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# NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHARMACOGNOSY - EDITED BY RALPH N. BLOMSTER  
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY, UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

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1976 Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting of American Society of Pharmacognosy will be held July 11-16, 1976 at Mt. Telemark Lodge, Cable, Wisconsin. This year the symposium is entitled "Naturally Occurring Antitumor Agents Of Clinical Interest". Further details or suggestions, please contact Dr. Gordon Svoboda, Eli Lilly Company, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206, Local Program; Dr. John M. Cassady, School of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Ind. 47907. Scientific Program and Dr. Carlton E. Turner, Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi 38677 Publicity Chairman.

Membership: The American Society of Pharmacognosy, as with any scientific or professional group is only as viable as its members make it. A large committed, enthusiastic and vocal membership makes any organization a strong and responsive group. The officers, of such organizations, find it much easier to elicit responses from the membership to serve on committees and work for the organization. Conversely the officers tend to be more responsive to the membership and feel that they are not working for only a small unresponsive, uncaring group or in a vacuum. This Society has had and currently, has the good fortune to have a dedicated group of hardworking officers. These people would like input from the membership and also a show or response to the needs for the Society to increase in numbers. This increase in numbers is motivated by the needs of the Society to remain viable, and one way to be viable is to grow. Secondly this Society does not include among membership all those who labor in the vineyards of natural products. Therefore, the President and the membership committee would like to remind you that you should be proselytizing - that new members should be recruited personally. Some suggestions that might help promote the biological sciences in general and pharmacognosy in particular at your institutions:

1. After you have read Lloydia, circulate it among colleagues at your respective institution. This will expose them to many of the diverse activities of our worldwide membership.
2. After you have read the NEWSLETTER, circulate it also.

The membership committee would like to continue receiving, from members, the names of persons who may be interested in joining the Society. They will contact them directly with suitable literature. Names and suggestions should be sent to Dr. George Constantine, School of Pharmacy, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331.

Dese, Dems, Does, and Deans: Two members of the Society have recently risen to the rarified and stratified atmosphere of academic Deanship. Dr. Ara G. Paul has accepted the position of Dean of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Dr. Philip Catalfomo has accepted the position of Dean of the School of Pharmacy, at the University of Montana, Missoula, Montana. Two quotations spring to mind; "Be still sad heart, and cease repining, Behind the clouds the sun is shining; thy fate is the common fate of all; into each life some rain must fall, some days must be dark and dreary". Longfellow: and "God brings men into deep waters, not to drown them, but to cleanse them". Aughey.

Crude Drug Accession: Past issues have mentioned the problem that many of the membership have had in obtaining small quantities of crude drugs. Dr. Melvin Gibson, Washington State University has found two methods for overcoming the problem. Many of the products that are difficult to obtain are used in the spice trade and spice packages in one's area are sometimes willing to sell small quantities as a service. A Belgian company is very cooperative in finding and selling drugs in the crude state. A. Longeval, 7870 Deux-Auren, Belgium is the company and one should be sure that he makes it very clear when requesting price quotations that it is a request for a quotation and not an order.

Necrology: It is with a profound sense of loss that we must bring to the attention of the Society the notice of the passing of two members.

Dr. Frank J. Slama who died in May, 1975 at the age of 73. He had retired in 1970 after 45 years on the faculty of the University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy and as chairman of the department of pharmacognosy.

Universitäts professor Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Ludwig Hörhammer, Direktor des Universität München, who died in September 1975 at the age of 69, a few days before his retirement after 45 years of teaching and research.

Tape Available: A tape of the presentation by Dr. Albert Hofman entitled "Discovery of LSD", which he delivered at the 16th annual meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy, held at Storrs, Conn., this past summer is available from Dr. Joseph Schradie. Cost of the tape is \$1.65 (to cover handling and mailing). It may be procured by writing Dr. Joseph Schradie, Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy, University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio 43606.

Personal: Dr. William J. Keller was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Natural Medicinal Products (Pharmacognosy) at Northeast Louisiana University School of Pharmacy and Pharmacognosy at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy. Dr. Jonathan L. Hartwell has retired from government service March 1, 1975. He is still active and has been carrying on similar work in his field of interest under contract or consultation since then. Dr. Michael G. Missakian has joined the staff of the University of Rhode Island School of Pharmacy as Assistant Professor of Pharmacognosy to replace Dr. Ralph L. Lyon who has resigned this position to become a student at the Chicago College of Osteopathy. Further changes at the University of Rhode Is. include the appointment of Dr. Lawrence Buckley as Research Associate.

Dr. Robert J. Krueger, a recent graduate of the University of Iowa, has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Pharmacognosy at the School of Pharmacy, Ferris State College. Dr. Alvin B. Segelman, Rutgers University, was the recipient of the first Annual Attilio R. Granito Lectureship Award. His presentation was entitled "Marijuana - Past, Present and Future." Dr. David Perlman has been appointed, by the President of the American Society for Microbiology, chairman of the organizing committee for the Third International Symposium on Genetics of Industrial Microorganisms. The symposium is to be held June 5-9, 1978 in Madison, Wisconsin. Dr. D. H. Rich, also of the University of Wisconsin, School of Pharmacy, has been promoted to Associate Professor and appointed Assistant Dean for graduate studies at the School of Pharmacy. Dr. David Perlman has edited volume 19 of Advances in Applied Microbiology. Dr. Tony Swain, director of the Biochemical Laboratory of the Royal Botanic gardens, Kew, England, has accepted chairmanship of the Department of Biology, Boston University. Mr. Robert Bye, Harvard Botanical Museum, who has spent two years among the Tarahumara of Mexico, is presently studying the narcotic plants of these Indians.

Grants - Dr. Lawrence Hurley, University of Kentucky, has received a grant of \$84,445 from the National Cancer Institute to study the biosynthesis and mode of action of antitumor antibiotics. This grant is in conjunction with Dr. C. J. Chang, Purdue University. He is also the recipient of a second grant, in the amount of \$13,664, from the tobacco and Health Institute to study the Biotransformations of Benzopyrenes. Dr. William J. Keller, Northeast Louisiana University, has been awarded a \$5000 research grant, by the department of Health, Education and Welfare to study Sophora secundiflora seeds as drugs of abuse. Dr. Jack L. Beal, Ohio State University, has received a \$35,000 N.I.H. two-year grant to continue his phytochemical studies of the genus Thalictrum; a \$45,700 N.I.H. two year grant to study the antimicrobial principles of Porophyllum lanceolatum; and with Dr. Raymond Doskotch a \$103,600 N.I.H. three year grant to continue their studies of plant constituents of potential therapeutic value. Drs. Paul L. Schiff, David J. Slatkin and Joseph E. Knapp, University of Pittsburgh have received a grant in the amount of \$9,705 from the Health Research Services Foundation: Dr. George R. Waller, Oklahoma State University, is the recipient of a one year grant of \$31,100 for "applications of Mass Spectrometry in Biochemical Research". Dr. Alvin B. Segelman, Rutgers University, is funded with a grant of \$22,513 from the U.S. Public Health Service, NIDA, to support his continuing work on marijuana. Dr. Huo-Hsiung Lee, University of North Carolina is the recipient of grants in the amount of \$29,796 and \$25,450 from the National Cancer Institute for a continuing project entitled "Studies in Medicinal Chemistry - Antitumor Agents" and "Investigation of Plant Antitumor Agents". He also received an \$80,492 grant from the American Cancer Society to study the isolation and mode of action of antitumor agents. The Research Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Mississippi has received an addendum of \$50,000 to their National Institute on Drug Abuse Contract. This is to initiate a Potency Monitoring Program of Cannabis in the illicit market. Dr. David Perlman, University of Wisconsin, is to be supported with \$38,739 from the National Cancer Institute for research on "Microbial Metabolites as Inhibitors of Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> Binding"; \$13,000 from Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. to study "Aerated Fermentations";

\$10,500 from Hoffman - LaRoche Inc. for studies on "Enzymatic Oxidations" and \$6000 from Unitika Ltd., of Japan, to study microbial metabolites. Dr. D. H. Rich, from the University of Wisconsin, has received \$59,463 from the National Institutes of Health studies on Tentoxin and \$7,678 from the Wisconsin Heart Association for the Synthesis of Pepstatin analogues.

Books - The following books have been suggested to the editor, by members of the Society, as worthy to be called to the attention of the membership: The Vinca Alkaloids - Botany, Chemistry and Pharmacology edited by William I. Taylor and Norman R. Farnsworth (Marcel Dekker, Inc. 1973, \$35.75); The Catharanthus Alkaloids, edited by William I. Taylor and Norman R. Farnsworth (Marcel Dekker, Inc. N.Y. 1975 \$29.50); Systematik des Pflanzenreiches by D. Frohne and M. Jensen (G. Fisher, Stuttgart, 1973); The Practical Evaluation of Phytopharmaceuticals by K. R. Brain and T. D. Turner (Wright-Scientechmia, Bristol, England, 1975, \$5.50); Chemotaxonomy of Flowering Plants, vols. by R. Darnley Gibbs, (McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal, 1974 \$135.00); Handbook of Naturally - Occurring Compounds edited by T. K. Devin and A. I. Scott (Academic Press); Vol. I Acetogenins, Shikimates and Carbohydrates (\$32.00); Vol II. Terpenes (\$27.00); Wildflowers of the Southeastern United States by Wilbur Duncan and Leonard Foote (University of Georgia Press, Athens, Ga., 1975, \$12.00); Plant Studies in the Peoples Republic of China: A Trip Report of the American Plant Studies Delegation by the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the Peoples Republic of China (National Academy of Sciences, Washington, 1975, \$7.25 paperbound).

The Editor would like to start a new section within the Newsletter entitled Letters to the Editor. This section would be devoted to the membership to allow them to editorialize. There are many things which some of us would like to get off our chest or would simply like to state, in order to generate discussion among fellow scientists. These might run from the mundane to the ridiculous but if they generate discussion, diversion or diversioness they will be published either in toto or with minor revision to allow brevity, clarity and to prevent libel and scurrilous and vitriolic personal attack (unless justified).

Pot Pourri - A short course in Industrial Fermentation will be provided by the Extension Services in Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin at Madison during March 22-26, 1976. The program will focus on principles of new fermentation methods introduced into commercial practice in the past 10 years. Contact Dr. M. H. Weinswig, Extension Services in Pharmacy, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 53706 for further information.

The symposium on Plants and Cancer given at the annual meeting of the Society of Economic Botany in Baltimore during June, 1975 is to be published in Cancer Chemotherapy Reports sometime early in 1976.