D.C. and all of the museums, monuments, and landmarks the city is famous for. We hope to see you this August to enjoy five days of outstanding science and stimulating entertainment here in the nation's capital.





## New Members of ASP

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 thirty-two domestic full members, five international full members, and nine associate members. We look forward to meeting you and learning more about you and your work.

Dr. Vijai Agnihotri University, Mississippi	Dr. Stephen Haggarty Harvard University Boston, Massachusetts	Dr. Hemant Lata University, Mississippi
Zulfigar Ali University, Mississippi	Dr. Andreas Hensel University of Muenster Muenster, Germany	Ms. Jing Li University, Mississippi
Dr. Ayhan Altintas University, Mississippi	Dr. Wasala Herath University, Mississippi	Ms. Tracie Locklear Chicago, Illinois
Dr. Bharathi Avula University, Mississippi	Ms. Patricia Hoyle Ladas & Parry LLP Chicago, Illinois	Dr. Hendrik Luesch University of Florida Gainesville, Florida
Dr. Premalatha Balachladran University, Mississippi	Mr. Justin M. Huffman Lincoln, Nebraska	Dr. Susan Manly University, Mississippi
Ms. Tulsi Bhandari Xechem Pharmaceutical, Inc. Federal Capital Territory, Abuja Nigeria	Dr. Atul Jadhav University, Mississippi	Mr. Zlatko Mehmedic University, Mississippi
Ms. Heidi R. Bokesch SAIC-Frederick, Inc. Frederick, Maryland	Ping Jiao University of Iowa Iowa City, Iowa	Dr. Julie R. Mikell University, Mississippi
Dr. Jayaprakasam Bolleddula Michigan State University East Lansing, Michigan	Dr. Vaishali C. Joshi University of Mississippi University, Mississippi	Ms. Shunyan Mo University of Illinois at Chicago Chicago, Illinois
Dr. Suman Chondra University, Mississippi	Dr. Jianhua Ju University of Wisconsin, Madison Madison, Wisconsin	Dr. Rita M. Moraes University, Mississippi
Ms. Christina M. Coleman University of Mississippi Oxford, Mississippi	Dr. Shabana Khan University, Mississippi	Mr. Girija Nand Pandey Xechem Pharmaceutical Nigeria Federal Capital Territory, Abuja Nigeria
Ms. Tracie Delane Chicago, Illinois	Dr. Mozaina Kobaisy University, Mississippi	Mr. Daniel J. Puckett Athens, West Virginia

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Dr. Nirmal Pugh  
University, Mississippi  
Dr. Volodymyr P. Samoylenko  
University of Mississippi  
Oxford, Mississippi

Dr. Sampathkumar  
University, Mississippi

Mr. Yatin Shukla  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Marcio Luis Andrade e Silva  
Franca, Brazil  
Dr. Troy Smillie  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Raju Subramanian  
Amgen  
Thousand Oaks, California

Dr. Ping-Jyun Sung  
Pingtung, Taiwan

Dr. Hemlata Tamta  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Natascha Techen  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Yanhong Wang  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Aruna Weerasooriya  
University, Mississippi

Dr. Jifu Zhao  
Unigen Pharmaceutical, Inc.  
Lacey, Washington

## New ASP Member Profile

*by Amy Keller*

ASP Welcomes many new members to the Society this year. Among them is Daniel Puckett, a senior undergraduate at Concord University in Athens, West Virginia. Mr. Puckett is pursuing a B.S. degree in both Biology and Chemistry. He took time out of his studies to answer a few questions for the Newsletter and we are grateful to him for granting us the opportunity to get more acquainted with him and his work.

### Why did you join ASP?

The University that I attend is small with limited resources. I was interested in researching future possibilities of antimicrobials. My school however, did not have many opportunities. Fortunately, I met my very energetic mentor, ASP member Dr. Darrell Crick, who was also interested in natural products for medicinal purposes. We pieced together a starter program and hit the ground running. Research was not enough, I wanted to be affiliated with the community. I found the ASP and knew I wanted to be a member. The Society offers me the connection to others just as interested in pharmacognosy.

### What are your research interests in pharmacognosy?

Currently, I am researching the antimicrobial properties of natural products from the southern Appalachian region. I have always been interested in any form of medicine. I find the application

and interactions of chemicals in the human body absolutely phenomenal. I personally feel that there are many things to be offered from nature. I believe we just have to apply time and knowledge to the cause.

### What would like to achieve through your membership?

I hope to achieve a better connection and stay updated with the field. Through my membership, I hope to network with others interested in natural products. I feel that societies such as the ASP combine the greatest minds in the field and I want to be part of that group. With all of us working together, it will be easier to reach our goal.





sailed through the Executive Committee with only a few minor changes; the revised version passed the Annual General Business meeting unanimously. To be adopted, these changes need to pass a plebiscite of members voting with a two-thirds majority. The following is a brief explanation of the reasoning behind the proposed changes. The current Constitution and the changes being voted on can be viewed on the ASP website.

## Changes proposed:

### ARTICLE III

The first change adopts the recommendation of a Committee, which considers the establishment of a rank "Fellow" for members of considerable academic distinction. This is similar to that which exists in several other professional scientific societies. It provides a means of recognizing the academic elite of our profession.

The second change to this article provides a means whereby a member who brings disrepute on the society can be removed from the society. Although we hope to never employ this mechanism, it will exist if ever necessary.

### ARTICLE IV

The first change simply removes confusion between the Annual meeting and the Annual Business meeting.

The other change removes the restriction that the parliamentarian must be a *member* of the Executive Committee. It allows the President to pick anyone who has any familiarity with Robert's Rules of Order. Such individuals are rare and often not available among Executive Committee members.

### ARTICLE V

It makes the Chair of the ASP Foundation and the Assistant Treasurer members of the Executive Committee. The former has not previously been a member and the latter is currently only a member, if the Treasurer isn't present, a peculiar situation, particularly when voting on motions.

It also incorporates provisions for any occurrence or emergency which might remove an officer or render him/her incapable of functioning.

### ARTICLE VI

The number of elected Executive committee members is increased to 4 to balance the number in internally selected members of the committee.

The Membership Committee is reduced to three, which is the maximum number that had been appointed for several years.

In the past, each committee chairperson was selected by rules idiosyncratic to that committee. In the proposed changes, all committee chairs are appointed by the President.

The Annual General meeting was nominally run by two committees, but in fact one Chairman had to organize the entire meeting delegating specific chores. This has been incorporated into the committee structure as recommended.

The recently adopted change in the name of the Norman R. Farnsworth Research Achievement Award has been incorporated.

The duties of the Executive Committee, as laid out in the constitution of the ASP Foundation, are incorporated.

### ARTICLE VII

Changes in the wording have been incorporated to allow for electronic voting provided that secrecy of the ballot can be guaranteed. A provision is made for filling an unexpected vacancy on the Executive Committee.



by Amy Keller

On December 28 of 2005, Dr. K. Husnu Can Baser was awarded the elite Science Award in Health Sciences by the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK). This award recognizes Dr. Baser's outstanding contributions to the chemical, pharmacological, and ethnobotanical investigations of the aromatic and medicinal plants of Turkey.

Dr. Baser is Professor of Pharmacognosy in the Faculty of Pharmacy at Anadolu University in Turkey. His focuses of research are essential oils, alkaloids and biological, chemical and pharmacological aspects of natural product investigation. He has worked as a consultant for United Nations Industrial Development Organization in Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Iran in the development of projects for the industrial uses of medicinal and aromatic plants in the regions. He has published three hundred and ninety three papers in international journals and 67 papers in Turkish journals. Dr. Baser has been a member of ASP since 1980 and regularly attends the ASP conferences.

Enthusiastic about this elite recognition, Dr. Baser mentions, "I am happy to be a pharmacognosy researcher. I had decided to do an academic career in this field when I was a student at the 3rd class of the faculty of pharmacy. Above all, being a pharmacognosist gives me immense personal satisfaction. Plants have let me travel around the world and meet fellow pharmacognosists to exchange views and engage in collaborations. I used to be an alkaloid researcher but in the last 20 years I have been engaged in research into essential oils. I love this field and screen the aromatic flora of Turkey as well as that of South Africa, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and USA through cooperative agreements with fellow scientists."

Although these awards are bestowed every year for the past forty years, only three Turkish pharmacognosists have received it. The first to be awarded in Turkey was the late professor Dr. Turhan Baytop of Istanbul University in 1988, followed by Dr. Ihsan Calis of Hecettepe University in 2001 and most recently Dr. Baser of Anadolu University. In addition to this recent award, Dr. Baser also received the Science Award from the Academy of Pharmacy of the Turkish Pharmacists Association and the Rotary International Centennial Success in Career Special Award from the Rotary Clubs, both in 2005.



Dr. Baser (left) receives the Science Award in Health Sciences from Dr. Huseyin Celik, Minister of Education of the Government of Turkey.

## THE ASP FOUNDATION

by Bob Krueger

The ASP Foundation annual campaign is in full swing and has collected over \$15,000 to date. If you have not responded to Chairman Cassady's letter, there is still time to do so. Remember your contributions can be directed to the Foundation through the ASP web site. We are capable of receiving credit card donations thanks to Dave Slatkin. Your support of the Society through the Foundation is the best way to insure our science flourishes through the many awards we underwrite and through the travel and research support granted to our young scientists to advance their careers. If you have any questions about your ASP Foundation see the web site or contact Bob Krueger, treasurer.



## IN MEMORIAM: DR. VICTORIA ABIKE ROBERT

by Amy Keller



ASP was informed of the death of member Dr. Victoria Abike Robert by her husband. Dr. Robert died in the University Teaching Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria on the November 18, 2005. She was born in Nigeria on March 2, 1965. She obtained a M.A. and Ph.D. in pharmacognosy, a M. Phil. and M.S. in plant pathology all from the University of Ado-Ekiti in Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria. She also held a B.S. degree in botany from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Dr. Robert held a lecturer position at the University of Ado-Ekiti from 1993 to 2005. Her work centered on the use

of plant extracts to combat and control viruses and diseases and she had sought to find remedies to diseases like polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria in Africa using natural plants. In the March 2006 issue of *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, her work in the anti-inflammatory activity of *Sphenocentrum jollyanum* was published. In a 2002 publication in the *Nigerian Journal of Natural Products and Medicine*, she investigated the anti-viral properties of *Diospyros barteri*, *D. monbutensis*, and *S. jollyanum* on the polio viruses. Some of her works were presented at the 50th, 51st and 53rd Society of Medicinal Plant Research congresses.

Dr. Robert is survived by her husband and three children. Her husband can be contacted at [abiodun-charles.robert@loria.fr](mailto:abiodun-charles.robert@loria.fr). ASP offers its sincere condolences.

## A LOOK BACK AT THE 46<sup>TH</sup> ASP ANNUAL MEETING



## THE ASP NEWSLETTER IS GOING ONLINE

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The ASP Newsletter is moving to electronic distribution. If you receive the Newsletter via post please see page 8 for details concerning your future deliveries.

David J. Slatkin, Ph.D., Treasurer  
The American Society of Pharmacognosy  
3149 Dundee Road, #260,  
Northbrook, Illinois 60062

## 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: \$131 (Print Edition), \$70 (Web Edition), \$140 (Archive Web Edition); All other countries: \$196 (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 Brossi, National Institutes of Health (NIH), MD • Dr. David P. Carew, Univ. of Iowa, IA
- Dr. Gordon C. Cragg, National Cancer Institute (NCI), NIH, MD
- Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth, Univ. of IL at Chicago, IL • Dr. R. Hegnauer, Leiden, Netherlands
- Dr. Albert Hofmann, Switzerland • Dr. Harry H. S. Fong, University of Illinois, IL
- Dr. James E. Robbers, Purdue Univ., IN • Dr. Mansukh Wani, Research Triangle Institute, NC
- Dr. E. John Staba, Univ. of Minnesota, MN • Dr. Hildebert Wagner, Univ. of Munich, Germany
- Dr. David J. Slatkin, Chicago State University, IL

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](mailto:asphcog@aol.com)

