

# ASP Newsletter

The American Society of Pharmacognosy

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 1

JULY, 1983

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the all new ASP Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to fill the gap between scientific meetings with news and information concerning the society. There will be two issues for volume 19, and three issues per year thereafter.

This newsletter will be more successful with your contributions. These contributions can be any information which may be of interest to your colleagues, including letters to the editor, selected editorials, meeting reports, future meeting information, new appointments, promotions, grants received, grants available, new equipment information, obituaries, books of interest, and position openings. This material should be sent to:

Dr. Joy B. Reighard, Editor  
ASP Newsletter  
Temple University School of Pharmacy  
3307 N. Broad St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19140 U.S.A.  
Phone: (215) 221-4950

I look forward to receiving your input and to sharing your contributions with the rest of our membership. Thank you for your support and your news items. Material for the second issue should reach my office no later than August 15, 1983.

## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### An Anatomy of Requirements and Attributes Necessary for "Successful" Research and Scholarly Programs (or, "There is no Ivory in the Ivory Towers")

For research and scholarly programs to be initiated, thrive, and persist, in academia today, both faculty and administrators must first agree that these are not just desired, but are expected, activities of everyone. It is crucial that these activities be encouraged by financial reward and considered as an essential, measurable, criterion (with teaching and service) for faculty and administrative development and advancement. Faculty and administrative development, in turn, is synonymous with (and inseparable from) school development. A school's reputation is nothing more than a composite of the collective qualities of its individual faculty and administrators each of whom have fought for and received recognition of their scholarly activities.

At a certain point during the development process, the adjective "successful" begins to be used when describing individuals and programs. We must now realize that when measuring research achievement in today's terms, the word "successful" is no longer applied when a certain threshold number of scholarly publications are in print, or when a significant scientific advancement is made, or even when an individual becomes nationally recognized and respected as an expert and intellect in some scholarly niche of his/her choosing. Rather, in most universities today, "success" is measured easily and directly in terms of grant/contract money, i.e., dollars brought into the school from outside sources.

Science has become quite complex; people outside one's area of expertise often find difficulty in recognizing, much less rewarding, significant advancements; however, virtually everyone (and especially the local "news service") understands the power of money. Thus, today it is simply assumed that scientific achievements will be made only when and if enormous amounts of money are obtained and spent. We all know that this is not always true, but quite often it is true; and if our programs strive to be "successful", this monetary yardstick will be used to quantitate our "success"; even though it is fallacious and deceptive, this fact must be recognized and accepted if we wish to be "successful".

Thus, "successful" programs are those which are capable of self-perpetuation through outside funding without a consistent need of institutional financial support. When direct salary costs and indirect costs to the institution from his/her grants exceed his/her total salary, then that faculty individual is always considered to have a "successful" research program. It has required little wisdom for academic administrators to conclude that such individuals are true assets -- they cost the institution nothing and, indeed, their indirect costs help to carry the financial burden of the "nonprofit" departments of the institution. They are, thus, held in high esteem by the institution administration; they are quite mobile and are in high demand by other institutions; they survive through clever "grantsmanship"; and they can be called "truly successful".

We can now proceed down the ladder of "success".

Anyone whose outside funding pays a portion of his/her salary is somewhat of a credit to the institution and is generally regarded as being "partially successful." Such individuals are interesting to administrators because some of them will make it to the "truly successful" rank. Unfortunately, the majority of faculty members today contribute nothing, whatsoever, in the way of outside funding toward their own support (see E.A. Swinyard, *Am. J. Pharm. Ed.*, 45, 432, 1981); they can be considered a detriment to their colleagues and to the institution and often, in clandestine discussions among the "successful", are labeled as "unsuccessful".

The potential temporary nature of the above levels of "success" must also be noted. Consistent productivity of significant research achievements, over a broad spectrum of funding areas, is necessary to survive the peer-reviews and maintain the needed self-perpetuation. Research-oriented institutions have little room for people and programs for which funding has ceased. Resting on one's past laurels is impossible when "success" is determined by the competitive funding potential of next year's grant applications. "Successful" programs, out of necessity, must continually incorporate new ideas and innovations to maintain their edge in the competitive grant market. There is no room for "has beens" in "successful" research programs -- such is the fleeting nature of fame. Especially during hard times, grant funds are difficult to obtain, and research may even become expendable. Thus, "successful" programs and individuals, whose basis for existence has been outside funding, may find themselves with no basis for existence. Under such circumstances, they, too, are expendable. Empires and even pyramids are doomed to crumble. Our chance for immortality lies only in the significance of our research toward

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the advancement of human health and welfare and *not* in the amount of money we have generated and spent during our research careers.

The anatomical structure of a "successful" research program is really not so obscure. Most have a number of common contributing factors which include: adequate physical space, good secretarial help, word processors, libraries, equipment, technicians for equipment maintenance, a graduate program, dynamic faculty, relief time (e.g., staff-taught courses), starter grants, a competitive environment, critical evaluation for merit increases and promotions, expectant but unoppressive leadership, personal motivation, and encouragement of quality publications. Administrators must commit (and even over-commit) available funds toward this structure; they must not fear building a "critical mass" of research personnel on a framework of "soft money"; and they must, themselves, as role models, continually be raising outside funds to support the school's research efforts. Just as in modern business, academic administrators today must be genuine "entrepreneurs", i.e., people who are willing to take chances with their investments; those who hesitate in this regard may keep their jobs longer, but they are much less likely to have a "successful" research program; and they certainly will not compete favorably with their colleagues of comparable rank in other schools. The mortality rate for "entrepreneurs", it must be remembered, can also be high; so academic administration today is no place for the timid.

The single, most important, factor in this "successful" structure is the selection of creative, hardworking, individuals (see E.A. Swinyard, *op. cit.*) -- people who can think in practical as well as scientific terms, seek out sources of funding, write competitive proposals, secure the funds, perform the research, publish in prestigious journals, and politic for the the perpetuation of their empire. In many cases where development occurs, certain individuals must carry the entire burden, while their cautious colleagues remain threatened and immobile in perpetual indecision. Administrators have a choice of either buying "key" people ("truly successful" ones) who have these attributes or gambling on people who are either developing ("partially successful" ones) or might develop these attributes. A "successful" program should have its investments diversified with a portfolio mixture of these individuals. Cutting losses, by trimming the "has beens" and the "unsuccessfuls", has become an unpleasant administrative duty.

In conclusion, academic research today is little more than an extremely competitive business. The quest for outside research funding seems to have become more important than the research itself. Immediate profit potential often defines the avenues of such research and obscures the recognition of more basic achievements. Our younger colleagues considering positions in academia should realize that such is the environment in which they must perform and survive. There is no ivory in the ivory towers.

Jerry L. McLaughlin, Ph.D.

Professor of Pharmacognosy

Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy

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## BOOKS OF INTEREST

"Circular Dichroic Spectroscopy - Exciton Coupling in Organic Stereochemistry," Koji Nakanishi and N. Harada, University Science Books, Mill Valley, CA., 1983, 460 pp. \$32.00. The first two-thirds illustrates the usage of the exciton chirality method for determining absolute configurations. The remaining one-third is theoretical.

"Contributions to Botany," Hui-Lin Li, Epoch Publishing Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 1642, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China, 660 pp. \$24.50.

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## New Journal Editor

Dr. James E. Robbers has been approved by the ASP Executive Committee as the new editor for the *Journal of Natural Products*. Dr. Robbers will assume his duties as journal editor with Volume 47 (1984).

Dr. Robbers can be contacted for further information at the following address:

Dr. James E. Robbers

Professor Of Pharmacognosy

Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy

School of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences

Purdue University

West Lafayette, Indiana 47907 U.S.A.

Phone: (317) 494-1456

## New Managing Editor

The new position of Managing Editor for our journal has been created to aid Dr. Robbers in his duties. Ms. Susan Stites has been approved for this position. Her previous experience includes work with the journal, *Drug Intelligence and Clinical Pharmacy*.

## Journal Publisher

Following several snags in the search for a new publisher for the *Journal of Natural Products*, an agreement was finally reached with Spahr and Glenn of Columbus, Ohio for 1983 and 1984. This firm has been responsible for publishing the journal for over 40 years. Ms. Stites will be working at the offices of Spahr and Glenn in her duties as Managing Editor.

## New Newsletter Editor

The ASP Executive Committee has approved the appointment of Dr. Joy B. Reighard as the new editor of the newsletter. As indicated in the editor's column, please be sure to send any information to her which can be included in the newsletter.

## Increase in the Kilmer Prize Honorarium

The ASP Executive Committee has approved the increase of the Kilmer Prize Honorarium from \$200 to \$300.

## Election Results

The Tellers' Committee has indicated the results of the 1982 ASP Election as follows:

Vice President - J. Michael Edwards

Executive Committee Member, 1983-86 - Joseph E. Knapp

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution (To increase the contribution for patron membership from \$100 to \$200) - passed.

A total of 213 ballots (166 North American and 47 non-North American) were received and counted.

## Kilmer Prize

Pamela L. Boner, a senior pharmacy student at the Purdue University School of Pharmacy and Pharmacal Sciences, has been named as the recipient of the 1983 Kilmer Prize for meritorious research in the area of pharmacognosy and natural products. Her research was conducted under the supervision of Jerry L. McLaughlin, professor of pharmacognosy at Purdue. Her award-winning paper entitled "Using Brine Shrimp in the Antitumor Fractionation of *Kalanchoe tubiflora* (Crassulaceae)," was presented during the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy Section Contributed Papers Podium Session at the 1983 Annual Meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association in New Orleans in April. As the Kilmer Prize winner, Ms. Boner received a \$300 honorarium from the American Society of Pharmacognosy, the gold Kilmer Key, and travel expenses from the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Selected back issues of the *Journal of Natural Products* available to society members at discount prices.

USA & Foreign Surface Mail Delivery:

\$6.00 per issue (1-4 issues)

\$5.00 per issue (5+ issues)

Foreign Air Mail Delivery:

\$9.50 per issue (1-4 issues)

\$8.50 per issue (5+ issues)

Send your order with checks payable to *The American Society of Pharmacognosy* to:

Dr. David J. Slatkin, Treasurer  
American Society of Pharmacognosy  
University of Pittsburgh  
School of Pharmacy  
512 Salk Hall  
Pittsburgh, PA 15261 U.S.A.

(Since some issues are in limited supply, requests will be filled as received.)

<u>1968</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>1978</u>
Vol. 31 #2	Vol. 36 #1-4	Vol. 41 #1, 2, 3, 5, 6
<u>1969</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1979</u>
Vol. 32 #2, 3	Vol. 37 #1, 3, 4	Vol. 42 #2, 5, 6
<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1980</u>
Vol. 33 #1, 2, 4	Vol. 38 #1-6	Vol. 43 #2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>
Vol. 34 #1, 2	Vol. 39 #1, 2&3, 4, 6	Vol. 44 #1-6
<u>1972</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1982</u>
Vol. 35 #2, 4	Vol. 40 #1-6	Vol. 45 #1-6

## FUTURE MEETINGS

### ASP 1983

The 24th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy will be held July 24-28 at the University of Mississippi at Oxford, Mississippi. This meeting will feature the symposium "Recent Advances in Structure Elucidation of Natural Products," with the following speakers:

Dr. John D. Roberts  
California Institute of Technology  
"Uses of  $^{15}\text{N}$  NMR in Biochemistry"

Dr. James Shoolery  
Varian Instruments, Inc.  
"New Techniques of  $^{13}\text{C}$  and  $^1\text{H}$  Spectra Interpretation"

Dr. Catherine Fenselau  
Johns Hopkins University  
"Developments in Mass Spectrometry of Structure Elucidation"

Dr. R. Graham Cooks  
Purdue University  
"MS/MS: A Tale of Instrument Development Paced by Studies in Natural Products"

A tentative itinerary includes contributed papers Monday morning and afternoon, Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning and afternoon, and Thursday morning. There will be a poster session Tuesday evening. The symposium will take place Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. The annual business meeting will be held Monday afternoon, with the Executive Committee meeting occurring Sunday morning and the Editorial Advisory Committee meeting over dinner Tuesday evening.

There will be several social functions to add to the scientific program. These include a social mixer on Sunday evening, a fish fry on Monday evening, a tour of the Maynard W. Quimby Medicinal Plant Gardens on Tuesday morning, and the annual banquet on Wednesday evening.

There are 45-50 contributed papers accepted for presentation thus far, as well as a number of posters for the poster session. As an added attraction, we are expecting two scientists from India. It looks like a very enjoyable meeting is planned with a great deal of scientific stimulation as well. Make your plans NOW to attend this 24th annual meeting.

For further information contact:

Dr. James D. McChesney  
School of Pharmacy  
The University of Mississippi  
University, Mississippi 38677 U.S.A.  
Phone: (601) 232-7032

## Future ASP Meetings

1984 - Austin, Texas, August 19-23. The scientific theme of this meeting is proposed to be "Biotechnology in Natural Products Research."

1985 - Chapel Hill, North Carolina, July 7-12. This meeting will be in conjunction with the Association Francaise pour l'Enseignement et la Recherche en Pharmacognosie and the Gesellschaft fur Arzneipflanzenforschung. We have also invited the Phytochemical Society of Europe, and their decision is pending.

1986 - University of Michigan

1987 - University of Rhode Island

## Other meetings of Interest

Phytochemical Society of North America - July 5-8, 1983, Tucson, Arizona. Symposium Topic: "Phytochemical Adaptions to Stress."

American Society of Plant Physiologist - August - 7-12, 1983, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

## MEETING REPORTS

The 1982 American Society of Pharmacognosy meeting in Pittsburgh was a great success, thanks to the capable work of Paul L. Schiff, Jr., Joseph E. Knapp, and David J. Slatkin. Due to careful planning and expert financing, the society made a profit of over \$600. Scientifically, the meeting was also quite successful. The Symposium entitled "Topics in Biotransformation and Metabolism," included six presentations, and there were 74 contributed papers. Congratulations to the Pittsburgh group for a job well done!

## SOCIETY NEWS

### OBITUARIES

ASP has been informed of the deaths of three of its members recently.

Honorary member Dr. John James Willaman, 93, died December 12, 1982 at his home in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania. Dr. Willaman was well known for his research in steroid-producing plants.

Dr. B. A. Krukoff of the Missouri Botanical Garden passed away on January 19, 1983.

We were all saddened to learn of the recent death of Dr. Kurt Mothes, 82. Dr. Mothes was an honorary member of ASP, and served many years on the ASP Editorial Advisory Board. His contributions to pharmacognosy have been innumerable. Refer to JNP 43 (5), 542-545 for "Kurt Mothes - Scientist, Educator, Humanitarian," by Varro E. Tyler.



**ASP Committees (1982-83)****Executive Committee:****President:**

Dr. Jerry L. McLaughlin, Purdue University

**Immediate Past President:**

Dr. John P. Rosazza, University of Iowa

**Vice President:**

Dr. Paul L. Schiff, Jr., University of Pittsburgh

**Secretary:**

Dr. Larry W. Robertson, The Ohio State University

**Treasurer:**

Dr. David J. Slatkin, University of Pittsburgh

**Editor of JNP:**

Dr. Jack L. Beal, The Ohio State University

**Executive Committee Members:**

Dr. Yuzuru Shimizu, University of Rhode Island

Dr. Geoffrey A. Cordell, University of Illinois

Dr. Donald E. Nettleton, Bristol-Myers Research

**Contact for 1983 Meeting:**

Dr. James D. McChesney, The University of Mississippi

**Membership Committee**

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David P. Carew

Leonard R. Worthen

John H. Cardellina (*ex. officio*)**Patron Membership Committee**

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David P. Carew, Chairman

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Jack L. Beal

John P. Rosazza (*ex. officio*)**Search Committee for JNP Editor**

Varro E. Tyler, Chairman

William J. Kelleher

John P. Rosazza

**POSITION OPENINGS**

The School of Pharmacy at Oregon State University will begin a search in the near future for an assistant professor of pharmacognosy. To insure receiving a position announcement, please contact Dean Richard Ohvall, Oregon State University School of Pharmacy, Corvallis, Oregon 97331 U.S.A.

Anyone interested in abstracting the *Journal of Natural Products for Excerpta Botanica Sectio A* for a modest honorarium beginning with Volume 46 should contact:

G.M. Hocking, Professor Emeritus, Pharmacognosy  
School of Pharmacy  
Auburn University  
Auburn, Alabama 36830 U.S.A.  
Phone: (205) 826-5152

You can also contact the editor of the *Excerpta Botanica Sectio A* in Kassel, West Germany.

**SITUATIONS WANTED**

Dr. M.R.A.H. Konings of the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, is seeking a position in the United States for experiencing our research methodology. Dr. Konings is a biologist with a Ph.D. in toxicology. His research has included the study of organo-tin compounds as treatment for leukemia in mice, investigation of the preference for temperature of paramecium under the influence of endotoxins, and most recently, a gas chromatographic study of nicotine and cotinine in human serum. Dr. Konings desires placement in the pharmaceutical industry or institutes where he can work on gas chromatography so that he can have some international training.

Dr. M.R.A.H. Konings  
Livingstonelaan 49  
3526 HA Utrecht  
The Netherlands

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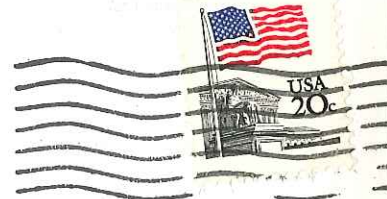
"Flora of Taiwan," Edited by Hui-Lin Li, et al, Epoch Publishing Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 1642, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China. 6 Volumes \$252.00 per set. Volumes may be purchased separately. The six volume set contains a total of 4684 pages.

"A Dictionary of Terms in Pharmacognosy," George M. Hocking, Charles C. Thomas Publishing Co., Springfield, Illinois. 312 pp. \$9.75. Only a few copies available. Contact the author at 1021 S. Gay, Auburn, Alabama 36830 U.S.A.

"Plants Poisonous to People in Florida and Other Warm Areas," 2nd edition Julia F. Morton, Published by Julia Morton, 170 pp. \$19.75

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