



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHARMACOGNOSY

The ASP Newsletter Volume 47, Issue 4



GUIDO PAULI

Norman R. Farnsworth: A Life Celebrated

By Dr. Edward Kennelly

A memorial celebration for ASP founding member and first Vice President, Professor Norman R. Farnsworth, was held on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), College of Pharmacy. Approximately 100 people were in attendance, including many ASP members from across the country.

ASP member Dr. Steve Swanson served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event, and the listed speakers included UIC College of Pharmacy administrators Dean Jerry Bauman and Chair of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy Dr. Judy Bolton. Many ASP members spoke at the event, including Dr. Harry Fong, Mr.

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE WINTER 2011

FEATURES

| | |
|---|----|
| Dr. Farnsworth: A Life Celebrated | 1 |
| Norman R. Farnsworth: An Annotated Career Timeline | 4 |
| Gearing Up for the 2012 Annual Meeting | 9 |
| Behind The Scenes: A Fruitful Collaboration | 11 |

DEPARTMENTS

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Editor's Corner | 2 |
| Meet a New Member | 13 |
| Conference Calendar | 14 |

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Brief News from Washington | 15 |
| From the Archives | 17 |
| New Members | 18 |

EDITOR'S CORNER



ASP founding member and first Vice President, Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth, passed away on September 10, 2011, right before we went to press for the Fall 2011 *ASP Newsletter*. Thanks to Drs. Harry Fong and Amy Keller, we were able to publish a detailed obituary in our previous issue. However, we wished to provide more extensive coverage of Dr. Farnsworth's career and the impact it had on many ASP members. Therefore, we are dedicating this *Newsletter* to Dr. Farnsworth.

In November I attended the memorial celebration at the University of Illinois at Chicago for Dr. Farnsworth, and I report on this in our lead article. I was glad to see so many

ASP members in attendance, and many of them spoke very movingly about their interactions with Dr. Farnsworth.

A small group of ASP members who interacted with Dr. Farnsworth at various points in their careers have written short pieces about one of their most distinct interactions with Dr. Farnsworth. We have assembled these interesting accounts chronologically, and present it as a special feature of this *Newsletter*. I want to thank all members who contributed to this effort and to *ASP Newsletter* Layout Editor, Ms. Nancy Novick, for the considerable creative energy she put into this project.

Our regular columns have also taken on a Farnsworth perspective. Ms. Anna Heran has looked through the ASP Archives at the Lloyd Library, and found some interesting records of the efforts of both Drs. Farnsworth and Varro Tyler toward the betterment of ASP. In the column, "Meet a New ASP Member," UIC doctoral student, Ms. Kim Bean, discusses how Dr. Farnsworth influenced her career and ultimately her decision to become a member of the Society. In "Behind the Scenes in Pharmacognosy," we also highlight one of Dr. Farnsworth's last publications with UIC colleague, Dr. Jim Wang.

In addition, the *Newsletter* reports on the upcoming joint meeting with our sister European Societies, ICNPR2012 (www.icnpr2012.org) in New York City. Dr. Guy Carter, Chair of the Scientific Organizing Committee, updates us on the many speakers and sessions that have been planned so far. At ICNPR 2012, there will be a special symposium to honor Dr. Farnsworth, organized by his long-time collaborator, Dr. Harry Fong. Dr. Fong has also asked Drs. Douglas Kinghorn and Guido Pauli to participate in this hour-long tribute to Dr. Farnsworth. I hope many ASP members will be able to attend this session.

I hope everyone has a pleasant holiday 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

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Edward J. Kennelly, Ph.D.
Editor-In-Chief

Amy C. Keller
Assistant Editor

Nancy Novick
Design & Production

The contribution deadlines are:

Spring Issue Feb. 15
Summer Issue May 18
Fall Issue Aug. 18
Winter Issue Nov. 17

Please send information to:

Edward J. Kennelly, Ph.D.
Editor In Chief, *ASP Newsletter*
Department of Biological Sciences
Lehman College, CUNY
250 Bedford Park Blvd. West
Bronx, NY 10468
718-960-1105

asp.newsletter@lehman.cuny.edu

Norman R. Farnsworth: A Life Celebrated

continued from page 1

Mark Blumenthal, Dr. Mansukh C. Wani, Dr. D. Doel Soejarto, Dr. Chun-Tao Che, Dr. Guido Pauli, Dr. Jimmy Orjala, Dr. Edward Kennelly, Dr. Jim McAlpine, Dr. Nicholas Oberlies, and Dr. Luke Chadwick. In addition, other ASP members were in attendance including Drs. Joseph Betz, Shao-Nong Chen, William Jones, Ikhlas Khan, Nam Cheol Kim, David Slatkin, and Troy Smillie.

Dr. Fong, one of Dr. Farnsworth's first graduate students at the University of Pittsburgh and a long-time academic colleague at Pitt and UIC, spoke of their deep professional, academic and personal connections. He explained Dr. Farnsworth's reach across the globe on medicinal plant research, highlighted by a note of condolences from Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO); Dr. Fong also described how this work led to a long-term connection with the WHO through its Human Reproduction Programme (1976-1988) and the Traditional Medicine Programme (1980-2011). Dr. Fong mentioned how the e-mail he wrote on September 10 about Dr. Farnsworth's passing went "viral"; he received condolences from colleagues and friends in all parts of the world almost immediately.

Another long-time collaborator from Research Triangle Institute, Dr. Wani, described his last visit earlier this year with Dr. Farnsworth while hospitalized. Although it was clear that Dr. Farnsworth had lost weight, he was still very mentally alert and engaged in his conversations with Dr. Wani; he even continued a long-running joke about their significant difference in heights! Dr. Wani noted that their collaboration and friendship spanned over five decades, and that Dr. Farnsworth would be greatly missed.

Norman R. Farnsworth Professor of Pharmacognosy, Dr. Che, a graduate of what Dr. Farnsworth like to call "the best Department of Pharmacognosy and Pharma-

cology in the world", remembered Dr. Farnsworth as a person who was passionate about his work and dedicated his life to pharmacognosy. Dr. Che noted that Dr. Farnsworth "created a new era of pharmacognosy research....He left his footsteps for me to follow."

One of the most touching moments in the celebration occurred when Dr. Pauli and his two young children, Giulia and Neil, presented a slide show of drawings that they created for the occasion. The drawings depicted some of their favorite memories about Dr. Farnsworth stopping by their house on days when he would drive with Dr. Pauli to UIC. Dr. Farnsworth would at times ask the children for a loan of money, and then later give them back twice the amount of the loan as interest; a drawing depicting money raining from the sky made their point vividly.

At the other end of the spectrum, Dr. Oberlies captivated the audience by remembering Dr. Farnsworth's somewhat bawdy sense of humor. In a celebration-stopping performance, Dr. Oberlies retold one of Dr. Farnsworth's favorite jokes about a so-called conversation he had with a lovely woman on a flight to Boston.

Letters and notes were read from ASP members who could not attend this event, including ASP President Barbara Timmermann, Dr. Koji Nakanishi, *Journal of Natural Products* Editor, Dr. Douglas Kinghorn, and others.

Dr. Farnsworth's family was also in attendance, including his wife Priscilla and his brother, Bruce. His brother spoke at the end of the celebration to thank everyone for attending and speaking and related how proud he was of his late brother for all he accomplished professionally and personally.

There was a reception and dinner afterwards at the Greek Islands restaurant and most of the speakers were there for fine Greek food and drink, and more memories of Dr. Farnsworth were shared among the guests. ■

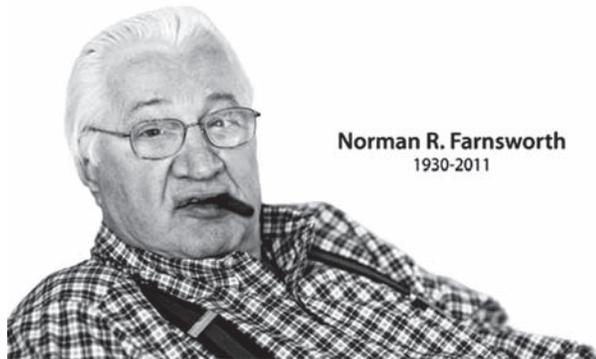


GUIDO PAULI

Norman R. Farnsworth: An Annotated Career Timeline

Compiled by Drs. Amy Keller and Edward Kennelly

Editor's note: On September 10, 2011, our Society lost Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth, an extraordinary leader, mentor, Fellow, and friend. Few words can express the breadth of his influence on all of us, but here we present snapshots of Dr. Farnsworth in the words of our members interlaced with a few of many career highlights.



March 23, 1930: Born in Lynn, Massachusetts

1950-1951: Regimental Combat Team, Korea

1953: B.S. Massachusetts College of Pharmacy

1955: M.S. Massachusetts College of Pharmacy

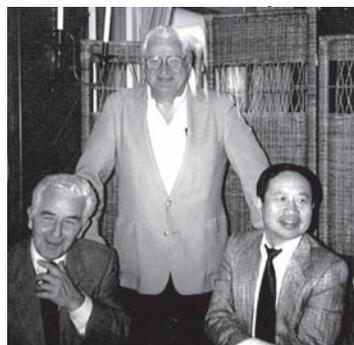
1959: Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh



1964-1970: Chairman, Department of Pharmacognosy, University of Pittsburgh



1964 PHONE SOLICITATION



Norm and I came from simpler times and we did things accordingly, without the layers of cumbersome committees and rolls of red tape prevalent today. For example, when I was concluding my Ph.D. research in 1964 under the tutelage of Dr. Jack L. Beal at the Ohio State University, Norm “recruited” me to Pitt (University of Pittsburgh) with the words: “Hey Fong, got you a job as Assistant Professor with me starting January 1.” His recruitment of me to move from Pitt to the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in 1970 was no less cryptic. Norm came into my office at Pitt and asked, without explanation, “Hey Harry, would you like to go to Chicago?” This was followed by a question to my wife a week later: “Jane, are you packed? Chicago has a nice Chinatown.” Needless to say, we were both puzzled and befuddled. Nevertheless, we packed and moved two households and a lab from Pittsburgh to Chicago in August 1970. Unheard of today, but that was our SOP back then.

—Dr. Harry H.S. Fong

..... Professor Emeritus at UIC College of Pharmacy, Dr. Farnsworth's first graduate student

Left to right: Drs. Trojanek, Farnsworth, and Fong in 1970.

Norman R. Farnsworth: An Annotated Career Timeline

1970: Professor and Head, Department of Pharmacognosy, College of Pharmacy, University of Illinois at Chicago



LATE 1974: LONDON CALLING



I remember well the first day I met Norm in late 1974, when he paid a visit to The School of Pharmacy, University of London, also known as “the Square”, when I was a junior faculty member completing my Ph.D. degree. A few of us pharmacognosists at the Square were invited out “on the town” by Norm, including Dr. David Phillipson and his wife Beryl, as well as the late Dr. Fred Evans and his wife, Nicola. I probably made the numbers up as the “low man on the totem pole” (one of Norm’s favorite phrases!). The idea was to visit the Playboy Club in the West End of London. Unfortunately, a United States member of the club like Norm had to be in the United Kingdom for 48 hours before gaining entry, so our party was refused access. Following this setback, and without batting an eyelid, Norm looked across the street to where there was a Hilton Hotel. We all dined at Norm’s considerable expense in the restaurant, which had a South Sea island motif as “Trader Vic’s.” Norm sat on an enormous straw chair at the head of the table and proceeded to hold court and express his never-neutral opinions on many topics all evening long. After this introduction, it would be less than two years before I would be joining Norm’s lab as a Research Associate in the Fall of 1976.



enormous straw chair at the head of the table and proceeded to hold court and express his never-neutral opinions on many topics all evening long. After this introduction, it would be less than two years before I would be joining Norm’s lab as a Research Associate in the Fall of 1976.

—Dr. A. Douglas Kinghorn

(Dr. Kinghorn is Editor-In-Chief of the Journal of Natural Products)

1975: Editor-in-Chief, NAPRALERT

1982: Director, Program for Collaborative Research in the Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, University of Illinois at Chicago, Health Sciences Center

1983: NIH REVIEW WITH FARNSWORTHIAN HUMOR



To describe one single memorable interaction with Norm is quite a challenge as each interaction with him had some colorful note or an unexpected turn of events. You never knew what would come up next. What comes first to mind is my encounter with Norm in 1983 during one of my first study sections at the NIH when he dominated the discussions in a loud and passionate voice accompanied by his trademark cigar and red trouser suspenders. Being a rookie at that time, I was transfixed and breathless by observing this powerful man who operated so differently from the other committee members I was used to interacting with. He had no reservations about expressing his convictions no matter who was present in the room. When we were introduced during the coffee break, and when he realized that I took each of his words at heart, he enjoyed teasing me from then on and telling me not to take life too seriously. I must say that with the passing of time I got slowly immunized to his antics and ended up relaxing and enjoying his Farnsworthian sense of humor. I am glad that throughout the many years of professional interactions we shared, I was able to get to know the real Norm, a generous, loyal, compassionate, and gentle soul. His absence last year in San Diego was deeply felt by his ASP family and we will miss him even more when we meet in New York next summer.



—Dr. Barbara Timmermann

(Dr. Barbara Timmermann is the University Distinguished Professor and Chair, School of Pharmacy, University of Kansas, and current President of the ASP)

Norman R. Farnsworth: An Annotated Career Timeline

1986: Honorary member, American Society of Pharmacognosy

FEBRUARY 1993: BREAKING BREAD WITH STUDENTS



I first met Norm when I was a doctoral student, and attended my very first meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy held that year at the Congress Hotel in Chicago. I do not know if I even dared to introduce myself then, but I was struck by his skilled networking with colleagues between (and even during) the meeting's sessions. I would later have many chances to learn from Norm, often over a good meal. I first broke bread with Norm when I was a doctoral student in February 1993 when he was invited by my Ph.D. mentor, Dr. Walter Lewis, to present a seminar for the Washington University Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences entitled, "Chemical and

Pharmacological Prospecting in the World of Plants." A small group of Washington University graduate students took Norm to lunch at Whittemore House, the posh Washington University faculty club. Norm's enjoyment at interacting with students was clear, and his ability to talk in a straight forward and blunt style was very much appreciated. The time and interest this famous professor afforded us lowly graduate students from another institution were truly memorable. Several of us at that lunch, including ASP member Dr. Dennis Milanowski, remain very active in pharmacognosy research and the Society. I learned two important lessons from Norm that day: make time to engage others, no matter what their status, and positive role models can help to shape the future of science. About a decade after that lunch, I had the privilege of taking Norm to a post-seminar dinner with my students in the Bronx (photo, above).

—Dr. Edward Kennelly

(Dr. Edward Kennelly is Professor at Lehman College, City University of New York, Bronx, New York)

OCTOBER 1993: HALLOWEEN DOCTRINE OF SIGNATURES



I will partially describe a memorable event that occurred in 1993. I had become department head and I thought it might be useful to have a Halloween celebration in one of the teaching laboratories. Norman was well known for many, many things, including his stories about aphrodisiacs, phallic symbols, and the Doctrine of Signatures. During the Halloween party, Norm decided to retrieve one of his Doctrines that happen to be a very large and accurate replica of a male phallic symbol comprised of wood. He was displaying the object with a female secretary and describing the significance of the piece. Of course one of the cantankerous faculty members decided to discreetly take a photo and, of course, this loathsome person sent it to the University administration and probably beyond. This led to a call from the Chancellor and a visit to his office. Norm and I appeared at the appointed time and the Chancellor showed us the picture and asked if it was an accurate portrayal of what occurred. Norm explained the Doctrine of Signatures and how this was a learning experience in the field of pharmacognosy. The episode was innocent enough as confirmed by the secretary and everyone else who was questioned. No further action was taken and the file was retained but sealed. The Chancellor did the right thing. We all live and learn and change, but in my opinion, Norm did not change that much. He was the only 80-year-old I have ever met who was 18 years old in spirit. This is what made him so incredibly interesting and distinctive.

—Dr. John M. Pezzuto

(Dr. Pezzuto is Dean, College of Pharmacy, University of Hawai'i at Hilo)

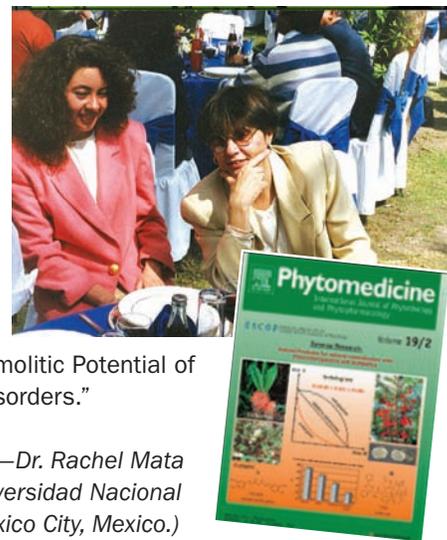
Norman R. Farnsworth: An Annotated Career Timeline

1995: Appointed to a Presidential Commission on “Dietary Supplement Labels” Health and Education Act (DSHEA) of 1994, by President Bill Clinton



1994: SPASMOLYTIC EDITING IN MEXICO

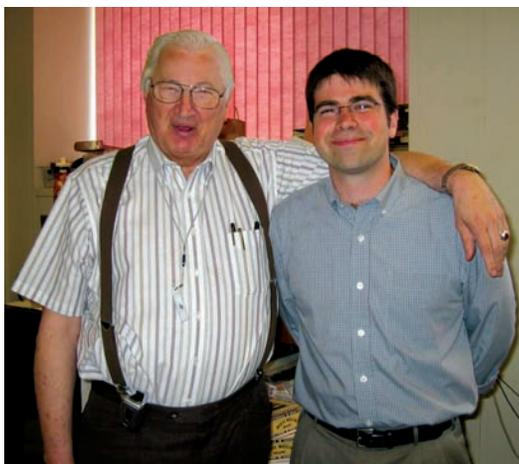
Perhaps the most interesting interaction I had with Norm was in the Paraiso Radisson Hotel, Mexico City, when he ask me to visit him there in order to review a manuscript I had submitted to *Phytomedicine* with one of my doctoral students, Alejandra Rojas. When Alejandra and I arrived at the hotel, Norm was immediately taken by how lovely my student appeared, and started to give her advice for her future academic career. I remember his first words of wisdom were “Never go to bed with a fellow student!” As you can imagine Alejandra (and I) were confused, and really did not know what to do or how to answer to such unexpected advice. I think it was typical of Norm to say such off-the-cuff remarks to people to see what their reaction might be. To me, this was one of my most memorable and funny interactions with him. In the end, we were able to successfully edit the manuscript, and it was subsequently published in *Phytomedicine* in 1995 with the title, “Spasmolytic Potential of Some Plants Used in Traditional Medicine for the Treatment of Gastrointestinal Disorders.”



—Dr. Rachel Mata
(Dr. Mata is a Professor in the Facultad de Química at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in Mexico City, Mexico.)

1994: Co-Editor of *Phytomedicine*

1998: BREAKING THE ICE



I have known Dr. Farnsworth since about 1998, first meeting him when I was a postdoctoral chemist at Research Triangle Institute, as RTI had a collaboration with him for many years. I knew who he was from ASP meetings when I was a graduate student at Purdue University, but I was always too intimidated to introduce myself. I grew to know him very well in the ensuing years. What I really enjoyed about him was his more serious side. We all know that he could crack a great joke. But, every now and then, you could engage him in a serious discussion and gain insight from his wisdom. For instance, although he was always quick with a joke and the laughs were great, many times these were used to help break the ice in a meeting and put people at ease. Once everyone had a good laugh, it was easier to get onto the more serious side of the discussions.

—Dr. Nicholas Oberlies
(Dr. Oberlies is Associate Professor at University of North Carolina, Greensboro, North Carolina)

THE JOKE

I was flying from Chicago to Boston recently. The plane was almost full and I had an empty seat next to me. This was great, as I was looking forward to getting some rest on the flight after working so hard on reviewer manuscripts for the *Journal of Natural Products* (crack a smile towards Dr. Kinghorn, who would turn a bit red). Right before the door closed, this beautiful woman steps onto the plane (he goes on to describe her with hand jesters; she is a knock out, as he would say).

I start thinking to myself: I hope she sits next to me.... I hope she sits next to me.... Sure enough, she sits next to me and the plane quickly departs. *Pause*. I of course, strike up a conversation with her, asking why she is traveling to Boston, does she have family there?

She tells me that she is going to attend the Annual Meeting for the ASN. I am not familiar with the ASN but become quite curious when I learn it is the American Society for Nymphomania. I become even more excited when she tells me that she is the keynote speaker, as she is an expert in nymphomania.

Pause. Smile. Raise your eyebrows. Move Marsh Wheeling to the other side of your mouth.

As a Professor, I of course am curious in the science of what she is going to discuss and ask her to elaborate on her prepared lecture. She tells me that she is going to dispel many of the myths associated with Men and Sex.

Pause. Pull the cigar out of your

mouth and hold it while you gesture: Could you please elaborate?

She tells me that it is a myth that African American men are the most well endowed. I did not know this. She says that it has been evaluated and the statistically significant results indicate that Native American men are the most well endowed.

Very interesting I reply (raise eyebrows). Oh yes, she says. Moreover, many people think that French men make the best lovers, but when interviewed (using a protocol approved at an IRB, of course), most women indicate that men of Jewish decent make the best lovers.

Chomp on cigar. Really? Is there more?

It turns out that when it comes to longevity with love making, it is not Italian men with the best stamina, but rather, Southerners?

This discussion takes up most of our flight, as she gave me a few more details (and then under your breath, say something like: that I am not at liberty to discuss in front of this distinguished group, so as not to offend anyone). *Pause*. Look a few people in the eye. Laugh.

As we came in for our landing, she



said to me: Sir, I am so sorry, but I seem to have completely dominated our conversation. In fact, I do not even know your name.

Pause again. Pull cigar out of mouth.

My name is Tonto Goldstein, but my friends call me Bubba.

—As told many times
by Dr. Farnsworth

Norman R. Farnsworth: An Annotated Career Timeline

JULY 1999: A CLOSE ENCOUNTER

An episode which sticks in my memory is one where I actually succeeded in eluding Norm in full cry to inflict his annual 'presidential roasting' at the joint meeting with our sister societies held in Amsterdam from July 26-30, 1999, my Presidential year. The final banquet was held in several large adjoining rooms at Hotel Spaander in Volendam, and I was most thankful that no speeches were planned. Norm, however, had intimated in somewhat 'menacing' tones beforehand that I was not to get off so lightly. My wife Jacqui and I managed to seclude ourselves at a table in one of the rooms remote from the main tables. We were seated with Dr. Helene Guinaudeau, Dr. Cindy Angerhofer, her husband Tom, and Mr. Mark Blumenthal when a commotion erupted at the entrance to the room and Norm appeared with a colleague, Dr. Vichai Reutrakul, both yelling my name. I ducked under the table, while all at the table presented a solid front of defense claiming I had gone off in search of the organizers. Luckily, Norm was chivalrous in not questioning the ladies present, and proceeded to the other rooms in quest of his elusive target! To my great relief, the banquet ended without further incident, and I survived what I am sure was a much milder roast than that Norm had in mind, at the hands of Dr. Bob Borris at the 2000 meeting in Seattle! In his usual big-hearted manner, Norm gracefully accepted that this one time he had not cornered his quarry.

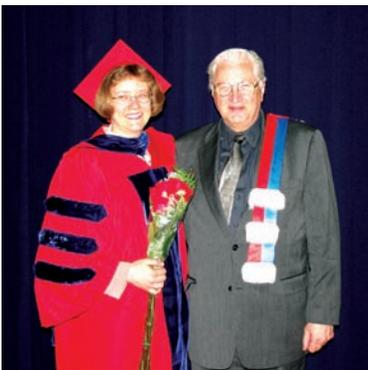


—Dr. Gordon Cragg

(Dr. Cragg is a Special Volunteer at the National Institutes of Health, Natural Products Branch)

September, 1999: Awarded NIH Botanical Center grant, and later named Director, UIC/NIH Research Center for Botanical Dietary Supplements

NOVEMBER 2000: THE BLINK OF AN EYE



It was Thanksgiving, 2000, and there I was, with my husband and a plate of holiday food, sitting across a dining table from Dr. Norman Farnsworth in his home. We were his invited guests and made polite conversation until I ran out of words and slammed into a wall of awkward silence. He turned to face me and there it was: the eye. If you knew Norm, you may remember the poker-blank, yet slightly amused, expression he had when he knew he was putting you on the spot. Oh yes, he knew. At least, I figured that out later. At that moment, however, I was stuck like a tarred animal in the muck, unable to advance or retreat. No one came to my rescue. Suddenly, I assimilated the moment as a crossroads. I was committing myself to the whims of a battle-hardened, highly respected scientist with a take-it-or-leave-it personality, in the hopes of receiving a thin piece of paper after years of late laboratory hours and sweat equity. That was a long time to apprentice one's self to a single soul, from whom I needed and expected a lot of support

during the journey. But in that one palpable moment, I knew that I also needed to establish myself and set a precedent. Past lessons in academic survival weighed upon me as I met his gaze and narrowed one of my own eyes, transmitting my message like a laser beam into his brain: I see your eye and meet you there. With hindsight, it was in that crystalline moment that I started the process of coming into my own. When you have worked with Norm, you grow strong, embrace what you stand for, and take charge. I cannot thank him enough for teaching me this.

—Dr. Nancy L. Booth

(Dr. Booth is a Science Consultant at Spherix Consulting, Inc.)

2001: Named UIC Distinguished Professor, University of Illinois at Chicago

Norman R. Farnsworth: An Annotated Career Timeline

JULY 2007: UNEXPECTED FILES

In July, 2007, at the start of my thesis investigation, Dr. Farnsworth sent me to collect all the articles related to *Viburnum* spp. from the NAPRALERT archives on the top floor of the University of Illinois (UIC) College of Pharmacy. I scoured through file cabinets crammed full of the millions of meticulously coded articles and found every one except the last on the list. In its folder in place of the article there were two adult magazines dated back to 1995. I scanned the slightly worn pages for information relating to fertility or women's health, but there were no words, only images of unattractive women 50 and older. I concealed the magazines in an envelope and left them on Dr. Farnsworth's desk with a note inquiring about the missing article. A few days later in his office he asked about the envelope and I explained the surprise finding. He then precariously displayed the magazines on his desk, raised his eyebrows as he investigated the cover art, smiled and gave a little hum of approval. The next week I returned to find the magazines still on display. I stood pale-faced and jaw-dropped as he responded to the quizzical expressions of several other visitors by saying, "Look what Kim gave me! What do you think she is suggesting, hmm?" Undoubtedly, he had told dozens of visitors throughout the week that I had gifted him the magazines. I had no choice but to put them back in their concealed envelope and take them away, never mentioning it again.



—Ms. Kimberly Bean

(Ms. Bean is one of Dr. Farnsworth's last graduate students at UIC College of Pharmacy)

2010: FARNSWORTH BANK

Can I Get a Loan from You?
I will Pay you Back Double Tomorrow.



Money - Money- Money



Next Day:
Money is Raining for Neil



During the summer of 2010, Norman established a private banking system in which Neil and Giulia, my children, acted as "the bank" from which he as "the broke customer" would borrow money and give it back one day later. With self-pledged interest rates as high as 100% per day ("I will give you back double tomorrow"), money was pouring in and the bank's annual projections looked excellent. Norm's only demand was to be served a cup of cappuccino from that special machine which produces those highly-reproducible extracts of *Coffea arabica* seeds. Something to keep in mind when being served "free coffee" while your ASP membership dues are overdue;-)

—By Dr. Guido Pauli

(Dr. Pauli is Associate Professor, Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, University of Illinois, Department of Pharmacy)

September 2011: Dead at the age of 81

July 2012: Dr. Farnsworth to be Honored by ASP at the International Congress on Natural Products Research in New York City with a special session "Remembering Norman R. Farnsworth" by Drs. Harry H.S. Fong, A Douglas Kinghorn, and Guido F. Pauli.

Gearing Up for the 2012 Annual Meeting

By Dr. Guy Carter

The 2012 International Congress on Natural Products Research entitled “Global Change, Natural Products and Human Health” will be held in New York City, July 28 to August 1, 2012. The 2012 annual ASP meeting is a joint meeting between 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 French Speaking Society of Pharmacognosy (AFERP). The joint meeting is designated the 8th International Congress on Natural Products Research or simply 2012 ICNPR.

Our venue in Manhattan is the Grand Hyatt Hotel adjacent to Grand Central Station www.grandnewyork.hyatt.com. This exciting location is in the heart of Manhattan and is close to many of New York’s most famous attractions. The organization of the conference is proceeding at an

afternoon will feature the first of three poster sessions, and in the evening a combined scientific/social function will be held at the New York Botanical Garden (www.nybg.org) where participants will enjoy a unique and personalized view of the Garden.

Beginning on Monday and continuing through Wednesday, the program will include plenary lectures in the morning followed by three concurrent parallel sections, allowing participants to select topics of the greatest interest. The specific topics and invited speakers will be posted shortly on the conference website (<http://www.icnpr2012.org/programs>), so please check for updates.

In addition to the symposia noted in the Fall Newsletter, the following sessions are currently being organized (confirmed speakers):

Join us in New York City: July 28- August 1, 2012



accelerated pace, and we wish to emphasize some of the highlights.

The conference program is going to be densely packed with scientific events. Workshops will be held on Saturday prior to the formal opening of the conference. We currently have plans for workshops covering applications of NMR spectroscopy, one specifically focused on applications of CD & VCD spectroscopy to natural products, and a new session dedicated to microbiology. 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 formal scientific program will begin on Sunday, July 29, in the morning and will begin with plenary sessions devoted to major award addresses followed by a plenary session focused on the promise of biodiversity. Sunday

Genome Mining for Natural Product Discovery: (Dr. Brad Moore, University of California San Diego, California; Dr. Greg Challis, University of Warwick, United Kingdom; Dr. Pieter Dorrestein, University of California San Diego, California)

The Chemistry of Symbiosis: (Dr. Jon Clardy, Harvard University, Massachusetts; Dr. Eric Schmidt, University of Utah, Utah; Dr. Ute Hentschel-Humeida, Julius-von-Sachs-Institut für Biowissenschaften, Germany)

Natural Products Pharmacokinetics and Metabolism: (Dr. Alan Crozier, University of Glasgow, United Kingdom; Dr. Hartmut Derendorf, University of Florida, Florida; Dr. Augustin Scalbert, International Agency for Research on Cancer, France)

Natural Products Synthesis: (Dr. Sylvie Michel, Univer-

sity of Paris XI, France; Dr. Erwan Poupon, University of Paris, Descartes, France; Dr. Stephane Quideau, University of Bordeaux, France)

Natural Products Discovery from Plants: (Dr. Leandros Skaltsounis, University of Athens, Greece; Dr. Nunziatina De Tommasi, University of Salerno, Italy; Dr. Virginia Lanzotti, University of Naples Federico II, Italy; Dr. Lars Bohlin, University of Uppsala, Sweden; Dr. Anna Rita Bilia, University of Florence, Italy)

Biosynthetic Chemistry: (Dr. Rebecca Goss, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom; Dr. Barrie Wilkinson, Biotica Technologies, United Kingdom)

Marine Natural Products: (Dr. Raymond Andersen, University of British Columbia, Canada)

Drug Discovery/Innovative Approaches: (Dr. Marcel Jaspars, University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom; Dr. Hermann Stuppner, University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Another exciting aspect of the scientific program will be a panel discussion on Monday evening where

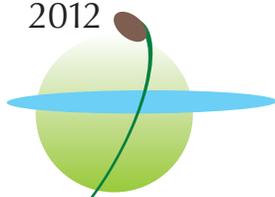
a group of respected opinion leaders will present their views and lead the larger discussion on the "Future of Pharmacognosy."

In addition to these symposia, themed contributed sessions are planned on the traditional areas of interest to our membership including natural product discovery, marine, microbes & plants, biosynthesis, new technologies, herbal products, synthesis, and others. A Young Investigators Program is also being planned that will provide an interactive forum for discussion of important matters.

Finally, we anticipate that early in 2012 that our registration and abstract submission process will go live on the website, so please check at www.icnpr2012.org. In addition, we are also on Facebook (<http://facebook.com/ICNPR>), Twitter (<http://twitter.com/ICNPR>, hashtag #ICNPR), and LinkedIn (<http://linkedin/uE9oIV>).

Please peruse our online presence and we look forward to seeing you in New York this summer! ■

ICNPR
International
Congress for
Natural Products
Research
2012



The 2012 annual ASP meeting is a joint meeting between 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 French Speaking Society of Pharmacognosy (AFERP).**

The joint meeting is designated the 8th International Congress on Natural Products Research or simply 2012 ICNPR.

Our venue in Manhattan is the Grand Hyatt Hotel adjacent to Grand Central Station
www.grandnewyork.hyatt.com.

At ICNPR 2012, the late Professor Norman Farnsworth will be honored with a special symposium, "Remembering Norman R. Farnsworth." Three colleagues from UIC, Drs. Harry H.S. Fong, A. Douglas Kinghorn, and Guido Pauli, will discuss his career. Please join us in this special tribute to a founding member of the Society. ■

Behind The Scenes: A Fruitful Collaboration

by Dr. Amy Keller

In the January of this year, *Biochemical Pharmacology* published the paper, "Opioidergic mechanisms underlying the actions of *Vitex agnus-castus* L." in which last author and ASP member Dr. Jim Wang collaborated with Dr. Norm Farnsworth, among others. The Newsletter interviewed Dr. Wang about this exciting research; he graciously gave us insight into this interesting investigation and tells us what it was like to work with the late, great Dr. Farnsworth.

How did you and Dr. Farnsworth end up collaborating on *V. agnus-castus*, phytochemicals with opioidergic activity, and perhaps other projects?

The collaboration was initiated at the suggestion of Dr. Harry Fong, then head of the Department of Pharmacognosy and Medical Chemistry at the University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC). At that time, UIC/ National Institutes of Health (NIH) Botanical Center, which was founded and directed by Dr. Farnsworth, was looking for ways to determine the pharmacological activity of *V. agnus-castus*. As fate would have it, my laboratory has been running some central nervous system (CNS) and receptor-based assays for years. When we started to test extracts and compounds from *Vitex*, we hit the jackpot. The collaboration was quickly expanded to a number of other plants such as other species of *Vitex*, *Viburnum prunifolium* and related species, *Cimicifuga racemosa*, *Angelica sinensis*, and *Trifolium pratense*. It was one of the most productive and joyful collaborations that I could have possibly formed professionally and personally.

Who in your laboratory carried out the research?

Two former graduate students were instrumental in carrying out the *Vitex* study. Dr. Jian Lu, who is now a senior scientist with GlaxoSmithKline, started the project. Dr. Donna Webster, who works at Herbalife as a Manager of Scientific Affairs, then took over and really made a significant contribution to the understanding of *Vitex* pharmacology. This publication represents a part of her dissertation entitled "Botanical, chemical, genetic, and pharmacological studies of *Vitex agnus-castus* L." On the photochemistry side, Dr. Farnsworth's colleagues Drs. Shao-Nong Chen and Guido Pauli prepared and chemically characterized extracts and compounds that were used in the study.

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?

In this study, we first confirmed the affinity of *Vitex* extracts to certain opioid receptors, namely the mu and delta opioid receptors. We have reported affinity previously; however, it is not known what kind of functional activity they exhibited. In the study, we demonstrated that some of fractions and compounds activate these two opioid receptors. As discussed in the paper, agonistic activity can be beneficial in certain medical conditions.



DR. SHIXIN DENG

Dr. Farnsworth and Dr. Wang, right after Dr. Farnsworth's acceptance speech for the ASP Research Achievement Award in 2005.

What impact does this research have on natural product science?

Probably not too significant by this one publication alone, unless somebody is interested in *Vitex*. However, my approach to the natural product pharmacology is less on high-throughput screening, but focuses more on activity-based pharmacology that addresses each ethnomedical claim from different angles. Each plant is going to have thousands of constituents. There will be some hits and misses in many assays if conditions are not controlled. However, if one can design pharmacological studies from different levels and even different receptor systems, and when net outcomes start to corroborate with each other, the effect becomes more reliable and worthy of additional studies. With *Vitex agnus-castus*, we have studies ranging from genetic and epigenetics, to receptor pharmacology, and in vivo studies. We can start to put pieces of this puzzle together.

Is there a notable story or interaction with Dr. Farnsworth that occurred during this work? In general, how did working together on this research help further your own work in natural products?

Let me start with my first meeting with Dr. Farnsworth. I joined the faculty of UIC College of Pharmacy in 2001, but it took almost two

Behind The Scenes: A Fruitful Collaboration



DR. NORMAN FARNSWORTH

Dr. Wang group photo in the Atkins Garden at UIC.
Front, From left: Cheng Yang, Pradeep Shukla, Yingjian Li, Lei Tang, Terry Chen, Z. Jim Wang.
Back: Jian Lu, Peter Nissan, Donna Webster, Mee-Ra Rhyu, Divya Iyer.

years before I finally talked to him. He had this “bigger than life” fame topped off with his trademark Marsh-Wheeling cigars, which can really scare a new assistant professor! One day, I was talking with Dr. Harry Fong about our opioid research and Harry immediately suggested that we should meet Norm. My first reaction was how to make an appointment. To that, Harry laughed aloud and led me straight into Norm’s office without checking with his assistant or even knocking on the door. Quickly, I learned how easily approachable this scientific giant was.

I was given a key to his office for my involvement with *Phytomedicine* and NAPRALERT. However, the key was essentially useless, as his door was almost always left unlocked. In fact, he preferred people come into his office without knocking as it would be too much distraction (and indeed a big effort walking across from his large office to answer the door). Those who did knock were often met by his answering “go away.” But even the first year graduate students quickly figured out it really meant, “come in.” For those who noticed the Chinese characters on his business card, his three-word Chinese name literally meant “sick

and tired of being bothered.” However, behind his serious look and tough critiques, he had a warm heart that was always there for everybody who came to seek support, consultation, collaboration, or a \$1 bet on any current affairs big or small. While going into his office was effortless, getting out might not be so easy, especially if the purpose was to discuss some data, manuscript, or grant applications. Norm was critical on even the best results or writing, which really made one think and work harder.

What is your lab’s motto?

I have not thought much about a motto, and it is certainly not something that we hang on the lab door. (Thinking about it, we probably should). But one thing I learned when I was a student at University of California, San Francisco, was the brave attitude of “capable of doing,” no matter how difficult the task may be. This is one teaching I hope every graduate and postdoc will carry away when they leave my laboratory. It is especially useful in dealing with natural products since they are so complicated. But if one is careful and clever, there are always some methods that we can design to study them. ■

Meet a New ASP Member

ASP continues to welcome many new members to the Society throughout the year. We are pleased to feature one of Dr. Norman Farnsworth's last graduate students at the University of Illinois, Chicago, (UIC) College of Pharmacy, Ms. Kimberly Bean. In addition to her interesting doctoral work, Ms. Bean participates in some colorful hobbies. We are grateful to her for taking time from her busy schedule to give us the opportunity to get more acquainted with her, and for sharing some of her time with Norm.

By Dr. Amy Keller



Ms. Bean eating her first lobster at the ASP Meeting in Portland, Maine, 2007.

How did you hear about the ASP?

Although I have had an interest in botanical medicine since high school, I had never heard of pharmacognosy or knew what it was until I came to interview for the program at UIC. Dr. Farnsworth took me to lunch and convinced me I had to become a "pharmacognosist". It still took me a couple years to quite understand what it was I was studying to become and have yet to learn much about what it means to be a pharmacognosist. I think it was Dr. Geoff Cordell who sponsored my first ASP conference in Portland, Maine. ASP has motivated my research ever since.

Why did you join ASP?

As Dr. Farnsworth would say "all pharmacognosy students should be members of ASP." I just finally paid my dues in honor of Dr. Farnsworth as he had insisted for the past five years! He asked me to dye my hair red and I finally did this, too.

Do you belong to any other scientific societies?

I have a membership to the American Associate for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and several nominations to honorary societies, but in general I do not like

to join organizations partially because I do not like dues (who does?), and partly out of a deep seated ideal to remain starkly independent and neutral of any political associations of which I am not actively involved. I am sure my ideals will change when I eventually join the job market.

What are your current research interests in pharmacognosy?

I am interested in standardization of botanicals, especially verification of the authenticity of raw plant materials by traditional and modern techniques. I would like to continue to develop new methods for determining the authenticity of plant extracts on a species level.

What is your scientific background?

I have a Bachelors of Science in Botany with emphasis in ethnobotany from The University of Georgia. I am a current recipient of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) and have completed five years of study toward a Ph.D.

What would you like to achieve through your membership?

I would like to gain insight from and share my perspectives with other members in the field. I aspire to be politically active with ASP once I finish my degree and through my membership continue to foster progress in pharmacognosy research.

What do you like doing in your spare time?

I dance, both ballroom and social styles, and have created my own style of dancing with hula-hoops. I recently was invited to perform on stage alongside a dj at a Chicago theater for an audience of 1,200 people. Before I became interested in botanical medicine at around 13 years old, I was a gymnast and wanted to study to be a professional circus performer. It is fun to visit this long-seated interest as a hobby, and dancing is great stress-relief.



Dr. Hong, Farnsworth, and Ms. Bean, 2009.

MS. ANGELA BEAN

What are you currently reading?

I recently inherited a small collection of Dr. Farnsworth's books, including pharmacopeias from around the world in various languages. In my spare time I read through the books paying special attention to his footnotes on plants he found of interest.

How did Norm influence your career thus far?

I first heard of Dr. Farnsworth when I was finishing high school and working full-time in an herbal pharmacy. I read his article about NAPRALERT printed in one of the books for sale on the shelf and was inspired by the man who dedicated his life to disseminating purely scientific information on botanicals. This happened to be in 1994 when the DSHEA regulations were being proposed and I recall thinking "this is going to be a big step in the right direction and I want to be involved." After completing my degree, I came to UIC to work with Dr. Farnsworth who was my thesis advisor for the last five years until his retirement on August 31st of this year. He has been the greatest mentor of my life so far, and I have much yet to learn from the lessons he shared with me.

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

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Dr. Paride Caviggioli
Magenta, Italy

Mr. Eric Goldman
Cary, North Carolina

Hak Cheol Kwom
Gangmeung, Korea

Dr. Albert Y. Leung
Woodbine, Iowa

Li Liu
Miami, Florida

Dr. Manuel Sandoval
Tingo Maria, Peru

Mr. Jack Silver
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dr. Lim Vuanghao
Ayer Tawar, Malaysia

Guofeng Xu
New York, New York

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Kimberly Dey Bean
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Jacob C. DeForest
Malibu, California

Neal C. Goebel
Corvallis, Oregon

Michael Madrid
Pocatello, Idaho

Dr. Juan Rodriguez
Lake Elsinore, California

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.

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

43rd International Symposium on Essential Oils

Lisbon, Portugal

September 5-8, 2012

www.iseo2012.fc.ul.pt/

Resveratrol 2012: 2nd International Conference of Resveratrol and Health

Lucknow, India

December 10-12, 2012

resveratrol2012.org



Brief News From Washington

By Dr. Georgia Perdue

> At the **October National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) Advisory Council Meeting**, **Dr. David Kingston** led a **Symposium on Natural Product Screening**. Highlights include that big Pharma is retreating from natural products efforts. From 1991-2008, phenotypic screening yielded a high number of drugs, a method industry does not concentrate on. Dr. Kingston also covered new bioassays for the discovery of new compounds and pointed out that Eskitis Research Institute in Brisbane, Australia directed by Dr. Ron Quinn, has a small library of pure compounds (for details, see *J. Nat. Prod.* **2008**, *71*, 464-468). NCCAM's **Dr. Craig Hopp** asked rhetorically what role natural products will play in the future and what role the government should play in funding such research; big Pharma is not interested because discoveries take too long. "It may be the perfect timing for public funding," he said. **Dr. Sheo Singh**, at Merck Research Laboratories, said that industry loves natural products but the problem is the high cost of discovery. Merck spent \$30 million per year on such research, but could not sustain such an investment and walked away from it. Some important compounds resulting from Merck's efforts include fidaxomicin, (Dificid®) originally isolated by Dr. Jim McAlpine of Abbott Labs, plantensimycin isolated from *Streptomyces platensis*, from a South African soil sample, and also found in Spain's soils. It is a "novel and completely unprecedented structure" and has activity against some drug-resistant bacteria. Another novel compound is kibdelomycin from *Kibdelosporangium* spp. found in soil samples in the forests of the Central African Republic. Several antifungals are in development. **Dr. Louis Barrows** at the University of Utah, is part of a National Cooperative Drug Discovery Group (NCDDG), and concentrated on the advances in methodology for natural product screening as well as his group's partnering with Papua New Guinea to survey its biodiversity. In the first five years of this effort, 200 species per year were collected. A database has been created to preserve Papuan traditional medicine data. Partnering with Wyeth, the group's main research focus is on tuberculosis, HIV, malaria, and cytotoxicity. One interesting plant, *Calophyllum inophyllum*, used traditionally to treat malaria, has shown activity against both malaria and HIV. Dr. Barrows' group has isolated two



other compounds which are active against malaria. **Dr. Michael Balick** at the New York Botanical Garden reviewed "Good Botanical Practices in Natural Products Research."

> On November 18 the FDA approved the orphan drug Erwinaze injection, asparaginase *Erwinia chrysanthemi*. The drug will be part of a "multi-agent chemotherapeutic treatment" of patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL), who

have developed hypersensitivity to *Escherichia coli* asparaginase and pegaspargase chemotherapeutic agents. *Erwinia*, named after Erwin Smith, a phytobacteriologist, is an Enterobacteriaceae gram negative bacteria. Erwinaze is manufactured by EUSA Pharma Inc., Langhorne, Pennsylvania.

> A clinical trial using the dietary supplement of **saw palmetto**, a "properly consistent product," showed it is no better than a placebo in improving urinary tract symptoms in men with benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH).

> **The America Invents Act** (H.R. 1249) otherwise known as patent reform, finally **passed the Senate in September and was signed by the President**. One big plus in this final legislation: the Patent and Trademark Office gets to keep the money it receives from the fees charged; Congress can no longer dip into these funds. As noted previously, this legislation is based on "first to file" rather than the "first to invent" traditional policy.

> With the President's "**Startup America Initiative**," **National Institutes of Health (NIH) will make it easier for startup companies to obtain license agreements for their new technologies, including new drugs**. The company must be less than five years old, with fewer than 50 employees and have less than \$5 million in investment. The short term exclusive "Start-Up Evaluation License Agreement" or the new "Start-Up Commercial License Agreement" will be available through NIH's Office of Technology Transfer.

> In mid-October the FDA was busy sending out many **warning notices about dietary supplements touted for losing weight**; all contain the "life-threatening" sibutramine, a prescription weight loss product already re-

continued on page 19

continued from page 18

moved from the market. These products have labels such as “Acai Berry,” or “Fruit Plant,” to emphasize their “natural” component.

➤ The **President signed an executive order** at the end of October to help deal with **drug shortages**, which include many injectable oncology drugs (see previous column). The order instructs the FDA to widen its reporting of these shortages, fast-track application reviews for appropriate drugs, and report cases of price gauging. The question being asked is “where will the resources come from?” Stay tuned.

➤ Dr. Barry Kramer is the new Director of National Cancer Institute (NCI) division of cancer prevention. Dr. Harold Varmus, NCI director, called him “one of the world’s leading experts on cancer prevention.... I am really excited about having him.”

➤ Four years in the making, **new conflict of interest regulations**, out for public comment for a year starting August 25, were presented to the September National Capital Area Branch (NCAB) by Dr. Sally Rockey, NIH Deputy Director, Extramural Research. Since NIH is promoting translational research, there will be **greater relationship between NIH supported investigators and the private sector; the new rules are aimed at enhancing these relationships**. The investigator will disclose significant financial interests to his or her institution which are in a better position to manage them. The definition of “interests” is “significant financial interest” and has been lowered from \$10,000 to \$5000. Excluded: seminars, lectures, teaching, and serving on advisory boards. Another significant, broadened change is that the investigator will disclose everything, whether related to the research or not, to the institution. Also, “financial information” will be available on the institution’s website.

➤ **NCI’s Director, Dr. Harold Varmus, is still seething over the Continuing Resolution which lasted until November.** He told the NCAB in September, “we were all taken by

surprise when we had a 1% cut.” Dr. Anthony Fauci, director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), told his Advisory Council “this is historic because it is **the first budget cut that we have received in more than 35 years.**”

➤ **The FY 2012 appropriations bill including both Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and National Science Foundation (NSF)** passed Congress and was signed by the President. (His proposed budget increases, \$234 million for FDA and \$734 for NSF, failed). FY 2012 increases include \$50 million for the FDA for a total of \$2.5 billion and \$234 million for NSF for a total of \$7 billion.

➤ Since venture capital has tightened over the last three years, NCI’s Small Business Innovation Research (**SBIR**) program has become a “primary source of funding for small businesses,” says Mr. Michael Weingarten, Director, **NCI’s SBIR Development Center**. He told the NCAB that **SBIR applications doubled since 2010**, which propelled the formation of the center with 10 broad spectrum program directors who mentor and guide applicants in writing their grants, guide the companies during their award period, and ultimately match the company with investors. Intellectual property rights are retained by the business; all applications are peer reviewed; the company must be a for profit United States business with 500 or fewer employees, and the Principal Investigator must spend at least 50% time with the business. Successful businesses can then apply for Phase II funding. **Therapeutics makes up 33% of NCI’s SBIR portfolio!**

➤ The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) will have a new director in spring, 2012: Dr. Chris Kaiser, a “leader in cell biology” is currently professor and head of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Department of Biology. ■

From the Archives

By Ms. Anna Heran

As this issue is devoted to Dr. Norman Farnsworth, it is only fitting that we feature him in "From The Archives." The best materials on Norm from the Lloyd Archives are from the Varro E. "Tip" Tyler Papers. Drs. Tyler and Farnsworth were both founding members of ASP, with Dr. Tyler serving as the first President and Dr. Farnsworth as the first Vice President.

In 1960, at the Annual Meeting, Dr. Farnsworth made a report to the Society, as both Vice President and Chairman of the Committee on Publication, on the work he undertook to partner with the Lloyd Library and Museum on editing and publishing a journal that was then known as *Lloydia*, now known as *The Journal of Natural Products*. While Dr. Tyler put forward the idea initially, Dr. Farnsworth was left to negotiate with the Lloyd to obtain editorship of *Lloydia* so that pharmacognosists would have a medium for publishing research work in the field. He and the rest of his committee travelled to Cincinnati, Ohio, inked a deal with the Library which gave the Society editorial control over the journal, and as Dr. Farnsworth told it, they celebrated by heading over to northern Kentucky to catch a burlesque show. I do not know how true that last part is, but Dr. Farnsworth was continuing to tell that story well into this century and related it to this author as recently as 2008 while in Greece for the ASP Annual Meeting.

Dr. Farnsworth became President of ASP during 1961-62 and continued to serve the Society in a number of capacities through the years, most of which can be found in the pages of the volume which came out in 2009 recounting the formation, history, and activities of the Society on its 50th Anniversary. Drs. Farnsworth and Tyler, two of the giants in pharmacognosy, also continued their association. They exchanged bits and pieces of correspondence over the years, were known to treat one another (and their spouses) to dinner when either one was visiting either West Lafayette, Indiana, or Chicago, Illinois.

And, while I think they were rather different in personality, they certainly respected the work each did, and both were committed to forwarding the cause of



The Norman R. Farnsworth
Endowed Chair in Pharmacognosy
Farnsworth Institute of Pharmacognosy
(with various orders - most there)
UIC College of Pharmacy
University of Illinois
at Chicago

VARRO E. TYLER, PH.D., SC.D.
DEAN AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR EMERITUS
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

August 6, 1999

Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth
College of Pharmacy
University of Illinois at Chicago

Fax: 312-996-7107

Dear Norm:

It was great to see you in Amsterdam and to learn of the campaign to develop a Farnsworth Institute of Pharmacognosy. You asked for a short paragraph promoting it, so here it is.

The contributions to the field of pharmacognosy by my good friend and valued colleague Norman Farnsworth are simply immense. Whether it's research, teaching, writing, editing, or compiling the literature, he has not only been involved, he has led the way in all of them. A Farnsworth Institute of Pharmacognosy is a worthy monument to Norman. It is an honor that will serve to perpetuate both the name of this outstanding academician as well as the science he has loved and served so well.

sfactory. Best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

pharmacognosy. In 1999, Dr. Farnsworth was working to develop a "Farnsworth Institute of Pharmacognosy," and he enlisted the aid of his long-time colleague, Dr. Tyler. Dr. Tyler willingly wrote a promotional piece for Dr. Farnsworth dated August 6, 1999, saying:

"The contributions to the field of Pharmacognosy by my good friend and valued colleague Norman Farnsworth are simply immense. Whether it is research, teaching, writing, editing, or compiling the literature, he has not only been involved, he has led the way in all of them. A Farnsworth Institute of Pharmacognosy is a worthy monument to Norman. It is an honor that will serve to perpetuate both the name of this outstanding academician as well as the science he has loved and served so well." ■

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.

Current membership dues and Journal of Natural Products subscription rates can be found at www.pharmacognosy.us.

Associate Membership

Associate membership is open to students of pharmacognosy and allied fields only. These members are not accorded voting privileges.

Current membership dues and Journal of Natural Products subscription rates can be found at www.pharmacognosy.us.

Emeritus Membership

Emeritus membership is open to retired members of the Society who maintained membership in the Society for at least five years.

Current membership dues and Journal of Natural Products subscription rates can be found at www.pharmacognosy.us.

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. Cassady, Oregon State University · Dr. Geoffrey A. Cordell, Natural Products, Inc.
Dr. Gordon C. Cragg, National Institutes of Health · Dr. Harry H.S. Fong, University of Illinois at Chicago
A. Douglas Kinghorn, Ohio State University
Dr. James E. Robbers, Purdue University · Yuzuru Shimizu, University of Rhode Island
Dr. David J. Slatkin, Chicago State University · Dr. E. John Staba, University of Minnesota
Dr. Otto Sticher, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology
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