



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

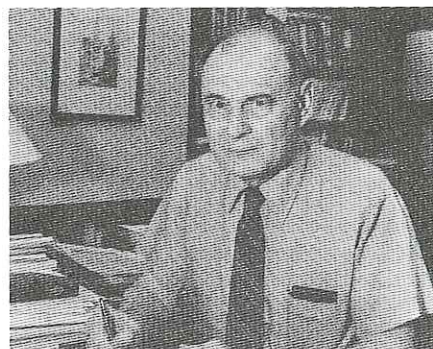
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ASP FOUNDATION FORMS

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 Laud. 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

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Hartwell, Continued from Page 1, Col. 1

of the NCI program in demonstrating that plants and animals were indeed useful sources of exciting structural leads led to screening programs in other pharmacological areas, and there would certainly be much less support for plant and marine biomedical research today if not for his trailblazing efforts. His many contributions to Pharmacognosy led to his being chosen as an Honorary Member of the ASP in 1973.

Dr. Hartwell was a native of Boston and studied at Harvard University where he received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in 1927, 1929 and 1935, respectively. After completing his doctoral work, and holding industrial positions at duPont and Interchemical Corp. he was a research fellow in Preventive Medicine and Hygiene at Harvard in 1938 which led to his interest in cancer and carcinogenesis. He joined the National Cancer Institute in 1939 shortly after its formation and served for 36 years until his retirement in 1975. His positions included: Head of the Organic Chemistry Section, Laboratory of Chemistry and Pharmacology; Assistant Chief of the Cancer Products Section, Drug Research and Development Branch; and Chief of the Research Communications Branch. In addition to the ASP, Dr. Hartwell was a member of the American Chemical Society, the Society for Economic Botany, and the Phytochemical Society of North America.

Among his works was the first major compilation of carcinogenic substances.

He did extensive laboratory work at the NCI in the area of lignans, particularly those derived from *Podophyllum peltatum* and clarified the structures and bioactivities of the peltatins and podophylotoxins. These studies were the basis for the subsequent discovery of etoposide, now a source of anticancer drug. His interest in plants as a source of anticancer agents led him to compile a very thorough work on traditional and folkloric uses of plants for treatment of cancer which covered references to literature from ancient Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, and Roman eras, the period of European discovery in the Americas and Africa, through to the 1900's. This was originally published in 11 installments in *Lloydia* during the period of 1967-1971 and has since been reprinted in a single volume named "Plants Used Against Cancer. A Survey". This monumental work incorporates many references to rare original materials.

The word most often used to describe Jonathan Hartwell is "gentleman". He was a gentleman in every sense of the word, and had a reputation for politeness and consideration for others and was always willing to take his own time to teach or help whoever asked him. No task was ever too long or too tedious that he couldn't conquer it by careful organization, patience, persistence, and a dry sense of humor. He never had an enemy, but only many friends, and he will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

M. Suffness, G.R. Pettit, N.R. Farnsworth, M.E. Wall, J. Douros

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I would like to express my thanks to those who have contributed to the *ASP Newsletter*.

It is your contributions which make the *Newsletter* a success. I welcome any information which may be of interest to our members, including letters to the editor, publications of interest, grant information, position openings, promotions, meeting information, and so on. For inclusion in the Fall issue of the *ASP Newsletter* please forward this information to me by September 1, 1991 at the following address: Joy B. Reighard, Ph.D., Editor, *ASP Newsletter*, Temple University School of Pharmacy, 3307 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19140 U.S.A. Phone: (215)221-4946 FAX: (215)221-3678

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Foundation, Continued from Page 1, Column 2

A brochure on the Foundation is in preparation and will be available later this year. The current Board of the Foundation is composed of:

Matthew Suffness, Chairman
Douglas Kinghorn, Vice-Chairman
Alice Clark, Awards Chairman
William Keller, Secretary
Robert Kreuger, Treasurer

Contributions may be sent to the Treasurer at the following address:

Dr. Robert Kreuger
A.S.P. Foundation
College of Pharmacy
Ferris State College
Big Rapids, MI 49307



SEE YOU IN CHICAGO!!

The 33rd Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy will feature a major International Symposium on the Contemporary Status of Natural Products Research in the areas of drug discovery, synthesis, biosynthesis and biological evaluation. The meeting will be held from July 21 to 26, 1991, and is hosted by the Program for Collaborative Research in the Pharmaceutical Sciences and the College of Pharmacy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The meeting will be held at the newly renovated Congress Hotel on Michigan Avenue in the heart of downtown Chicago. The hotel overlooks the magnificent lake-front and Grant Park, and is close to the Loop and Michigan Avenue shopping, restaurant and business districts. Cultural attractions such as the Art Institute of Chicago, Orchestra Hall, the Adler Planetarium and others are also nearby. The Scientific Program Committee is pleased to propose a very diverse symposium program covering the breadth and depth of contemporary pharmacognosy.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

B.S. Blumberg, Philadelphia *An Exercise in Systematic Plant-derived Medication Discovery*
Nobel Laureate, 1976

PLENARY LECTURES

- D.D. Soejarto**, Chicago *Plant Drug Discovery from the Tropical Rain Forest: Are Our Efforts Adequate?*
N.R. Farnsworth, Chicago *The Value of Ethnomedical Information for Drug Discovery*
O. Sticher, Zurich *Some Recent Aspects of the Isolation and Structure Elucidation of Natural Products*
H. Wagner, Munich *Potent Plant-derived Immunostimulators*
W.K. Milhous, Washington *Development of Drugs for Multiple Drug Resistant Malaria*
T.J.R. Harris, London *Molecular Biological Approaches in Screening for Natural Product Leads*
I. Kitagawa, Osaka *Recent Chemical Investigations on Licorice Roots*
O.S. Weislow, Frederick *Bioassay Support for Natural Product Antiviral Drug Discovery: Role in Extract Fractionation and Drug Purification*
D.E. Cane, Providence *Enzymatic Formation of Cyclic Terpenoids*
J.C. Vederas, Edmonton *Stable Isotope Labelling in Biosynthetic and Structural Studies*
A.I. Scott, College Station *How Nature Synthesizes Vitamin B₁₂. A Survey of the Last Four Billion Years*
M.H. Zenk, Munich *Isoquinoline Alkaloids: Pathways - Enzymes and Metabolism*
J.P.N. Rosazza, Iowa City *Metabolism of the Vinca Alkaloids: From *Streptomyces griseus* to Monoamine Oxidase*
I. Ninomiya, Kobe *Recent Progress in the Synthesis of Indole Alkaloids*
S.F. Martin, Austin *Strategies for the Synthesis of Indole Alkaloids*

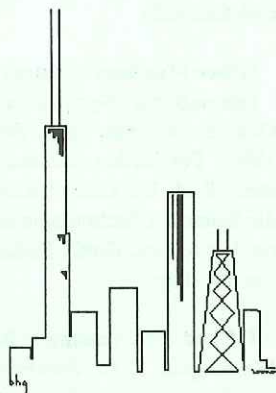
ASP RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENT AWARD LECTURE

S.W. Pelletier, Athens *Studies in the Chemistry of Natural Products*

The social program committee is planning a broad social program both for the scientific participants and for their guests. Information about local cultural exhibits and events will be available at the hospitality desk throughout the conference.

For all participants, there will be a welcoming reception on Sunday, July 21. Wine and cheese will be available at the poster sessions on Monday and Tuesday evenings, and on Wednesday afternoon there will be an afternoon trip to the Chicago Botanical Garden followed by a barbecue. Visits to the evening concert at Ravinia, which is close to the Botanical Garden, may also be arranged. The Annual Banquet will be held on Thursday evening.

We look forward to an stimulating and enjoyable annual meeting in Chicago.



Continuing Education for Chicago Meeting

The ASP Ad Hoc CE Committee is currently developing a CE program to be offered in conjunction with this summer's meeting in Chicago. 15 CEU's will be offered at the annual meeting. A separate nominal charge will be assessed for participation in the CE program to cover expenses of record keeping. CEU's will be awarded for participation in the keynote address, the ASP Research Achievement Award lecture, and any of the plenary lectures at the rate of one (1) CEU per lecture. No credit may be earned for attending poster sessions or short podium lecture sessions. A table will be set up in the general registration area for those interested in registering for the CE program. The program will be sponsored by the College of Pharmacy, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI, an approved provider of pharmacy continuing education by the ACPE. The program number is 679-028-91-001. Questions concerning the program can be sent to Robert Krueger, College of Pharmacy, Ferris State University, Big Rapids, MI 49307, or by phone (616)592-2236.

Special Rates on Air Travel and Car Rental for Chicago Meeting

Omega World Travel has arranged for special rates for air travel and car rental for meeting attendees. For reservations and information call Omega at the following numbers: 1(800)284-8747 (8:00am-5:00pm EST weekdays) or 1(800)US-OMEGA (all other times).

FUTURE MEETINGS

Future ASP Meetings

- 1991 - July 21-26 - University of Illinois at Chicago (see page 3)
1992 - July 26-31 - Williamsburg, Virginia
1993 - San Diego, California
1994 - Late July - Halifax, Nova Scotia

American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Future Meetings

Plan now to attend the 6th National Meeting of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists, scheduled for November 17-21, 1991, in Washington, D.C. A highlight of the meeting will be the Medicinal and Natural Products Chemistry (MNPC) section's symposia on "The Medicinal Chemistry of Substances of Abuse: and "Computer Assisted Drug Design", Your participation in MNPC's scientific program is invited through the submission of abstracts in either podium or poster format. A limited number of podium slots are available, and priority will be given to papers on topics related to substances of abuse. Any number of poster abstracts may be submitted for review. For further information or to obtain abstract submission forms, contact:

Victoria F. Roche, Ph.D.
MNPC Paper Screener
Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences
Creighton University
2400 California Street
Omaha, NE 68178-0232
Phone: (402)280-2893

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy Future Meetings

1991 - July 7-10 - Boston, Massachusetts

Phytochemical Society of North America Future Meetings

1991 - June 22-26 - Annual Symposium - Fort Collins, Colorado. For details contact: Helen M. Habermann, Department of Biological Science, Goucher College, Baltimore, MD 21204. Phone: (301)337-6303. FAX: (301)337-6123.

Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung Future Meetings

The 39th Annual Congress of the Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung, University of Saarbrücken, Germany, September 3-7, 1991. For further details contact: Dr. Hans Becker, FR 12.3 Pharmakognosie und Analytische Phytochemie, Universität des Saarlandes, 66 Saarbrücken, F.R.G. Telephone: 0681-302-2420 (FAX 0681-302-4386).

Phytochemical Society of Europe Future Meetings

Biochemical Mechanisms Involved in Growth Regulation (a joint meeting with the Italian Society of Phytochemistry and the Italian Society of Plant Physiology) to be held in Milan, Italy, September 11-14, 1991.

Phloem and Xylem Transport (a joint meeting with the Society for Experimental Biology - Plant Transport Group) to be held in St. Albans, U.K., December 16-18, 1991.

Phytochemistry and Agriculture to be held in Wageningen, The Netherlands, April 22-24, 1992.

To receive further information about the above meetings please contact: Dr. B.V. Charlwood, Plant Cell & Molecular Biology Group, Division of Biosphere Sciences, King's College London, Campden Hill Road, London W8 7AH, U.K.

Biologically Active Compounds From Non-Flowering Plants and Marine Organisms, University of Saarbrücken, F.R.G. September 3-7, 1991. For details contact: Professor Hans Becker, FR 12.3 Pharmakognosie und Analytische Phytochemie, Universität des Saarlandes, 66 Saarbrücken, F.R.G. Telephone: 0681-302-2420 (FAX 0681-302-4386).

Sixth Plant Cell Wall Meeting, Nijmegen, Netherlands, August 25-28, 1992. For more information contact: Professor M.M.A. Sassen, Department of Experimental Botany, Catholic University, Toernooiveld, 1, 6525 ED Nijmegen, The Netherlands (FAX 080-553-450).

Other Meetings of Interest

International Symposium on Essential Oils, St. Vincent, Italy, September 11-13, 1991. For further information please contact: Prof. Dr. Carlo Bicchi, Dipartimento di Scienza e Tecnologia del Farmaco, Turin University, Corso Raffaello 31, 10125, Torino, Italy.

FIP and 1991 Pharmacy World Congress - Washington, D.C., September 2-5, 1991. For further information contact Dr. Roland Hardman, President, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Section, FIP, 'Holly Leigh', Hold Road, Bradford-On-Avon, Wiltshire, U.K.

BA15 1TR.

International Symposium on New Drug Research and Development, Beijing, China, October 22-25, 1991. Address correspondence to: Prof. Cai Yu, Secretary General of ISON-DRAD, Chinese Pharmaceutical Association, A-38, Bei Lishi Lu, Beijing, 100810, China. Telex: 222523 SPAC CN. FAX: (01)831-5648.

INTERPHEX-USA, a major annual continuing education experience for the pharmaceutical manufacturing and allied industries, Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York, New York, March 30-April 2, 1992. For details contact: Cahners Exposition Group, Attn: Geri Cavalier, Conference Department, INTERPHEX USA '92, 1350 East Touhy Avenue, P.O. Box 5060, Des Plaines, IL 60017-5060.

Pelletier Continued from Page 1, Col. 3

Professor from 1961 to 1962. From New York, Bill moved to his current location at the University of Georgia in Athens, GA. He began as Professor and Head of the Department of Chemistry in 1962. His current position is the Alumni Foundation Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, University Professor, and Director, Institute for Natural Products Research.

Bill's research interests include the isolation and structure elucidation of natural products, diterpene alkaloids, antitumor agents, synthesis of terpenes, and ¹³C NMR analysis of natural products.

Dr. Pelletier is certainly deserving of the ASP Research Achievement Award, and we congratulate him.



SOCIETY BUSINESS

Journal Distribution Committee Requests Donations

It is a sad commentary that one may visit pharmacognostical colleagues in third world countries who are productive and prolific scientists and realize that they have little access to the *Journal of Natural Products*, even though they may be valued contributors. Simply put, in many countries the lack of hard currency has put the *Journal* beyond the reach of people who have a strong need for it. This is a pity for in the long run such a situation is to the detriment of the entire body of pharmacognostical science.

For these reasons, the Journal Distribution Committee has been investigating the requirements for distributing volumes of the *Journal* to countries which lack sufficient hard currency to acquire the *Journal* on their own. The *Journal* is currently printed in runs of approximately 1,800, nearly all of which are distributed to members or other subscribers. The cost of production is just over \$90.00 per volume. The difference between the cost of production and the cost to membership is covered by the higher fees paid by non-member subscribers. The cost of increasing the number of volumes produced is incremental and approximately the same cost as a membership. The Committee is therefore requesting donations of \$50.00 from the membership to allow for the distribution of journals to worthy recipients. While a \$50.00 donation will send a full volume to a single researcher/

library, we also seek partial donations, which we will pool together to donate subscriptions in the name of the Society.

Any donation will be fully tax deductible since it will be made through the ASP Foundation. The Committee has compiled a list of potential recipients and seeks long term arrangements wherever possible. The donor of full volumes may suggest the country, and even recipient, to which the volume will be sent. The volume will be inscribed with the donor's name if the donor wishes. The donation of previous complete volumes is also a possibility.

Any members who feel that they can participate are urged to do so. They may contact Dr. Chris Beecher to arrange for such a donation. There are many parts of the world where the impact of your gift will be very gratefully received. The potential of this program to aid or establish scientific linkages is tremendous. Dr. Beecher can be contacted at: College of Pharmacy (m/c 781), University of Illinois at Chicago, Box 6998, Chicago, Illinois 60680 U.S.A. Phone: (312)996-9035.

Site Needed for 1995 Annual Meeting

The ASP Executive Committee is seeking a site for the 1995 Annual Meeting. Sites for future meetings have been decided through 1994 as follows: 1991-Chicago; 1992-Williamsburg; 1993-San Diego; 1994-Halifax (International meeting with European societies). Anyone interested in hosting the 1995 meeting should write to President Kinghorn by June 30, 1991. A decision will be made by the Executive Commit-

tee at the Chicago meeting. Dr. Kinghorn's address is: A. Douglas Kinghorn, Ph.D., Department of Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacognosy, College of Pharmacy, (M/C 781), University of Illinois at Chicago, 833 S. Wood Street, Chicago, IL 60612, U.S.A. Phone: (312)996-0914, Telefax: (312)996-7107.

1992 Williamsburg Meeting Features Young Investigator Symposium

The Scientific Program Committee for the Williamsburg meeting wishes to sponsor a symposium specifically designated for young investigators. It is anticipated that four special talks will be given in this symposium. The Committee would like suggestions or nominations for potential speakers. There are no restrictions on subject areas. Nominations should include basic information about the nominee and an indication of the subject area of current research and should be sent to: Dr. Marilyn Speedie, School of Pharmacy, University of Maryland, 20 N. Pine St., Baltimore, MD 21201, U.S.A.

For purposes of this symposium, a young investigator is defined as one who is five or fewer years beyond post-doctoral studies. The research to be presented must be distinct from the nominee's doctoral or postdoctoral studies. Nominations of individuals from academia, industry, and government are all welcomed. Self nominations are acceptable. The due date for nomination is August 1, 1991.

SURVEY ON A.S.P. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES STRUCTURE RESULTS

1. Do you favor a dues structure in which a subscription to the *Journal of Natural Products* is not automatically included with membership in the A.S.P.?

yes 22 no 48 no opinion 7

2. If the *Journal of Natural Products* was optional and cost an additional \$50 per year over the basic membership rate of about \$25 per year, would you continue to take the *Journal*?

yes 40 no 34 no opinion 3

3. If membership cost \$25 per year and gave only the *Newsletter* and a reduced member rate for registration at the Annual Meeting, would you continue to be a member?

yes 45 no 24 no opinion 8

A total of 77 surveys (48 US and 29 non-US) were counted in this survey.



Dr. E. John Staba
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University of Minnesota
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ASP Newsletter
Joy B. Reighard, Ph.D., Editor
Temple University School of Pharmacy
3307 N. Broad St.
Philadelphia, PA 19140

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 \$45.00 per year. If overseas airmail is requested, the dues are \$85.00.

Associate Membership

Associate membership is open to students of pharmacognosy and allied fields. These members are not accorded voting privileges, and dues are \$35.00 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, Columbus, Ohio
- Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth,
University of Illinois
- Dr. R. Hegnauer, Leiden, Netherlands
- Dr. Albert Hofmann, Switzerland
- Dr. Richard E. Schultes,
Harvard Botanical Museum
- Dr. Arthur E. Schwarting, Florida
- Dr. Gordon Svoboda, Indianapolis,
Indiana
- Dr. Varro E. Tyler, Purdue University
- Dr. Monroe E. Wall, Research Triangle
Institute, North Carolina
- 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 objectives of the Society. Dues are as follows:

- Patron Member - \$200.00 per year
- Sustaining Member - \$500.00 per year
- Benefactor Member - \$1,000.00 per year.

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
School of Pharmacy
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15261 U.S.A.

SOCIETY NEWS

Treasurer Slatkin Named Dean

Congratulations to ASP Treasurer David J. Slatkin! David has recently been appointed the Dean of the new Chicago College of Pharmacy. David will begin in his new position as of July 1, 1991. We all wish you well as you undertake this new venture.

ERRATA

My apologies to Michael Flannery, Assistant Librarian for the Lloyd Library and Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio. Michael's name was misspelled in the last issue. (27:1)