



ASP Newsletter

The American Society of Pharmacognosy

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 3

October, 1984

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to those of you who continue to contribute to the *ASP Newsletter*. With your help, this Newsletter will be more successful.

I will look forward to receiving input from you for future issues. I always appreciate letters to the editor, selected editorials, new appointments and promotions, grant information, position openings, and any other information which may be of interest to our membership. This material should be sent to:

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ASP Newsletter

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Thank you for your contributions. Material for the next issue should reach my office no later than December 15, 1984.



Host Robert V. Smith, Jack L. Beal, and Paul L. Schiff, Jr.
Austin, Texas August 22, 1984

Jack L. Beal Selected As Honorary Member of the ASP

In a ceremony which took place at the 25th Annual Meeting of the ASP on August 22, 1984, Dr. Jack L. Beal was presented his honorary membership in the Society by outgoing president Paul L. Schiff, Jr. President Schiff's presentation address is as follows:

"It is a great personal and professional privilege for me to present for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Pharmacognosy, Dr. Jack L. Beal, Professor of Pharmacognosy and Associate Dean, College of Pharmacy, The Ohio State University.

"Dr. Beal was born in Harper, Kansas on July 7, 1923. After attending public schools in Harper and serving as President of his high school student council, he graduated in 1941 and served in the United States Army Medical Corps from 1943 until he was honorably discharged in 1946. He received his B.S. degree in Pharmacy in 1948 from the University of Kansas and his M.S. degree in Pharmacognosy some two years later from the same institution. He received his Ph.D. degree in Pharmacognosy from the Ohio State University in 1952 and remained there as a

faculty member of the College of Pharmacy to rise through the ranks as an Assistant Professor (1952-1957), Associate Professor (1958-1962), and Professor (1963-present). He assumed the additional duties of Assistant Dean in 1978 and soon thereafter became Associate Dean.

"He is deserving of Honorary Membership in the American Society of Pharmacognosy because of his prolific work in the area of pharmacognosy and natural products while serving as a model teacher, scientist and human being for all those around him. His major research interest has been the isolation and structure elucidation of plant metabolites with potential biological activity, particularly alkaloids. In the last 30 years he has published over 100 papers dealing with the isolation and determination of structure of 175 different alkaloids (71 of which were new) from 38 different plants. A number of these compounds were found to exhibit cytotoxic, antitumor, antimicrobial, local anesthetic and hypotensive properties. He is unquestionably one of the leading authorities in the world on the isolation, elucidation of structure, chemistry and biological activity of the *Thalictrum* alkaloids. In fact, many of the species of *Thalictrum* he has studied were grown, sometimes quite painstakingly, under his careful direction at the medicinal plant drug gardens at The Ohio State University. He has attracted over \$1,000,000 in grant monies, principally from the National Institutes of Health, in support of his research. He has served as an advisor to 12 Master of Science candidates, 14 Doctor of Philosophy candidates and has been associated with 17 postdoctoral research associates.

"He is a member of many professional societies and organizations and has held numerous honors and distinctions, not the least of which was the recently awarded Research Achievement Award in Natural Products by the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (1971) and has travelled widely as lecturer or visiting scientist both within and outside of the United States. He has held major offices in the American Society of Pharmacognosy (Vice-President and President) and the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Pharmacognosy and Natural Products Section) (Secretary, Vice Chairman, Chairman-Elect, Chairman). He served as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Lloydia* from 1966-75 and as Editor of *The Journal of Natural Products* from 1977 thru 1983. Due to his untiring efforts, which were so eloquently summarized by Tip Tyler in his moving presentation last summer, the stature and distribution of the journal continued to grow significantly. He has established himself as a scientist of the highest caliber, with accomplishments achieved by few of his peers. Perhaps some of his greatest features are obvious humility, decency, and team spirit in the midst of such unquestioned success. It has been said that it is not the possession of knowledge nor the possession of irrefutable truths that constitute a man of science, but the dispassionate, incessant search for truth. Jack Beal is a searcher. I am truly proud to present Jack L. Beal for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Pharmacognosy and can think of none more deserving of the same."

Paul L. Schiff, Jr., Ph.D.
President

PRESIDENT SCHIFF PURGED AT SOCIETY'S AUGUST 22 BANQUET

The Society has a rich history as outlined by Dave Carew. A number of practices and traditions have evolved over the past 25 years. One of the most significant is the annual review of the President's accomplishments and the invocation of lignified vessel elements of *Rhamnus purshianus* in a symbolic catharsis. Norm Farnsworth and I have been charged with the responsibility for maintaining the integrity and objectivity of the evaluation and purging processes.

We have confirmed President Schiff's mastery of controlled pyrolysis of quality *Nicotiana* leaves rolled into a firmly packed cylinder. Records do not go back far enough, however, to reveal the last time Paul bought a box of cigars for either one of us.

We have traditionally reported only the positive accomplishments of your President. At this time Norm and I would like to report that Paul served as President of the Society during 1983-84-----(long pause)-----"What we are going to do today" is deviate from tradition and relate to you a few of our other findings and observations to avoid this being the shortest report on record.

President Schiff gives the image of being Mr. Nice Guy, a Mr. Straight. Our findings, conservatively speaking, are less than consistent with this image. In fact, they nearly shocked Norm to death, and I would remind you that Norm is considered worldly by a few people. Paul arbitrarily establishes priorities that are questionable and goes to lengths to obscure the real truth. For example, he blocks off a sizeable chunk of prime time every day, and leaves his office under some official pretext. The truth floated to the surface when he put inordinate pressure on Treasurer Slatkin to get an expenditure approved for membership in a Swim Club. Associates report being baited with tricky protocols for handling *Euphorbia*, finding him sniffing around the solvent room, and other subtle harassments. We ask you, who, other than Jack Beal, would buy a used shirt from this guy.

Your President has made an effort to advance education. He conceived an experiment to enhance remedial learning of NMR relationships and molecular configurations. His graduate students are required to place Dreidig models under their pillows and to sleep on them. Publication of the details of the procedure are awaiting the ongoing search for a sympathetic Journal editor.

Paul has been conscientious, even though somewhat misdirected, in his approach to his responsibilities as your President. When he was preparing his Presidential Address he solicited comments from Joe Knapp. When Joe proposed a reconsideration of syntax, Paul indicated immediately that the Society was in good financial shape and that there was no need at this time for the revenues such as tax would generate.

Paul, this replicate gavel made of Cascara wood is being remanded to your custody as a memento of the past year and of this ritualistic cleansing. If you want to discover what the latter could have been like, try citrate of magnesia.

Reported for the record by Lynn Brady.

ASP BUSINESS

Journal of Natural Products Annual Report

Editor Robbers, Assistant Editors McLaughlin and Kingston, and Managing Editor Stites have done an excellent job in transitioning and transferring the editorial office from Ohio State University to Purdue University. The editorial staff thanks Jack and Earlene Beal for their help during the transition period.

Over the past year the editors were able to decrease the lag time from the date a manuscript was received until it was published. A year ago that lag time was almost a year, and it has now been decreased to about seven months. This was accomplished by increasing the number of pages per issue for several issues.

The editorial staff also opted to decrease the shipping weight of the Journal by decreasing the weight of paper on which it was printed. This was begun with the March-April 1984 issue.

The number of manuscripts remained high in 1983 (260) and is already indicating another record year for 1984 with 200 received as of July 31, 1984.

The Society congratulates the Editorial Staff for a job well done. Keep up the good work!

NEW MEMBERS

Thanks to the hard work of the Membership Committee (J. Michael Edwards, Chairman, John H. Cardellina, II, and William L. Lasswell) the society has received 78 new or renewed memberships over the last year.

PATRON MEMBERSHIP

Due to the efforts of the Patron Membership Committee (Paul L. Schiff, Jr., Chairman, and Jerry L. McLaughlin), the Society has picked up three new sustaining members (Bristol-Myers Company, Upjohn Company, and IMC Corporation) and one new patron member (Philip Morris Research).

NEW AWARDS APPROVED

By a concerted effort of the ASP Planning Committee (John P. Rosazza, Chairman, Lynn R. Brady, Geoffrey A. Cordell, and David J. Slatkin, *ex officio*) and the Awards and Funds Committee (Joseph E. Knapp, Chairman, Robert Krueger, Charles H. Phoebe, Jr., and David J. Slatkin) a package of awards has been presented to and approved by the Executive Committee and the Membership. This package includes five types of awards:

*Travel support for ASP meetings -- up to four awards annually to young investigators. This may require matching funds from the recipient's institution.

*Travel support for graduate students who are presenting papers at the annual meeting -- up to three awards annually.

*Small grant awards for young investigators -- up to two awards annually. These are non-renewable.

*The ASP Research Achievement Award -- this award will be given every three years. The recipient will be asked to give a keynote lecture at the following annual meeting.

*Undergraduate research awards -- up to two awards annually. These awards are for the purpose of interesting qualified undergraduate students in investigating a career in natural products.

You will be informed in future issues of the Newsletter as these awards are placed in effect.

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee (Jack K. Wier, Chairman, Alice M. Clark, and Ronald M. Woodard) presented a slate of nominees to the membership at the annual meeting in Austin:

Vice President: Donald E. Nettleton and James McChesney

Executive Committee: A. Douglas Kinghorn and Robert Krueger

Secretary: William Keller and Audrey Bingel

The ballot for this election will be sent out this fall, and the new officers will be installed at the Annual Meeting in Chapel Hill, North Carolina in 1985.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee (Robert Krueger, Chairman, Richard G. Powell, and William J. Kelleher) have proposed a change in the constitution of the Society which will change the position of Treasurer from an elected position to a position of appointment by the Executive Committee. This change is proposed due to the complex nature of the Treasurer's position. The proposed change also defines a five-year term for the treasurer and allows for the appointment of an Assistant Treasurer upon request of the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer position could be used as a training experience for a future Treasurer.

This constitutional amendment will be voted on by the membership on the fall ballot.

KILMER PRIZE

The Kilmer Prize for meritorious work in pharmacognosy and natural products is awarded annually by the American Pharmaceutical Association Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences Section on Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy. The award is available to both undergraduate students and graduate students in schools or colleges of pharmacy. The prize consists of a gold key, and a \$300.00 honorarium from the American Society of Pharmacognosy. APhA makes available up to \$300.00 for the recipient to attend the APhA Annual Meeting where the award is presented.

Continued

Papers may be submitted for consideration and are due by November 2, 1984. Further information may be obtained from college of pharmacy deans or from the APhA Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2215 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037 USA.

ASP NEWSLETTER SURVEY

In Volume 19, Issue 2 of the *ASP Newsletter*, we ran a questionnaire which will aid the scientific and local program committees prepare for the annual meetings. We received responses from 56 members, and the results follow:

Question 1: Length of annual meetings--35% of the respondents chose 3.5 days as the desired length. 88% of the respondents prefer meetings of 3, 3.5, or 4 days in length.

Question 2: Evening sessions--The majority of respondents (70%) would agree to an occasional evening session.

Question 3: Dates of the meetings--The most popular time for a meeting according to our survey is late July (17%). The majority of respondents prefer meetings from late June through early August. (71%)

Question 4: Paper presentations--The majority of respondents (86%) prefer mixed oral and poster presentations as opposed to all oral (11%) or all poster (3%).

Question 5: Number of symposium speakers--The majority of respondents (76%) prefer fewer numbers of symposium speakers (four, six, or eight).

Question 6: Concurrent sessions--This question was by far the most controversial. The majority of respondents (55%) were OPPOSED to concurrent sessions.

FUTURE MEETINGS

FUTURE ASP MEETINGS

1985-Chapel Hill, North Carolina, July 7-12. This meeting is known as the International Research Congress on Natural Products (IRCNP). In addition to ASP, several other organizations will be participating: The Phytochemical Society of Europe (PSE), the Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung (GA), and the Association Française Pour l'Enseignement et la Recherche en Pharmacognosie (AFERP). Topics of discussion will include: isolation and structure elucidation of new bioactive natural products, biosynthesis of natural products, and synthesis and structure-activity relationships of natural products.

1986-University of Michigan

1987-University of Rhode Island

Phytochemical Society of Europe Future Meetings

Nucleic Acids and Nucleotides, January 8-9, 1985, Royal Holloway College, University of London. For details contact

Professor E.G. Brown, Department of Biochemistry, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, U.K.

Plant Products and the New Technology, April 16-18, 1985, University College of Swansea, Wales. For details contact Dr. J.R. Gallon, Department of Biochemistry, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, U.K.

Phytochemical Society of North America Future Meetings

Shikimate Pathway: Recent Developments, June 12-16, 1985, Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, California. For further information contact: Bock G. Chan, Plant Protection Phytochemistry, WRRRC, ARS, USDA, 800 Buchanan Street, Albany, California 94710 Phone: (415) 486-3408.

Other Meetings of Interest

First Arab Conference on Medicinal Plants, November 17-21, 1984, National Research Centre Dokki, Cairo, Egypt. Details may be obtained by contacting Dr. Mahasen A. Abdel-Alim, National Research Centre, El-Tahrir Str. Dokki, Cairo A.R. Egypt.

Third International Congress of Systematic and Evolutionary Biology, July 4-10, 1985, University of Sussex, United Kingdom, For further information contact Professor Barry Cox, ICSEB Congress Office, 130 Queen's Road, Brighton, Sussex BN1 3WE, U.K.

MEETING REPORTS

1984 ASP Meeting

The 25th Annual Meeting of The American Society of Pharmacognosy was hosted by the University of Texas at Austin, Texas from August 19th. to the 23rd. Approximately 150 registrants were present for the event which took place in the summer heatwave in Austin. The symposium entitled "Biotechnology in Natural Products Research" was very stimulating and included sections on "Drug Screening," "Natural Products as Biological Probes," "Plant Tissue Culture," and "Marine Natural Products."

Our own members participated as well, by presenting a total of 72 podium and poster papers.

The local program committee was also prepared with a lake-side dinner on Lake Austin. This seafood buffet was certainly delicious!

The 25th Annual Meeting was a great success, thanks to the hard work of the Scientific (Laurence H. Hurley, Chairman, Patrick J. Davis, David E. Thurston, and Steven M. Liebowitz) and Local (Gerald Sullivan, Chairman, Patrick J. Davis, and Steven Liebowitz) Committees. Thanks also to Program Coordinator Robert V. Smith for a fine job!

Congratulations on a job well done!

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the American Society of Pharmacognosy is recognized in several categories:

Full Membership

Full membership is open to any scientist interested in the study of natural products. Dues are \$35.00 per year. An additional charge will be made for air mail.

Associate Membership

Associate membership is open to students of pharmacognosy and allied fields. These members are not accorded voting privileges, and dues are \$25.00 per year.

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. Jack L. Beal, Ohio State University

Dr. Jonathan L. Hartwell, Washington, D.C.

Dr. R. Hegnauer, Leiden, Netherlands

Dr. Albert Hofmann, Switzerland

Dr. Arthur E. Schwarting, Florida

Dr. Heber W. Youngken, Jr., University of Rhode Island

Patron, Sustaining, and Benefactor Memberships

These memberships are open to any person or organization wishing to support the aims and objective of the Society. Dues are as follows:

Patron Member - \$200.00 per year

Sustaining Member - \$500.00 per year

Benefactor Member - \$1000.00 per year

Additional information about membership may be obtained by writing to the Treasurer of the Society:

David J. Slatkin, Ph.D.

The American Society of Pharmacognosy

Department of Pharmacognosy

512 Salk Hall

School of Pharmacy

University of Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, PA 15261 USA

SOCIETY NEWS

Annual Meeting Photographs

The Society's Secretary, Larry W. Robertson, is also the keeper of the Society's Official Photograph Album. If you have copies of any interesting photographs from any annual meeting which you would like to share, please send them to Dr. Larry W. Robertson, College of Pharmacy, Ohio State University, 500 W. 12th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210 USA.

BOOKS OF INTEREST

"Certain Poisonous Plants of Egypt, A Scientific Manual," and "Certain Poisonous Plants of Egypt," Heber W. Youngken, Jr. and Sayed H. Halal, Al-Ahram Press, Cairo, Egypt. (117 pp. and 92 pp.)

New Periodical: *China Drug Watch-Selective (Natural Products)*. This periodical covers approximately 80% of all natural products research in the People's Republic of China. The subscription price is \$30.00 per year for individuals and \$60.00 per year for institutions. For further information contact Dr. Albert Y. Leung, AYSL Corporation, 434 Broad Street, Glen Rock, New Jersey 07452 USA

"Marine Natural Products: Chemical and Biological Perspectives, Vol. 5," P.J. Scheuer, ed., Academic Press, 1983, 442 pp., \$69.50

"Biosynthesis and Function of Plant Lipids," W.W. Thompson, et al, Am. Soc. Plant Physiologists, 1983, 268 pp., \$15.00.

"Anticancer and Interferon Agents, Synthesis and Properties," R.M. Ottenbrite and G.B. Butler, ed, Marcel Dekker, Inc, New York, 1983, 344 pp., \$69.75.

"Microbial Transformations of Bioactive Compounds," John P. Rosazza, Ed., Vol. 1 (144 pp, \$48.00) discusses antibiotics and other industrial biotransformations. Vol. 2 (200 pp, \$65.00) includes microbes as models for mammalian drug studies; alkaloids, and cannabinoids. 1982, CRC Press, Inc., Boca Raton, FL.

"CRC Handbook of Mass Spectra of Drugs," Irving Sunshine, Ed., CRC Press, Inc., 1981, 472 pp., \$80.00.

"CRC Handbook of Spectrophotometric Data of Drugs," Irving Sunshine, Ed., CRC Press, Inc., 1981, 496 pp., \$78.00.

NEW MEMBERS

The ASP would like to welcome the following new members:

New Full Members:

Jacques Beliveau
Montreal University

A. Fournet
LaPaz, Bolivia

Oscar Santiago Giordano
Univ. of San Luis

G.P. Gunawardana
Univ. of Illinois

Candan B. Johansson
Univ. of Istanbul

John M. Matsoukas
Univ. of Patras, Greece

Renuka Misra
NCI, Frederick, MD

Berhanu Abegaz Molla
Addis Ababa Univ.

Peter Nelson
USDA, Fargo, ND

Abdel Khalig Muddathir
Univ. of Jaba, Sudan

Wolfgang Robien
Univ. of Vienna

Charles Robson
Phoenix, Arizona

Mark J. Schocken
Univ. of Texas at Austin

Alexios Skaltsounis
Paris, France

Lam Y.K. Tony
Merck and Co., N.J.

New Associate Members:

G. Thomas Fortune, Jr.
Georgia Tech, Atlanta, GA

John S. Helfrich
Purdue University

Ir. Saula Hirata
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Subagus Wahyuono
Univ. of Arisona

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