



# THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PHARMACOGNOSY

## ANNUAL MEETINGS—PAST AND FUTURE

### REPORT ON THE 38TH ANNUAL MEETING

William J. Keller, Ph.D.

Our Annual Meeting, the 38th such event since the inception of the Society, was hosted by the University of Iowa. Between July 26 and 30, 1997, over 450 meeting registrants enjoyed outstanding scientific presentations and friendly social interactions on the prestigious University of Iowa campus. In keeping with the precedent established last year in Santa Cruz, the meeting started with a buffet reception on Saturday evening and at 8:30 on Sunday morning the first symposium topic was presented.

The two major symposia, "Biocatalysis and Biosynthesis of Natural Products" and "Diversity in Natural Products Discovery," were

continued on page 10

### THE 39th ANNUAL MEETING Orlando, Florida, July 1998

The 1998 annual meeting of the ASP will be held July 19-24, at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, a brand new (opening 8/97) convention-oriented hotel/resort on the property of Walt Disney World. The meeting will feature sixteen plenary lectures in four symposia, which will take place in two concurrent sessions, and four poster sessions. In addition to the traditional Thursday evening Banquet, the meeting will feature an as yet unannounced themed event. Because of the breadth of tourist activities available in Orlando, no formal spouses program will be offered; instead, an events coordinator will be available throughout the meeting to advise families and spouses of sightseeing options.

See page 7 for Symposia and other interesting travel information.

## A Message from the President

It is customary for the incoming ASP president to prepare a short address to the membership upon taking office, and while I am not a big fan of general commentary, it is hard to pass up this kind of opportunity.

The American Society of Pharmacognosy is a vigorous, healthy organization, due largely to the dedicated members who have held office or staffed committees. Membership is up in all categories and is at an all time high. Attendance at the annual meeting continues to be very strong. The Society's Journal is one of the finest in the field of natural products research. These things did not happen by accident, and I offer a heartfelt 'thank you' to the men and women who have labored to make the Society what it is today.

continued on page 9

## Committee Assignments 1997-1998

### ASP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Robert P. Borris	President
Charles D. Hufford	Immediate Past President
Gordon Cragg	Vice-President
William J. Keller	Secretary
David J. Slatkin	Treasurer
Robert J. Krueger	Assistant Treasurer
A. Douglas Kinghorn	Editor, <i>J. Nat. Prod.</i>
S. William Pelletier	Member (1995-1998)
Marilyn K. Speedie	Member (1996-1999)
Roy K. Okuda	Member (1997-2000)

### OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES

#### Membership Committee

Gordon Cragg, Chair  
 Marc Slattery (Year 2 of 2)  
 Tawnya McKee (Year 1 of 2)

#### Honorary Membership Review Committee

David Carew, Chair  
 Yuzuru Shimizu  
 Ken Rinehart

#### Publicity Committee

Samir A. Kouzi, Chair (year 2 of 3)  
 Georgia Persinos (year 3 of 3)  
 Chris Beecher (year 2 of 3)  
 David Slatkin, *ex officio*  
 Sue Sennett, *ex officio*  
 Joy B. Reighard, *ex officio*

#### Publications Committee

A. Douglas Kinghorn (year 4 of 5)  
 Richard G. Powell (year 3 of 5)  
 David G. I. Kingston (year 4 of 5)  
 Harry H. S. Fong (year 4 of 5)  
 David J. Slatkin, *ex officio*  
 ASP Members of the Editorial  
 Advisory Board

#### Tellers Committee

William J. Keller, Chair  
 Tea Sam Roe  
 John Eley

#### Constitution and By-laws Committee

Ikhlas Khan, Chair (year 2 of 3)  
 Jodi Laakso (year 1 of 3)  
 Audrey Bingel (year 3 of 3)

#### Awards and Funds Committee

John Cardellina II, Chair (year 1 of 5)  
 James B. Gloer (year 5 of 5)  
 Alex Jurgens (year 4 of 5)  
 Larry A. Walkert (Year 2 of 5)  
 James B. McAlpine (Year 1 of 5)  
 Robert J. Krueger, *ex officio*

#### Nominating Committee

Charles D. Hufford, Chair  
 Ray Cooper  
 Cindy Angerhofer

#### Research Achievement Awards Committee

Chris Ireland, Chair (yr 3 of 3)  
 G. Robert Petit (year 2 of 3)  
 Jon Clardy (year 1 of 3)

#### Local Program Committee

1998 - Bill Baker  
 Howard Miles  
 Amy Wright  
 Susan Sennett  
 Sarath Gunasekera  
 Nanda Gulavita  
 Russell Kerr  
 Frank Mari  
 1999 - Robert Verpoorte  
 T. A. Van Beek  
 J. J. C. Scheffer  
 A. W. Alfermann  
 A. J. Vlietinck

#### Scientific Program Committee

1998 - Bill Baker  
 Howard Miles  
 Amy Wright  
 Susan Sennett  
 Sarath Gunasekera  
 Nanda Gulavita  
 Russell Kerr  
 Frank Mari  
 1999 - Robert Verpoorte  
 G. Franz  
 F. Tillequin  
 C. Lavaud  
 G. M. Cragg  
 R. P. Borris  
 A. W. Alfermann

#### Scientific Program Committee-1999 continued

A. J. Vlietinck  
 J. Vercauteren  
 R. Hiltunen  
 A. Komamine  
 K. H. C. Baser  
 A. Stafford

#### ASP Foundation Board of Directors

Kenneth L. Rinehart, Chair  
 Charles D. Hufford, Vice-Chair  
 William J. Keller, Secretary  
 Robert J. Krueger, Treasurer  
 John H. Cardellina, II (at large)  
 S. William Pelletier (at large)  
 Susan S. Tafur (at large)  
 Otto Sticher (at large)  
 John M. Cassady (at large)  
 Alice M. Clark (at large)

### AD HOC COMMITTEES

#### Auditing Committee

David P. Carew, Chair  
 Tadeusz F. Molinski  
 Jon Anderson

#### ASP Job Service Committee

Joseph Betz, Chair  
 Dan Benigni  
 Louis R. Barrows  
 Ed Kennelly

#### Regional Sections Study Committee

Roy Okuda, Chair  
 Michael S. Tempesta  
 Tadeusz F. Molinski  
 Ray Cooper  
 Russell Molyneux

#### Resolutions Committee

Cedric Pearce, Chair  
 Mikhail Antoun  
 Keith M. Witherup

#### Newsletter Committee

Joy B. Reighard, Editor  
 Barbara H. Grissani, Editorial Asst.

#### Website Development Committee

John Beutler, Chair  
 Charles Hufford  
 Chris W. W. Beecher  
 Joy B. Reighard  
 Barbara H. Grissani

#### Continuing Education Committee

Robert J. Krueger, Chair  
 Robert L. Chapman  
 Georgia Persinos

#### Journal Distribution Committee

Samir Kouzi, Chair  
 David Corley  
 Norman R. Farnsworth

continued on next page

## ASPF Annual Campaign

Have you responded to this summer's request for donation to your ASP Foundation? At this year's annual meeting over \$27,000 in grants and awards were given to undergraduate and graduate students, new colleagues just starting their careers, members needing travel assistance to the annual meeting, and our distinguished Research Achievement Awardee, Dr. John Daly.

All this is possible through the donations from members like you. If you work for one of the companies listed below, you may be able to increase your donation through a matching corporate gift. Contact your office of human resources/personnel to obtain directions on how to proceed. If your company is not listed below, please contact your office of human resources/personnel to inquire if your company par-

### ANMP Relationship Study Committee

Pedro Chavez, Chair  
Jerry L. McLaughlin  
Ray Cooper

### Organizing Committee, Interim Meeting on Herbal Medicine, -Mississippi 1998

Alice Clark, Chair  
Varro E. Tyler  
A. Douglas Kinghorn  
Larry Walker

ticipates. Only some of the hundreds of the companies known to participate are listed.

Remember your donation to the ASP Foundation is tax exempt. A thank you letter stating this was sent to each donor for use when preparing their income tax.

To date, several dozen ASP members and companies have donated to the ASP Foundation's 1997 annual campaign. But its not too late for you to contribute! If you have lost or misplaced your letter, please contact ASPF Treasurer, Robert Krueger at the address below, and a copy of this year's form will be sent to you.

Together we can provide the funding necessary to further the goals of our Society.

American Home Products  
Arco Chemical Co.

Arco  
Bristol Myers Squibb  
Brown and Williamson

Tobacco Group  
Burroughs Wellcome Co.  
Charles River Laboratories  
Chesbrough-Pond's USA  
Ciba Geigy Corp.  
Colgate Palmolive Co.  
Dekalb Genetics Corp.  
Difco Laboratories  
The Dow Chemical Co.

Dow Corning Corp.  
Dow Elanco  
Glaxo, Inc.  
W.R. Grace & Co.  
Hewlett-Packard Co.  
Hoffman-LaRoche Inc.  
International Flavors and  
Fragrances Inc.  
Kellogg Co.  
Eli Lilly and Co.  
Mallinkrodt Group, Inc.  
Marion Merrell Dow, Inc.  
McKesson Corp.  
Merck & Co., Inc.  
National Starch and  
Chemical, Inc.  
PPG Industries, Inc.  
Pfizer, Inc.  
Pharmacia, Inc.  
Phillip Morris Co., Inc.  
Pioneer Hi-Bred  
International  
The Proctor and Gamble Co.  
R.J.R. Nabisco, Inc.  
Revlon, Inc.  
Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, Inc.  
SDS Biotech, Inc.  
Sandoz Corp.  
Schering, Plough Corp.  
G.D. Searle & Co.  
Smith Kline Beecham  
The UpJohn Co.  
Warner Lambert Co.  
Weyerhaeuser, Co.

**Robert J. Krueger, Ph.D.**  
**Treasurer, ASPF**  
Ferris State University  
College of Pharmacy  
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2740

## CALLS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR AWARDS...

### Research Achievement Award

The American Society of Pharmacognosy selects a recipient for the ASP Research Award annually. Candidates must be members of the Society who have made outstanding contributions to research on natural products. The award consists of an honorarium of \$2,500 and travel expenses to present the award lecture at an annual meeting of the Society. Previous winners of the ASP Research Award are:

- 1985 - Koji Nakanishi
- 1988 - Heinz G. Floss
- 1989 - Kenneth L. Rinehart
- 1990 - Monroe E. Wall
- 1991 - S. William Pelletier
- 1992 - Henry Rapoport
- 1993 - A. Ian Scott
- 1994 - Paul J. Scheuer
- 1995 - George Robert Pettit
- 1996 - Meinhart H. Zenk
- 1997 - John W. Daly

Nominations for the 1999 award are due by April 1, 1998 to the Chairman of the Research Achievement Award Committee and should consist of a nominating letter, a curriculum vitae of the candidate, and letters from three individuals who are familiar with the candidate's scientific accomplishments. Nomination documents should be submitted in

triplicate to: Chris Ireland, Ph.D., Department of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112, Phone: (801) 581-8305, Fax, (801) 581-7087, E-mail: [cireland@deans.pharm.utah.edu](mailto:cireland@deans.pharm.utah.edu).

### Awards and Grants for Students

To stimulate interest in all phases of natural products research, the American Society of Pharmacognosy is offering the following awards and grants:

#### 1. ASP Student Research Award.

The ASP Student Research Award is designed to recognize outstanding research in the general area of natural products. The competition is open to all graduate and undergraduate students working for a member of the ASP. Students should submit a research paper describing his/her own work in the area of natural products. The applications will be reviewed by the ASP Awards and Funds Committee in a blinded competition. The research paper should conform in general to the format of the *Journal of Natural Products*, except that there should be no identification of the student, faculty, or school from which the paper originated. The name and address of the

contestant and his/her paper title should be provided in a separate letter accompanying the paper. Please include a self-addressed stamped postcard (no smaller than 3.25 by 5.5 inches) with the title of the proposal and name of the applicant. This postcard will serve as notification of receipt of the application. The award will consist of a \$500 cash gift and all expenses paid to present the paper at the annual meeting of the ASP (restricted to meetings held in the continental U.S.). The deadline for submission of the research paper is **March 1, 1998**.

#### 2. Undergraduate Research Awards.

The ASP Undergraduate Research Awards consist of a stipend of \$2,000 to the student and \$500 to the advisor to help defray the costs of the research. There are no limitations on the type of research to be conducted other than that it should be in the area of natural products. Persons interested in submitting an application for consideration should send the following before **March 1, 1998**:

- a. An outline of the research to be conducted, written by the student submitting the application. This should include a statement of the

continued on next page

problem and the goal(s) of the research, and a brief discussion of the methodology. This outline, with pertinent references, should not be longer than four double-spaced, typed pages.

- b. A transcript of all college work attempted.
- c. A curriculum vitae.
- d. A letter of agreement by the faculty advisor (a member of the American Society of Pharmacognosy) for the project, indicating a willingness to supervise the project, and provide the facilities and equipment for the conduct of the project. The letter should also include a statement about the student's academic performance and suitability to perform the work proposed.
- e. A self-addressed stamped postcard (no smaller than 3.25 by 5.5 inches) with the title of the proposal and name of the applicant. This postcard will serve as notification of receipt of the application.

Although not an absolute condition of the awards, students selected are highly encouraged to submit results of their research for presentation at an annual meeting of the ASP.

### 3. Lloyd Library and Museum Grants.

This grant program was established in cooperation with the Lloyd Library and Museum. In keeping with the Lloyd Library's interest in promoting student activities, two \$500 travel awards to attend the national ASP meeting will be awarded. These awards will be made based on excellence in both scholastic and research activities in the field of natural products. Application can be made by submission of a short (1-3 pages) synopsis of the work to be presented, a curriculum vitae, a current transcript and a letter of recommendation from the advisor.

Applications are due **March 1, 1998.**

### 4. Travel Grants for Graduate Students.

Graduate students under the supervision of a Society member are also eligible for a travel grant of \$300 to \$500 to enable them to attend a Society meeting and present a paper. Application can be made by submission of a short (1-3 pages) synopsis of the work to be presented, a curriculum vitae and a letter of justification/recommendation from the advisor. All awards are contingent on the acceptance of the paper for presentation by the Scientific Program Committee. Applications are due **March 1, 1998.**

### Awards and Grants for

### Active Members

#### 1. Research Starter Grants.

ASP small research grants from \$2000 to \$5000 are available for active members in the first eight years after earning their Ph.D. and in the first five years of their first independent career position.

These are one-time awards and are not subject to indirect costs. Application can be made by submission of a research proposal of no more than four double-spaced, typed pages. A budget should accompany the proposal and the investigator should also provide a statement of his current funding.

A curriculum vitae of the investigator must be included with the proposal and budget. The deadline for submission of application for these grants is **March 1, 1998.**

Please include a self-addressed stamped postcard (no smaller than 3.25 by 5.5 inches) with the title of the proposal and the name of the applicant. This postcard will serve as notification of receipt of the application.

#### 2. Travel Grants for Active Members.

Travel grants are available to enable active members who are in the first five years after earning their Ph.D. to travel to an American Society of

continued on next page

Pharmacognosy meeting and present the results of their research. These awards of \$300 to \$500 are made on a competitive basis.

Application can be made by submission of a short (2-3 pages) synopsis of the work to be presented, a curriculum vitae and a letter of justification for the request. All awards are contingent on the acceptance of the paper for presentation by the Scientific Program Committee. The deadline for submission of applications is **March 1, 1998**. Please include a self-addressed stamped postcard (no smaller than 3.25 by 5.5 inches) with the title of the proposal and name of the applicant. This postcard will serve as notification of receipt of the application.

#### KILMER PRIZE

Beginning with the 1994-1995 awards cycle, selection and

presentation responsibility of this prize was transferred from the APhA Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Science Awards Committee to the American Society of Pharmacognosy Awards Committee.

**Criteria:** Both undergraduate and graduate students in schools or colleges of pharmacy are eligible for this award. The student does not have to be a member of the American Pharmaceutical Association or the APhA Academy of Students of Pharmacy or the American Society of Pharmacognosy to qualify. Student applicants should submit a full research paper (introduction, experimental, results, discussion and references, with figures and tables as appropriate) and a letter certifying status from the university registrar or graduate dean. The deadline for submission of appli-

cations is **March 1, 1998**.

**Nature of Award:** The Kilmer Prize consists of a gold key, suitably inscribed, bearing the likeness of Dr. Kilmer. The APhA makes available a complimentary registration and up to \$300 to enable the winner to attend the meeting at which the award will be given. The American Society of Pharmacognosy also provides an honorarium of \$300 for the named recipient.

**Applications for the student and member grants and awards can be sent to:**

John H. Cardellina II,  
Chair  
Awards and Funds Cmte  
American Society of  
Pharmacognosy  
Bldg. 1052, Room 121  
Frederick, MD 21702-1201

#### ACTIVE MEMBERS

Jose Carlos T. Carvalho  
Universidade De Alfenas  
Alfenas, Brazil

Alan D. Harmon  
McCormick & Co., Inc.  
Hunt Valley, MD 21031

Subash Kekatpuray  
Brentwood, NY 11717

#### NEW MEMBERS

Susanne Valcic  
University of Arizona  
Tuscon, Arizona 85721

Debra Venables  
Cyanamid A.R.C.  
Princeton, NJ 08540

Gerald A. Waechter  
Tuscon, Arizona 85705

#### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Panadda Yaipakdee  
Columbus, Ohio 43202



## Information for the 39th Annual Meeting to be held in Orlando, Florida, in July 1998.

### Symposia:

1. Biodiversity and Chemical Ecology
2. Innovative Strategies in Drug Discovery
3. Biosynthesis and Bioengineering
4. International Cooperative Biodiversity Group (ICBG) Update

### Organization:

**Local committee:** Bill Baker (Florida Tech), Jill Baker, Howard Miles (University of Central Florida), Susan Sennett (Harbor Branch).

**Scientific committee:** Nanda Gulavita (Harbor Branch), Sarath Gunasekera (Harbor Branch), Russ Kerr (Florida Atlantic University), Amy Wright (Harbor Branch).

### Notes:

There is currently a launch planned for the Shuttle, Endeavor, during the month of July, 1998. Keep an eye on the launch schedule (<http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/ksc-pao/schedule/schedule.htm>) for the announcement of the exact date. If a launch should be planned within a few days one way or the other of our meeting, it will be a "must see" event for those who have never seen a shuttle launch. Auto passes are free (<http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/ksc-pao/carpas/carpas.htm>) and get you to within three miles (can barely make out the actual shuttle with an unaided eye, but if you bring binoculars or a long lens on your camera, you'll have a great view; the launch itself is readily viewed without aid). Alternately, bus tours originating in Orlando will take you to KSC (approximately 45 minutes due east) and they have special packages during launches.

Other attractions you may want to check out before planning your trip:

Disney World:

<http://www.disney.com/DisneyWorld/>

Sea World:

<http://www.4adventure.com/lowres/park-central/swf/>

Kennedy Space Center (General Information):

<http://www-de.ksc.nasa.gov/ksc-pao/>

Busch Gardens:

<http://www.4adventure.com/lowres/park-central/bgt/>

Cypress Gardens: <http://www.cypressgardens.com/>

Leu Garden:

<http://gardengatepress.com/leu.htm>

Performing arts, places to go, things to do:

<http://www.orlando.com/>

**Additional travel information and a Meeting Calendar will be mailed to you in January. Information is also posted on our website. Register early, this is sure to be a fun meeting.**

### NAPIS™

#### Natural Products Information System

Napis Lite is available for FREE download with optional Taxonomy lookup table data and Sample data from:

<http://www.esri.com/base/users/conservation/whitepoint/napis.html>

NAPIS is a database system that supports researchers at the government, industry and university levels by providing a link between the library, laboratory and field.

For information contact: White Point BioMarine, Inc., P.O. Box 2989, 180 First Street, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 USA  
phone: 360/378-7292; fax: 360/378-7260;

**Future ASP Meetings**

- 1998 - July 19-24 - Orlando, Florida  
 1999 - July 26-31 - International meeting with the Phytochemical Society of Europe, the Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung, and the Association Française pour l'Enseignement et la Recherche en Pharmacognosie - Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
 2000 - Seattle, Washington

**Future AAPS Meetings**

- 1998 - November 15,-19 - San Francisco, CA. Contact Amy Miller, (703) 518-8417

**Other Meetings of Interest—1997**

**December 28-January 1, 1998, 7th International Symposium on Natural Product Chemistry**, Karachi, Pakistan. Contact: Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman S.I., T.I. (Chairman) or Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary (Secretary), H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi, Karachi -75270. Tel: 092-21-496-8497, Fax: 092-21-496-3373, E-mail: hej@biruni.erum.com.pk

**1997-98 Programme of meetings of The Phytochemical Society of Europe.** Contact: Dr. R. H. Robins, Honorary Meetings Secretary, Laboratoire de RMN-RC, Faculté des Sciences, 2 rue de la Houssinière, F-44072 Nantes Cedex 03, France. Fax: +44-116-257-7287

April 1998--Isoquinoline and Indole Alkaloids, Istanbul, Turkey (Prof. G. Sariyar)

September, 1998--Biologically Active Peptides, Oslo, Norway (Prof B. S. Paulsen)

**Other Meetings of Interest—1998**

**January 8-10, International Symposium Antitumour Products from Higher Plants**, Paris, France. For details: Congès Scientifiques Services (C2S), Chantal IANNARELLI, 2, rue des Villarmains, 92210 SAINT CLOUD - France. Tel: 33 (0)1 47 71 90 04 - Fax: 33 (0)1 47 71 90 05.

**February 16-20, Medicinal Plants for Survival: International Conference on Medicinal Plants Conservation, Utilisation, Trade and Cultural Traditions**, Bangalore, India. Contact: Foundation for Revitaliation of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), No. 50, 2nd State, MSH Layout, Anandanagar, Bangalore -

560024, India. Phone: +91-80-3336909/0348, Fax: +91-80-3334167, E-mail: root@frlht.ernet.in

**March 1-4, Alternative Medicine: Implications for Clinical Practice**, Boston, Massachusetts. For information contact: Professional Meeting Planners, 5 Central Square, Suite 201, Stoneham, MA, 02180,. Phone: (617) 279-9887 or 800-378-6857 FAX: (617) 279-9875 email: PMPMeeting@aol.com.

**April 19-22, Structure and Biosynthesis of Isoquinoline, Indole and Related Alkaloids**, Istanbul, Turkey. For information contact: Prof. Dr. G. Sariyar, Istanbul University, Faculty of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacognosy, Istanbul 34452, Turkey. Phone: + 90 212 522 5857 FAX: + 90 212 519 0812.

**May 10-13, Future Trends in Phytochemistry-a Young Scientists Symposium**, Rolduc, Kerkrade, The Netherlands. For information contact: Prof. Dr. A.W. Alfermann, Institut für Entwicklungs und Molekularbiologie der Pflanzen, Heinrich Heine Universität, Dusseldorf, Universitätsstrasse 1, Geb.26.13, D-40225, Dusseldorf, Germany. Phone: + 49 211 8114603 FAX: + 49 211 8113085 email: Alferman@rz.uni-duesseldorf.de

**May 26-29, VIIIth International Symposium on Luminescence Spectrometry in Biomedical and Environmental Analysis-Detection Techniques and Applications in Chromatography and Capillary Electrophoresis**, Canary Islands, Spain. For information contact: Dr. José Juan Santana Rodríguez, Symposium Chairman, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Department of Chemistry - Faculty of Marine Sciences, 35017 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain. Phone: + 34(9)28 45.29.15 / 45.29.00 FAX: + 34(9) 28 45.29.22 email: josejuan.santana@quimica.ulpgc.es

**October 11-16, 21st IUPAC International Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products (ISCNP-21), Beijing, China.** Contact: Prof. Xibai QIU, Secretariat of ISCNP-21, c/o Chinese Chemical Society, P.O. Box 2709, Beijing 100080, China. Tel.: 86-10-6256815, 62564020, Fax: 86-10-62568157, E-mail: qiuxb@infoc3.icas.ac.cn

**December 6-11, First European Ginseng Congress, Marburg, Germany.** Contact: Prof. Dr. Hans Christian Weber, Morphologie und Systematik der Pflanzen, Fachbereich Biologie, Philipps-Universität Marburg, 35032 Marburg, Germany. Tel.: ++49- (0) 6421 282091, Fax: ++49 - (0)6421 282057, E-mail: weberh@mail.uni-marburg.de, WWW: <http://uni-marburg.de/stadt/>



## MEETING OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SECTION OF ASP

**Professor Emeritus Paul J. Scheuer** of the Department of Chemistry, University of Hawaii, presented the Third Clinimetrics Lecture in Natural Products Drug Discovery at the November meeting. Professor Scheuer's Lecture, entitled "A Tale of Two Snails, Bioactive Constituents from Two Gastropod Mollusks," was presented at San José State University and was sponsored by Clinimetrics Research Associates of San José.

The NCS-ASP will be hosting several events throughout the year. All members and associate members of the ASP in Northern California region will receive notices about upcoming local activities.

For further information contact: Roy K. Okuda, Ph.D., Department of Chemistry, San José State University, San José, California 95192. Phone: (408) 924-2525; Fax: (408)924-4945 or e-mail at [okuda@sjsuvm1.sjsu.edu](mailto:okuda@sjsuvm1.sjsu.edu)

### IN MEMORIAM

Ramachandran Nair  
New York City, New York

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 1

The office of president carries with it a temptation for its occupant to leave his or her mark on the Society. ASP is not in need of any major changes. I would prefer to maintain the Society in its present healthy state rather than try to mold it in my own image and likeness. As the first industrial scientist to hold this position since Gordon Svoboda in the 1960's, I do see the need for more industrial involvement. There are plenty of industrial members, but they need to take a more active role in the Society. For this reason, you may note that there are more industrial scientists on the various committees than has been the case in years past.

The field of natural products research, as I see it, is coming to a fork in the road. On the one hand, the use of natural substances in the practice of alternative or herbal medicine is skyrocketing in this country, as is the use of nutraceuticals and food supplements. The need exists for scientists to identify the active principles of these products so that they can be standardized on the basis of these compounds, and this need will continue to parallel the growth of this market. While biotechnology 'startup' companies continue to pour interest and support into natural products research, the interest level in the mainstream pharmaceutical industry appears to have crested and is likely to slowly decline until the next blockbuster natural product is discovered. This overview suggests that the market for new natural product scientists is shifting away from the traditional mainstream and into a brave new world.

Is the next generation of ASP members being trained for this new market? The grind and find approach to discovery, while probably a necessary part of a natural product scientist's training, is just the beginning. A solid background in quantitative chemical analysis is essential for a scientist contemplating the standardization of an herbal extract, yet many of the graduates of pharmacognosy and chemistry programs have never taken a course in quantitative analysis, much less tried to quantitate an active

continued on page 10

## REPORT ON THE 38TH ANNUAL MEETING continued from page 1

both very interesting. The selected symposia topics were invariably presented by dynamic, knowledgeable speakers. A highlight of the scientific program was the ASP Research Achievement Award Address by Dr. John W. Daly. A scintillating description of "Thirty Years of Searching for Bioactive Arthropod Alkaloids in Amphibian Skin" was presented by Dr. Daly. Scientists attending the meeting presented a total of 203 poster papers and 48 oral presentations on their most salient research. The traditional wine and cheese buffet that accompanied the poster sessions was delightful.

The social events were all in keeping with a very friendly and successful meeting. A good time was had by all who attended the Buffet Reception, the Iowa Riverbank Barbecue, and the Annual Banquet. The Banquet featured outstanding food and a roast of outgoing President Charlie Hufford by the inimitable Professor Norman Farnsworth.

All ASP members owe a debt of gratitude to the meeting organizers who devoted so much of their time and effort to offer the Society such a meaningful conference experience. Jack Rosazza chaired the General and Local Program while Jim and Kathy Gloer Co-Chaired the Scientific Program. Dave Carew appeared to be doing double duty by serving on both program committees. Again, we very much thank these key individuals in addition to all of other organizers who contributed to such a successful meeting in Iowa City.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 9

component in a complex extract. Could an analytical chemist perform this task? Perhaps, but most analytical chemists I have met dislike working with samples as complex as a typical plant extract. This is but one field, one niche, waiting to be filled by the next generation of pharmacognosists. There are others, if we look!

Serving on the recruiting committee of the natural products chemistry department of one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, I have seen first hand the kinds of people who apply for jobs in this field. Most have no background or experience in the field at all. While there is a reasonable supply of Ph.D.'s with formal training in natural products, mostly from overseas, there are few people at the Master's or Bachelor's levels with any exposure to the field. There are jobs for well-trained people at these levels, but the dwindling number of academic institutions offering training in pharmacognosy and natural products chemistry appear not to be producing graduates to fill these positions. Are we missing the proverbial boat?

It must be an exciting time to be starting a career in natural products research. At least one popular new scientific frontier is beginning to open. Entry level jobs are available at all levels of education. Mankind has not yet managed to kill off the remaining flora and fauna. Life is sweet.

During my term in office, I would appreciate receiving any input you might be willing to offer. It is often difficult to reach me by phone, but there is always a voicemail system available at (732)-594-5941. It is usually easier to reach me by email at the following address: bob\_borris@merck.com.

Best wishes, and I'll look forward to hearing from you,

Bob Borris

## NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Nominations for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Pharmacognosy are now being accepted by the Honorary Membership Committee. If you would like to nominate a member for this distinguished honor, please forward your nomination and supporting biographical data as well as two letters of recommendation from experts in the field to: David P. Carew, Ph.D., 8 West View Acres, Iowa City, Iowa 52240. Phone: (319)354-3622

### Employment Service

The American Society of Pharmacognosy 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 prospective employer. Once an application is submitted, it will remain on file for one (1) year, at which time it will be destroyed. The applicant should realize that this is not a resume service and that the application will be submitted to the prospective employer exactly as submitted (i.e. the submitted form will be photocopied, then sent to the prospective employer). All information submitted will be held in the strictest confidentiality.

Forms and further information may be obtained from:

Joseph M. Betz, Ph.D., Division of Natural Products, Food and Drug Administration (HFS-347), 200 'C' Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20204-0002 U.S.A; Fax: (202)205-4422; Phone: (202)205-4060; E-mail: [jbetz@bangate.fda.gov](mailto:jbetz@bangate.fda.gov)

### Gordon Conference on Marine Natural Products

The 1998 Gordon Conference on Marine Natural Products will be held at the Harbortown Marina Resort in Ventura, California, 22-27 February 1998. While the central theme of this conference is marine natural products, the conference has evolved in the past decade to be a very interdisciplinary forum for discussion of a broad range of issues and aspects of marine natural products - pharmacology, lead drug discovery and development, agrochemicals, antifouling, ecology, biotechnology, and new techniques for isolation and structure elucidation. The 1998 conference will focus on several themes:

- Frontiers in Collecting - accessing unusual or unstudied macroorganisms
- Marine Microorganisms - bacteria, cyanobacteria, fungi, ciliates
- Biofouling - industrial problems, ecology, molecular biology
- Marine Peptides and Proteins - structure and biological activity
- Emerging Techniques and Technology - NMR and supercritical fluid chromatography

Application materials can be obtained from the Gordon Research Center at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881-0801. Interested persons may direct questions or suggestions about the conference to John H. Cardellina II, Chair, 1998 GRC-MNP, by FAX (301-846-6177) or email ([cardellina@dtpx2.ncifcrf.gov](mailto:cardellina@dtpx2.ncifcrf.gov)).

Dr. E. John Staba  
 College of Pharmacy  
 University of Minnesota  
 Minneapolis MN 55455



David J. Slatkin, Ph.D., Treasurer  
 The American Society of Pharmacognosy  
 P. O. Box 95558  
 Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

## 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 \$25.00 per year. In order to receive the *Journal of Natural Products* the subscription rates are as follows: United States: \$50.00; Canada and Mexico: \$60.00; Europe: \$70.00; All other countries: \$74.00.

### Associate Membership

Associate membership is open to students of pharmacognosy and allied fields. These members are not accorded voting privileges, and dues are \$15.00 per year. In order to receive the *Journal of Natural Products* the subscription rates are as follows: United States: \$35.00; Canada and Mexico: \$45.00; Europe: \$55.00; All other countries: \$59.00.

### Emeritus Membership

Emeritus membership is open to retired members of the Society who maintained membership in the Society for at least five years. Dues are \$5.00 per year. These members receive the *ASP Newsletter*. Emeritus members may subscribe to the *Journal of Natural Products* at the Full Member rates.

### 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. Arnold Brossi, National Institute of Health, MD
- Dr. David P. Carew, University of Iowa
- Dr. Norman R. Farnsworth, University of Illinois
- Dr. R. Hegnauer, Leiden, Netherlands
- Dr. Albert Hofmann, Switzerland
- Dr. S. William Pelletier, University of Georgia
- Dr. James E. Robbers, Purdue University
- Dr. Richard E. Schultes, Harvard Botanical Museum
- Dr. Varro E. Tyler, Purdue University
- Dr. Hildebert Wagner, University of Munich
- Dr. Monroe E. Wall, Research Triangle Institute, NC
- Dr. Heber W. Youngken, Jr., University of Rhode Island

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

David J. Slatkin, Ph.D., Treasurer  
 The Am. Society of Pharmacognosy  
 Chicago College of Pharmacy  
 555 31st Street  
 Downers Grove, IL 60515

### ASP Newsletter

Joy B. Reighard, Ph.D.  
 Editor

Barbara H. Grissani  
 Editorial Assistant

Deadlines for submission of information are as follows:

Spring Issue - March 1st

Summer Issue - June 1st

Fall Issue - September 1st

Winter Issue - December 1st

Send information to

Joy B. Reighard, Ph.D., Editor  
*ASP Newsletter*  
 Temple Univ. School of Pharmacy  
 3307 N. Broad Street  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19140

Phone: (215) 707-4946

Fax: (215) 707-3678

E-mail:

reighard@astro.ocis.temple.edu

