



# THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHARMACOGNOSY

The ASP Newsletter Volume 47, Issue 1



**HOTEL RATES FOR 2011 ANNUAL MEETING DROP 17%, see [www.asp2011.com](http://www.asp2011.com)**

## The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of ASP in Paradise

by Drs. Bill Gerwick, Bill Fenical  
and Brad Moore

**O**n behalf of the ASP 2011 Organizing Committee, we welcome you to the Paradise Point Resort & Spa in San Diego, California, for the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the ASP from July 30-August 3, 2011! Arrangements for the Annual Meeting are in full swing. We have an amazing venue, an exceptional lineup of plenary and invited speakers, and many fun events planned.

There is a recent, exciting new development! Between negotiations with the hotel and the generosity of the ASP, we now have a substantially lowered hotel room rate. The rate is now \$239 per night for Saturday through Wednesday evenings of the conference week. This is a \$50 per night savings from our originally advertised price! Also, the hotel will offer the membership a rate of \$279 for three days prior to and after the conference. We encourage ASP attendees to take advantage of this new lower rate and make their

plans to stay at the Paradise Point Resort in order to contribute to a stimulating and enjoyable conference.

Our venue, the Paradise Point Resort, is a fantastic resort on an island in the middle of Mission Bay with several swimming pools, tropical gardens, restaurants and bars, and sporting activities, such as tennis, biking, sailing, and mini-golf. This was the location of our Annual Meeting in 1994, a very successful meeting in which many of the participants brought their en-

*continued on page 3*

### IN THIS ISSUE    SPRING 2011

#### FEATURES

The 52 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting	1
Investiture of Dr. Chun-Tao Che	4
<i>Fitoterapia</i> Dedicates Issue to Symposium	5

#### DEPARTMENTS

Editor's Corner	2
Behind the Scenes	6
New ASP Member, Dr. Kyle McQuade	7
Brief News from Washington	8

From the Archives	10
Conference Calendar	11
New Members of ASP	12

## EDITOR'S CORNER



**A**s we go to press for the Spring *ASP Newsletter*, the weather in New York is unseasonably cold. It is a good time to begin to dream of the upcoming Annual Meeting to be held in San Diego, California, from July 30-August 3, 2011, at a resort with the evocative name of Paradise Point. Our lead article on the event includes lots of information about the scientific and social programs. Early registration is available until April 15, and the abstracts deadline is May 1. I hope many members of ASP will be able to attend this conference.

In this issue we report on the investiture of Dr. Chun-Tao Che as the first Norman Farnsworth Professor of Pharmacognosy at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois. I can think of few better ways to honor the legacy of Dr. Farnsworth than welcoming Dr. Che to the University of Illinois at Chicago with this endowed professorship. Dr. Che brings a lifetime of fantastic achievements in the world of natural product research, and will be a valuable asset to UIC's College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Georgia Perdue continues her ongoing column reporting from Washington, D.C. Spring has brought several important changes in the science realm of our government, not least of which includes the announcement of NCCAM's Third Strategic Plan, and the ongoing transition to the emerging National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. Please see Dr. Perdue's column for this news and more.

Dr. Guido Pauli has contributed a wonderful editorial in the January issue of *Fitoterapia* dedicated to the symposium entitled "Developments in Botanical Dietary Supplements Research (DSHEA) from 1994 to Today," held on March 23, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois. As many of you who were in attendance remember, this event was also in honor of Dr. Norm Farnsworth's 80th birthday, and included a festive dinner filled with tales of Dr. Farnsworth's colorful life. I would encourage those interested in the status of dietary supplement research since the passage of DSHEA to peruse this issue, as many of the symposium's speakers contributed articles.

In terms of recent natural product research, we go "Behind the Scenes" with Dr. Hong-Jie Zhang and his colleagues. Dr. Zhang guides us through his team's exciting new research on fern compounds and their various bioactivity. We also welcome many new members in this issue and get to know new ASP member, cell biologist, and home brewer, Dr. Kyle McQuade in Dr. Diane Swaffar's "Meet a New Member" article. Also, Ms. Anna Heran shares what was happening in ASP in 1991.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Newsletter* as we look ahead from our cold East Coast spring season to sunny San Diego in summer. I look forward to seeing you all there.

*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](http://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](mailto:asp.newsletter@lehman.cuny.edu)

## The 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of ASP in Paradise



tire family. Without question, this is a perfect location for a week-long vacation.

The scientific sessions will explore cutting edge research by world leaders in various dimensions of the natural products sciences, entitled Plant Natural Product Genetic Engineering, Mechanism of Action of Bioactive Natural Products, Dietary Supplements/Botanicals, Natural Product Chemical Ecology, Microbial Biosynthesis, "Omic" Approaches to Natural Product Discovery, New Frontiers in Marine Natural Products, and Natural Product Synthesis.

Our plenary speakers are Dr. Phil Baran, Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, California, ASP member Dr. Veronika Butterweck, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, Dr. Craig Crews, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, Dr. Roberto Kolter, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, Dr. Julia Kubanek, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Sarah O'Connor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dr. Joern Piel, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany, and Dr. Christopher Walsh, Harvard Medical School, Harvard, Massachusetts.

We will also feature invited speaker symposia entitled, Developing Drug Leads across the "Valley of Death", The Botanical Drug Industry, Natural Products from Mexico and Central America, Small Biotechnology Company Issues, and New Methods in Natural Products Chemistry, as well as ample opportunities for contributed oral and poster presentations.

Confirmed Invited Speakers include ASP member Dr. Guy Carter, Carter-Bernan Consulting, New City, New York, Dr. Luis Cubilla, University of Panama, Panama City, Panama, ASP member Dr. Phil Crews, University of California at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California, Dr. Julian Davies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, Dr. Dean DellaPenna, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, ASP member Dr. Pieter Dorrestein, University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, California, Dr. Christian Hertweck, Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology, Jena, Germany, Dr. Neil Kelleher, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, ASP member Dr. Rachel Mata, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico, ASP member Dr. Ted Molinski, University of California at San Diego, La Jolla, California, Dr. Thomas Murray, Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska, Dr. Joseph Noel, Salk Institute, La Jolla, California, ASP member Dr. Mark O'Neil Johnson, Sequoia Sciences, St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. Hiroyuki Osada, RIKEN, Japan, Dr. Jon Rainier, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, ASP member Dr. Dave Rowley, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island, Dr. Karen Shaw, Trius Therapeutics, San Diego, California, Dr. Frank Fang,

Eisai Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan, Yi Tang, University of California at Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, ASP member Dr. Yang-Chang Wu, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan, Dr. Haruki Yamada, Kitasato Institute for Life Science, Saitama, Japan, ASP member Dr. Yu-Dong Zhou, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi, and Dr. Craig Forsyth, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

We will also offer two workshops on Saturday, July 30, 2011. The first workshop is entitled Methods, Optimal NMR Techniques and Approaches to Structure Elucidation of Natural Products and will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This workshop will be instructed by Dr. Mark O'Neil-Johnson from Sequoia Sciences, St. Louis, Missouri, and Dr. Joshua Hicks of Bruker Biospin. Coffee break and lunch are included in this event and the registration fee is \$25.

The second workshop, entitled Cell-Based Bioassays and Pharmacology of Natural Products, will be from 2 pm to 4 pm and instructed by Drs. Babu Tekwani, Shabana Khan and Narayan D Chaurasiya of the University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi. This workshop will have four modules, (1) general principles of cell-based assays (2) anticancer and cytotoxicity assays, (3) antiparasitic and antiprotozoal assays- malaria, leishmania, and trypanosomes, and (4) neuritogenesis and neuritic outgrowth assays. The registration fee is \$25. ■

### SOME KEY DATES TO NOTE

**April 15, 2011** - Last day for early registration rate.

**May 1, 2011** - Last day for abstract submission.

**June 25, 2011** - Last day for guaranteed hotel conference rate.

**July 1, 2011** - Last day for online and receipt mail-in registrations.

After this date, please plan to register onsite.

**July 30, 2011** - Onsite registration opens at Paradise Point Resort & Spa. Late registration fee in effect.

We also wish to share with the ASP community the following very welcome sponsorship support of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting: **Platinum level (\$20,000)**: Bruker Daltonics/Biospin, **Gold Level (\$15,000)**: California Sea Grant, **Silver Level (\$10,000)**: Celgene Corporation, Bristol-Myers Squibb, **Bronze Level (\$5,000)**: Sequoia Sciences.

The combination of the stunning venue along with most meals being provided, four continental breakfasts, three lunches and three dinners plus morning and afternoon refreshment breaks, as part of the registration will promote unsurpassed opportunities for networking with your friends and colleagues. Also, this is an incredible location for bringing the family to enjoy the famed San Diego weather and area attractions such as Sea World, Legoland, San Diego Zoo and area beaches.

Please check the website for more information, [www.asp2011.com](http://www.asp2011.com), and we look forward to seeing you in sunny California!

# Investiture of Dr. Chun-Tao Che, First Ever Norman R. Farnsworth Professor of Pharmacognosy

by Mr. Sam Hostettler

An investiture ceremony was held on Thursday, February 24, 2011, at the University Club of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois, to honor Dr. Chun-Tao Che as the first Norman R. Farnsworth Professor of Pharmacognosy, the first endowed professorship in the 150-year history of the College of Pharmacy of University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois (UIC). Dr. Che is considered one of the top pharmacognosy researchers in the world, especially in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Approximately 75 guests assembled for an exciting night of dinner and speeches. In addition to Dr. Che, Dr. Farnsworth himself spoke, as well as Dr. Jerry Bauman, Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, Dr. Steve Swanson, Acting Dean of the College of Pharmacy, and Dr. Judy Bolton, Head of the Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, UIC.

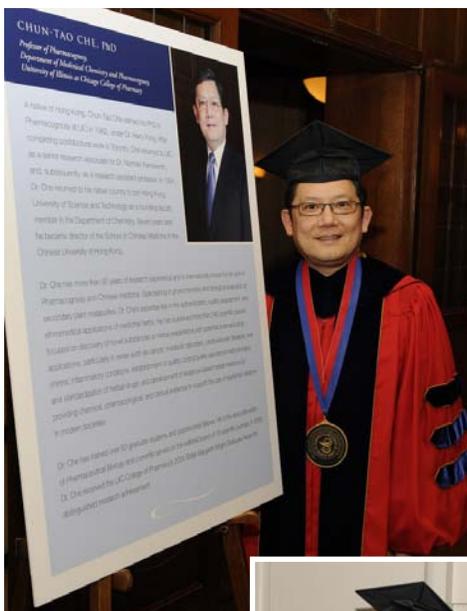
"This is the most significant highlight of my career, and I am privileged to be the first person awarded this prestigious position," Dr. Che said. "There's no doubt in my mind Dr. Farnsworth is the most prominent pharmacognosist of our time. This award honors the career and accomplishments of Dr. Farnsworth as a noted scientist, a caring educator and a visionary pioneer in modern pharmacognosy."

Dr. Che will initially concentrate on his research at UIC, starting a group which he hopes will complement the existing vibrant pharmacognosy team that currently exists in the department of medicinal chemistry and pharmacognosy. He will begin teaching at least one pharmacognosy graduate course next year, and lend his expertise to the Botanical Center.

"As a former UIC student, I am profoundly grateful for the education and training I received, and I feel highly honored to be a member of the pharmacognosy faculty at my alma mater. This new title will keep reminding me of the storied history of UIC's department of pharmacognosy."

To date, research has shown that medicinal herbs do contain many therapeutically active compounds, and that further studies are warranted to make use of those pharmaceutically active substances, according to Dr. Che. "I believe there is a place for traditional medicine in modern science," Dr. Che said. "For thousands of years, people lived with the help of traditional medicines before so-called Western medicine came to be. So there must be good basis for the use of those medicinal herbs."

"There are more than 300,000 plants on earth, and few have been thoroughly researched," said Dr. Farnsworth, Professor of Pharmacognosy and Director of the UIC National Institutes of



Health Center for Botanical and dietary Supplements Research, also known as the UIC Botanical Center. With the rising popularity of botanicals, research needs to be conducted to learn about their safety.

Throughout his more than 40 years at UIC, Dr. Farnsworth has helped build one of the best pharmacognosy programs in the country, and "the endowed professorship is a way to honor Dr. Farnsworth," said Dr. Bauman.

"Through the years, Norm's contributions brought recognition to our College. You could say he put us on the map in a number of ways," according to Dr. Bauman.

"This endowed professorship cements the legacy of Norm and pharmacognosy in our college. We are incredibly happy that such an outstanding scholar such as Dr. Che has rejoined our faculty."

Dr. Che said he is not only excited about his new UIC position, but the field of pharmacognosy and medicinal chemistry. "I believe pharmacognosy experiences its ups and downs as an academic field, but in terms of its importance in pharmaceutical development, I believe that it provides a very good source for discovering new compounds," he said. ■



MS. KATHRYN MARCHETTI

Above, Dr. Che, beside his announcement, Drs. Norman R. Farnsworth and Chun-Tao Che, and the Invitations from the grand event.

# Fitoterapia Dedicates Issue to Farnsworth Symposium

by Drs. Guido Pauli and Amy Keller

In January of this year, *Fitoterapia* featured the symposium entitled “Developments in Botanical Dietary Supplements Research from 1994 to Today,” held on March 23, 2010, in Chicago, Illinois, in a dedicated issue. The first issue of *Fitoterapia*’s 82<sup>nd</sup> volume included a descriptive editorial by ASP member Dr. Guido Pauli, and articles by many of the speakers at the symposium addressing regulation, synergy, and research of dietary supplements, among other topics. The symposium focused on the Dietary Supplements Health and Education Act (DSHEA) and also celebrated ASP founding member Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The United States Congress enacted DSHEA in 1994, which reflected the strong response from the public to then-proposed regulations that would have constrained ready access to certain dietary supplements. Since then, DSHEA has sparked a whole new development in the natural products health market and can be considered a milestone in the development of Public Health policy in the United States.

Dr. Farnsworth has been both a member of the Commission charged by President Bill Clinton in 1994 to develop DSHEA, and one of the most prolific and eminent contributors to the health sciences relating to plant products developed for human health. The 2010 symposium was designed to cover many shades of gray, focusing on the many possible applications of plants to human health, while embracing a broad number of scientific disciplines.

Symposium speakers Drs. Annette Dickinson, Paul Coates, Shaw Chen, Catherine Meyers, David Eisenberg, Hildebert Wagner, Richard van Breemen, Joseph Betz, Samuel Possemiers, A. Douglas Kinghorn, Josh Berman, Joanna Burdette, William Marks, and Lee Shulman all contributed articles to the honorary issue.

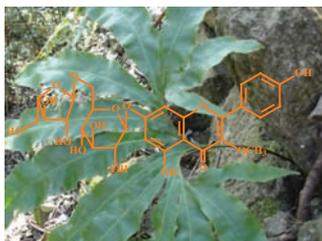
The recent issue of *Fitoterapia* is a fitting tribute to progress in dietary supplement research since the enactment of DSHEA, and to the legendary achievements of Dr. Farnsworth. ■



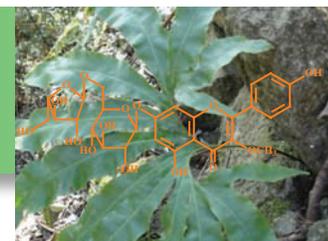
Left: Mrs. Priscilla Farnsworth and Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth. Below: Dr. Harry H. S. Fong with Dr. David Eisenberg (background). Lower: Dr. Hildebert Wagner.



DR. GUIDO PAULI



# Behind The Scenes: Unfurling The Mystery of Ferns



by Dr. Amy Keller

Early this year, the *Journal of Natural Products* published an article from ASP member Dr. Hong-Jie Zhang and his colleagues entitled, "Bioactive Compounds from the Fern *Lepisorus contortus*." The Newsletter interviewed Dr. Zhang about this exciting research; he graciously gave us insight into the world of fern natural compounds. Please read the full article in the *Journal of Natural Products*, 2011, 74, 129-136.

## How did you become interested in ferns and their phytochemicals?

Ferns are a group of plants without flowers and seeds. About 12,000 species of them have been identified in the world, and still many remain to be discovered. Ferns are most known as ornamental plants, but they have also been used as food, forage, fertilizer and medicine. Phytochemical study of ferns dates back to 19th century. Small molecule natural compounds such as terpenes, alkaloids, phenolic compounds, and amino acids have been reported from ferns. Huperzine A, a sesquiterpene alkaloid isolated from the fern *Huperzia serrata*, is currently sold as a dietary supplement as an acetylcholinesterase inhibitor to enhance memory. It is also in phase III clinical trials in China for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. However, in comparison with seed plants, far fewer ferns have been chemically and biologically studied. Thus, considering the rich number of species, ferns may provide an additional arena for discovery of novel natural compounds.

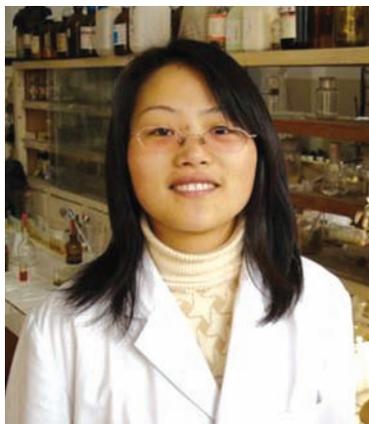
## Who in your laboratory carried out the research?

We have developed an international collaboration among several United States and Chinese universities including University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, Hawai'i, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, Yunnan Normal University, Kunming, China, Yunnan University, Kunming, China, and Guiyang College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Guiyang, China.

## 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?

We have collected several hundreds of different species of fern plants, and have already evaluated more than 100 of the fern extracts for their anticancer, cancer chemopreventive, and anti-tuberculosis potentials through an



international collaboration. From one of the fern plant, *Lepisorus contortus*, we have identified 19 compounds including five new ones. Of particular interest, we discovered kaempferol/quercetin glycosides as potent quinone reductase 2 (QR-2) inhibitors.

## What impact does this research have on natural product science?

Ferns are a group of diversified plants with more than 12,000 species currently identified. A majority of them have not yet been investigated for their chemical contents. Our study, a combination of chemistry and biology, has successfully identified the biologically active compounds, especially the QR-2 inhibitors from two ferns through an international collaboration. Further study is currently being carried out in Purdue University for determination of the binding site of the kaempferol/quercetin glycoside compounds with QR-2 enzyme through high-resolution X-ray structures.

## What is a favorite nonscientific activity of your lab?

It is our great pleasure to have a tea break and chat with our Chinese visiting scholars, who always bring different types of high qualities of fresh Chinese tea.

## What is your lab's motto?

Seek and you will find.

## What is your greatest extravagance in the lab?

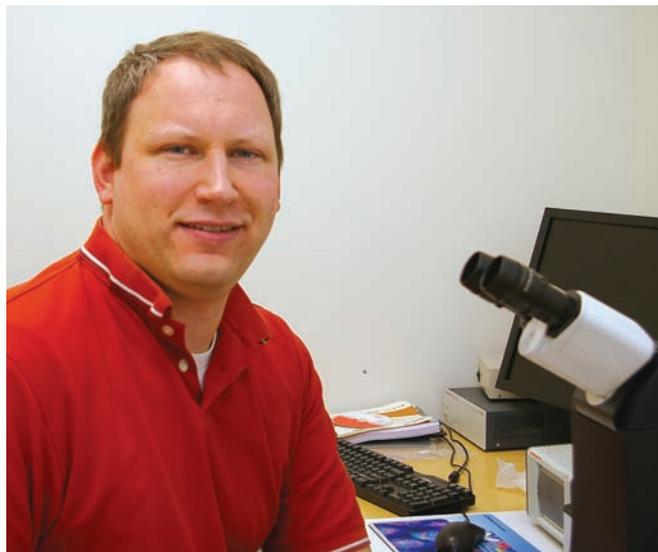
While collaborating with Chinese Universities, it is delightful to do field collection with our Chinese collaborators, and the local foods are great. ■

Banner: *Lepisorus contortus* (Polypodiaceae).  
Top to bottom: Dr. Jianhong Yang, Dr. Yegao Chen, and Dr. Hongjie Zhang.

# New ASP Member, Dr. Kyle McQuade

by Dr. Diane S. Swaffar

ASP is pleased to welcome several new members to the Society this year. One of our first newest members for 2011 is Dr. Kyle McQuade. He is Assistant Professor of Biology at Mesa State College in Grand Junction, Colorado. We are grateful to him for giving us the opportunity to get more acquainted with him.



DR. AMANDA FORD MCQUADE.

Dr. McQuade monitoring aggregation of *Dictyostelium amoebae* in the presence of plant polyketides.

## How did you hear about the ASP?

I am new to the field of natural products. A search for background information led me to the ASP website.

## Why did you join ASP?

I am interested in learning more about the field and establishing collaborations with investigators who share similar interests.

## And what are those interests?

I am a cell biologist with interests in drug discovery. I am currently using my favorite model organism, the social amoeba (or cellular slime mold) *Dictyostelium discoideum*, to characterize the activities of natural products.

## What is your scientific background?

I earned a B.S. degree in Biology and Chemistry from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois. I was fortunate to participate

in summer research programs at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which solidified my interest in cell biology. I completed a Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Biology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. I worked with Dr. Alan Rapraeger there, studying signaling via the syndecan family of extracellular matrix receptors. I then did post-doctoral work in Dr. Ted Cox's laboratory at Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, where I became interested in the regulation of small monomeric GTPases and in the remarkable life cycle of the social amoebae.

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

I hope to learn a lot more about natural products science and to meet folks with similar interests in drug discovery.

## What other scientific societies do you belong to?

My memberships seem to always be in flux. I have been a member of the American Society of Cell Biology, Sigma Xi, The Council on Undergraduate Research, The Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Science, and the American Chemical Society.

## What do you like doing in your spare time?

I like sports, especially baseball. I also enjoy cycling, homebrewing, music, and spending time with my family. I would like to find more time to explore Colorado and other parts of the western United States.

## What are you currently reading?

I am reading *The Self-Made Tapestry: Pattern Formation in Nature* by Philip Ball. I am also taking a look at *Evolutionary Developmental Biology* by David Epel and Scott F. Gilbert.

## What is your favorite movie(s)?

My favorite movies are *The Godfather Part II*, *High Plains Drifter*, *Airplane!*, *Breaking Away*, and *Cool Hand Luke*. ■

# Brief News From Washington



by Dr. Georgia Perdue

➤ **The Third Strategic Plan (2011-2015) of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) has been released.** It is available at [www.nccam.nih.gov](http://www.nccam.nih.gov). It is

very heartening to see pharmacognosy mentioned a few times. Brief highlights include:

- **“...Clinical research opportunities and needs:”** “Studying the molecular targets and biological effects of potentially beneficial small molecules that are constituents of natural products or diet... Developing evidence regarding the safety profile of certain widely used natural products, including interactions with drugs and other herbals or dietary supplements.”
- **Strategic Objective 2** - “Advance research on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) natural products.”
- Although CAM natural products (dietary supplements, herbal or botanical products, traditional medicine formulations, folk medicines, homeopathic remedies, and probiotics and food-based phytochemicals) are readily available to consumers, “rigorous evidence regarding usefulness and safety of many does not exist.... Targeted development and large clinical trials will be warranted when the basic and translational research allows testing of evidence-based hypotheses. For most natural products, better understanding of safety and interaction with drugs or other natural products is needed.”
- “The primary scientific challenge in studying CAM natural products is bringing the available and emerging tools, technologies [etc.] of the sciences of pharmacology and **pharmacognosy** to bear....”
- NCCAM’s investment in large clinical trials of CAM natural products should be highly selective and only made when there is ample scientific and public health justification.”
- A January report from the NIH office of dietary supplements reports that 20% of adults take a dietary supplement with at least one botanical ingredient.
- The **President’s FY 2012 budget** proposes increases of 2.4% for National Institutes of Health (NIH), 13% for the National Science Foundation (NSF), and 33% for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Republicans have other ideas. “Not tremendously exciting in NCI’s history,” said NCI Director Dr. Harold Varmus to his Board of

Scientific Advisors on March 1. **“The NIH budget should be sacrosanct,”** he added. “Tell Congress NIH is not spending money profligately.” The belief is that the 2011 budget will be a series of Continuing Resolutions. Stay tuned.

➤ In mid-February United States Agency for International Development (USAID) administrator, **Dr. Rajiv Shah** gave the David E. Barnes Lecture on **Global Health** at NIH, part of the Administration’s Global Health Initiative (for details on Dr. Barnes see [www.nih.gov](http://www.nih.gov)). NIH Director Francis Collins called it a “signal moment in NIH,” “a first, to have the USAID administrator speak at NIH,” even though he was delayed by a fire near his office in the Reagan Building in Washington. Some of Dr. Shah’s salient points were “our real opportunity rests in harnessing the true power of invention – scientific, technological and a behavioral – on behalf of the developing world,” and “we need to focus our efforts on facilitating a continuum of invention from bench to bush,” which he said will not be easy because politics prioritize what they can do. “Sometimes it takes two to four decades for those in the developing world to benefit from the same technologies that we take for granted.” He believes that by 2016, among the great goals that will be achieved, will be averting 700,000 malaria deaths and curing 2.5 million people infected with tuberculosis. Dr. Shah also noted that vaccines could save the lives of over “four million children over the next five years. The global health community is now poised to remove malaria as a public health problem in sub-Saharan Africa, saving 500,000 lives annually. This will involve greater distribution of long lasting insecticide treated nets, expanding the provision of **artemisinin-based combination therapies ... lowering the costs of artemisinin, perhaps by breeding higher yielding plant varieties or by making it synthetically**, each of which have shown promise.” Developing new classes of insecticides are an important effort and the “ultimate answer,” is an effective vaccine for malaria. Budget constraints on all the programs discussed, which also include HIV-AIDS, are causing great concerns.

➤ **Artesunate suppositories** are given to children in Africa with severe malaria, which provides great help, according to a study funded by the Fogarty International Center.

➤ Congress has extended the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs through May 31; they were slated to expire the end of January.

➤ The “old” cancer drug, **etoposide**, isolated from *Podophyllum peltatum*, is being studied to treat many types of cancer. Presently it is used in combination to treat small cell lung cancer, and testicular cancer.

➤ An NCCAM report shows that cranberry juice has no affect in preventing recurring urinary tract infections.

*continued on page 9*

*continued from page 8*

- The Food and Drug Administration has approved a generic form of topotecan, a camptothecin derivative isolated from *Camptotheca acuminata*.
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIH) will award four new five-year contracts for clinical trials on **antimicrobial resistance**. It is hoped these contracts will help researchers understand how to better use antibiotics as well as facilitate new-drug development.
- At the February National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) meeting, NCI Director, Dr. Harold Varmus, noted that in these tight budgetary times he intends to **protect three things: the number of new grants (last year there were 1,250 new awards), cancer genomics, and the “absolute need to overhaul the clinical trials system.”** He also said there are three areas in which he is “unabashedly looking... to make **some reductions: cancer center awards, contracts, (some which can be eliminated or reduced), and some noncompetitive awards. Money saved from these areas and can go toward funding new grants.** Dr. Varmus also spoke about the new Bypass Budget submitted directly to the President, an authority given to NCI by the National Cancer Act of 1971. He described it as “an opportunity to advertise what we have done. It is a better organ of advocacy for NCI.”(NCAB members expressed the desire to write letters or contact key people on the Hill which Dr. Varmus encouraged). “Our strategy this year [is] to show our best face... and express the enthusiasm the scientific community has for this work...” The publication highlights six cancers: melanoma, glioblastoma, ovarian, lung, neuroblastoma and myeloid leukemia. Also included is a 15% budget increase request!
- At the NCAB meeting, Dr. Varmus also discussed the **National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)**, which will include the **RAID program**, (see December column). He emphasized that it is **not intended to be an NIH drug company**, as misreported in the lay press. In addition to an internal oversight committee there will also be members of academia, biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries participating.
- **The National Center for Research Resources will disappear.** The programs will be spread around other NIH institutes, especially the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, and their officers will remain with them. Some will probably find their home in National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS). Stay tuned.
- Dr. Varmus also told the NCAB about his new endeavor to communicate with the outside world called **Provocative Questions**, which is on the NCI home page, [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov). The idea is to engage the scientific community in a dialogue. In a February session questions posed included the use of **aspirin to provide some protection against colon cancer** and protective cancer **value of statins** and other **anti hypertensive drugs** .
- Because **jobs are scarce in biomedical research and academia** people are going into management, industry and nonprofits, said Dr. Varmus at the NCAB.
- Dr. Peter Greenwald, longtime Director of the Division of Cancer Prevention, is now Associate Director for Prevention in the NCI director’s office. A search is on to fill Dr. Greenwald’s previous position.
- **Funding of NCI grants:** all applications that have priority scores of seven or better will be funded; applications in the 7 to 15 percentile will be funded in rank order. Priority scores and reviewers’ comments and program staff evaluations will still count greatly, said Dr. Varmus at the NCAB meeting. ■

## Looking Back

by Ms. Anna Heran

The year 1991 does not seem so long ago, but what was happening in the ASP community 20 years ago? What was front-page news for ASP back then? In looking through the *ASP Newsletter* from spring of 1991, there were actually many notable things going on. The ASP Foundation formed that year, and sadly, it was the year Dr. Jonathan L. Hartwell, the man responsible for starting the research programs for natural products at the National Cancer Institute, passed away. In brighter news, Dr. S. William Pelletier received the ASP Research Achievement Award that year for a lifetime's work in chemical pharmacology, including serving as director of the Institute of Natural Products Research from 1976-2000.

Dr. Hartwell's works are still relevant, if requests at the Lloyd Library are any indicator. Also, Dr. Pelletier passed away in 2004 having left behind a formidable body of work on alkaloids and other chemical compounds. The fantastic news is that the ASP Foundation is still going strong, continuing to provide awards, travel funds, and more for ASP members.

That was the front page, but what about the back page? Did you know that in 1991, it only cost \$45 to be a full member of ASP? That same year, our Treasurer, Dr. David J. Slatkin, was appointed Dean of the newly formed Chicago College of Pharmacy. Since then, he has moved onto other leadership roles, most recently as Founding Dean and now Dean Emeri-

### ASP NEWSLETTER



Volume 27, Number 2

Spring, 1991



**JONATHAN L. HARTWELL  
1906-1991**

We are saddened to report the death from pneumonia of Jonathan Hartwell in Bethesda, Maryland on March 22, 1991. He was personally responsible for the initiation and early development of the research programs for natural products at the National Cancer Institute and gave impetus to the creation of a systematic search for plants and marine animals with anticancer activity which has been ongoing for over 30 years. His influence in organizing the natural products research programs at the NCI led to the initial and continuing funding of major research groups around the United States including those of pioneers such as Jack Cole, Norman Farnsworth, S. Morris Kupchan, G. Robert Pettit, and Monroe Wall. The discovery and development of a wide variety of structurally and mechanistically diverse compounds by these investigators have provided invaluable tools for many researchers in biochemistry, molecular pharmacology, and medicinal chemistry. The impact

Continued on Page 2, Column 1

#### ASP FOUNDATION FORMS

Effective as of January 1, 1991, the American Society of Pharmacognosy Foundation is operational. The aims of the foundation are to support research and education in natural products. In particular, it is the intent of the Foundation to be able to sponsor the current A.S.P. Awards program, the travel grants, symposia at annual meetings, and to add additional programs to encourage and support student and faculty research and training in natural products, pharmacognosy, and related areas.

A key initial objective is to establish an endowment that will enable the Foundation to carry on its good works in perpetuity. The Foundation has been established as a non-profit organization for purposes of education, and donations are tax deductible. Donations to the Foundation are welcome as individual contributions or as long term gifts, such as trusts, living wills, gifts of income property, etc.

In addition to considering donations to the A.S.P. Foundation yourselves, it would be very helpful to make colleagues who may not receive the Newsletter aware of the Foundation and, particularly for those in industry, please consider apprising your top management of the Foundation. The efforts of the Foundation to improve and expand research and training in natural products will be a major factor in the future availability of well trained and highly qualified scientists which industry needs.



**PELLETIER TO RECEIVE RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

The 1991 recipient of the ASP Research Achievement is S. William Pelletier. Dr. Pelletier was born on July 3, 1924 in Kankakee, Illinois. He is married to the former Leona Jane Bledsoe and the couple has six children.

Dr. Pelletier received his B.S. in Chemical Engineering in June of 1947 from the University of Illinois, graduating Summa Cum Laude. Bill did his graduate work at Cornell University, receiving his Ph.D. in September of 1950 with an Organic Chemistry major and minors in Chemical Engineering and Inorganic Chemistry.

Dr. Pelletier began his professional career as an instructor of Organic Chemistry at the University of Illinois from 1950 to 1951. He then moved on to The Rockefeller University in New York where he started as a Research Assistant in the Department of Chemical Pharmacology, then moved through the ranks to the position of Associate

Continued on Page 4, Column 3

tus of the Chicago State University College of Pharmacy.

The ASP Archives provides a window into the careers and histories of many important members of the pharmacognosy community. If you ever want to gather information on either current or past leaders in the field, then we welcome you to visit the ASP Archives and other valuable collections housed at the Lloyd Library and Museum, in Cincinnati, Ohio. ■

# 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](http://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](mailto:asp.newsletter@lehman.cuny.edu).

## **NatPharma: Nature Aided Drug Discovery**

Napoli, Italy  
June 5-9, 2011

[www.nadd2011.org](http://www.nadd2011.org)

## **The 7<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Marine Natural Products**

Stromstad, Swedish West Coast  
August 14-18, 2011

[www.fkog.uu.se/7ecmnp/](http://www.fkog.uu.se/7ecmnp/)

## **Economic Botany 2011**

St. Louis, Missouri  
July 9-13, 2011

[www.econbot.org](http://www.econbot.org)



## **59<sup>th</sup> International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)**

Antalya, Turkey  
September 4-9, 2011

[www.ga201.org](http://www.ga201.org)

## **52<sup>nd</sup> ASP Annual Meeting**

Paradise Point Resort, San Diego, California  
July 30-August 3, 2011

[www.pharmacognosy.us](http://www.pharmacognosy.us)

## **The International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies (Pacifichem 2011)**

Kohala Coast, Hawai'i  
December 10-14, 2011

[www.pacifichem.org](http://www.pacifichem.org)

## **International Congress on Natural Products Research 2012**

New York, New York  
July 28-August 1, 2012

[www.pharmacognosy.us](http://www.pharmacognosy.us)

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

## ACTIVE MEMBERS

Dr. Chandima Abeywickrama  
Hoboken, New Jersey

Dr. Ratnakar N. Asolkar  
Davis, California

Dr. Leticia Veras  
Costa-Lotufo Fortaleza,  
Brazil

Dr. Krishna P. Devkota  
Frederick, Maryland

Dr. Lin Du  
Oxford, Mississippi

Robert A. Fecik  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dr. Mabel Fragoso  
Mexico City, Mexico

Dr. Renaud Jacquemart  
Saint-Eustache, Quebec,  
Canada

Dr. Jeremy J. Johnson  
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Farooq Kazi  
Miami, Florida

Mr. Daniel C. Leep  
Libertyville, Illinois

Kyle McQuade  
Grand Junction, Colorado

Dr. Fabricio Medina-Bolivar  
Jonesboro, Arkansas

Dr. John Neustadt  
Bozeman, Montana

Dr. Dong-Chan Oh  
Seoul, South Korea

Dr. Steve Pieczenik  
Bozeman, Montana

Dr. Wendy Lynne Popplewell  
Frederick, Maryland

Dr. Barbara C. Potts  
San Diego, California

Dr. Emily L. Whitson  
Frederick, Maryland

Dr. Weng Ruh Wong  
Santa Cruz, California

Dr. Huaping Zhang  
Lawrence, Kansas

## ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr. Navid Adnani  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dr. Mohamed A. Albadry  
Cairo, Egypt

Gabriel Navarro  
Watsonville, California

Christopher James Schulze  
Santa Cruz, California

Thomas P. Wyche  
Madison, Wisconsin

Feifei Zhang  
Atlanta, Georgia

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](http://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](http://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](http://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. Norman R. Farnsworth, University of Illinois at Chicago  
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](mailto:asphcog@aol.com)