



## David G. I. Kingston named Research Achievement Award

The 1999 ASP Research Achievement Award winner is David G. I. Kingston. Dr. Kingston earned his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry at Cambridge University in England in 1964. He is currently Professor of Chemistry at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia. David has served as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Natural Products* since 1983 and was President of the Society in 1988-89. This year, he also has the distinction of being the Gene Wise Awardee by the American Chemical Society, Blue Ridge Section.

At Virginia Polytechnic Institute, the Kingston Research Group cur-

rently consists of nine members. Their research is centered around the chemistry of biologically active natural products related to cancer. The major areas of interest are the chemistry and mechanism of action of the anticancer agent paclitaxel (Taxol<sup>®</sup>); the isolation and structure elucidation of new natural products with anticancer activity; the use of natural products chemistry to promote biodiversity conservation, economic development and drug discovery in Surinam and Madagascar.

David is a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Current Organic Chemistry* published by Elsevier Science Publishing. He has

continued on page 6

## INTERIM MEETING IN TUNICA PROVIDED CHALLENGES

William J. Keller, Ph.D.

"Botanical Dietary Supplements: State of the Science" was the theme of an ASP Interim Meeting hosted by the University of Mississippi at a venue called Tunica. The April 29 - May 1, 1999 conference offered numerous challenges. Certain individuals were challenged when trying to find the venue while driving an automobile, particularly at night. Others were challenged by the lure of gambling at the luxurious casinos of Tunica on the Mississippi. And then there was the challenge of convincing Professor Farnsworth to suit up for his seminar (he was well dressed for his symposium presentation).

continued on page 3

TUNICA . . . . . ued from page 1

The most rewarding challenge was that of participating in the two and one-half day program through learning, debate, and discussion.

The general topic of herbal medicine was indeed timely and it definitely sparked lively, intellectual interaction amongst many of the 200 meeting registrants. The entire meeting was centered around four symposia involving 19 respected scholars and speakers. These symposia sessions were preceded by the keynote address by Dr. Varro E. Tyler, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Pharmacognosy at Purdue University. Professor Tyler's presentation, entitled "Phytomedicine-Back to the Future," began with a description of the evolution of crude medicinal plant material to present day synthetic drugs. In keeping with the lecture title, Professor Tyler then described how history is apparently reversing itself as millions of people are returning to the herbal medicines that are less expensive, have fewer side effects, and are effective but milder when compared to the synthetic drugs. Professor Tyler continued by focusing on several significant problems that remain to be solved before rational phytotherapy can occupy a meaningful place in our health care system.

The symposia that followed explored the broad categories of herbal product quality assessment, chemical and biological studies of botanicals, and clinical reviews as well as the regulatory issues associated with botanical dietary supple-

ments. All addresses were appropriate, meaningful, well received, and, above all, challenging. The audience was always attentive and interactive. The beckoning casinos and other very tempting recreational activities did not seem to have a serious adverse effect on symposia attendance. Intellectual pursuits apparently triumphed over hedonism in most cases.

An opening reception on Thursday, April 29 was accompanied by a scientific paper poster session. For nearly three hours, meeting participants enjoyed buffet snacks, liquid refreshments, and scientific as well as social camaraderie. Much friendly discussion and debate surrounded the presentation of the poster papers. Although Friday afternoon, April 30, was designated as being free, many meeting registrants continued with scholarly pharmacognostic pursuits and elected to travel by bus to the University of Mississippi campus in order to visit the Thad Cochran National Center for Natural Products Research. The trip was well worth it as participants in this diversion toured a first class research facility.

The Interim Meeting organizers, Alice Clark, Doug Kinghorn, John Cardellina, and Tip Tyler, are to be highly commended for their efforts in offering the Society a meaningful conference experience. Everything was great! The success of the Tunica meeting has prompted discussions of future conferences of a similar nature. We look forward to another intellectual encounter with a scientific herbal medicine program.

## Report of the Awards and Funds Committee,

July 1999

John Cardellina, Chair

**I. Awards.** The main order of business for the Committee this year was to evaluate applications for ASP awards. Applications were received for grants under the program headings:

Research Starter Grants  
 Student Travel Grants  
 Undergraduate Research Grants  
 Member Travel Grants  
 Lloyd Library and Museum Travel Grants

**Research Starter Grants.** Six proposals were received in this category. The Committee chose two of the proposals for funding:

**Professor Gil Belofsky**, "Isolation and Characterization of Secondary Metabolites of Airborne and Soil Fungi", University of Tulsa, \$5000.

**Professor Dale Nagle**, "Novel Fungicidal Agents to Control Plant Pathogens", University of Mississippi, \$5000.

**Undergraduate Research Grants.** Five proposals were submitted in this category; the Committee selected three for funding:

**Ms. Anna Edwards**, "Biotransformation of 10-Deoxoartemisinin by *Mucor ramannianus*", University of Mississippi (advisor: J.S. Williamson), \$2500.

**Ms. Michelle Meyer**, "Metabolic Engineering to Produce Artemisinin", Rice University (advisor: S. Matsuda), \$2500.

**Ms. Debra Wentz**, "Isolation and Identification of a Photoinduced Autoinhibitor from *Schizophyllum commune*", College of St. Benedict/St. John's University (advisor: K. Graham), \$2500.

**Lloyd Library and Museum Travel Grants.** Nine applications were received in this and the Student Travel Grant Category. The Committee selected two for this grant:

**Ms. Melissa Flagg**, University of Arizona, \$500.

**Ms. Tracy Pohl**, University of Natal, South Africa, \$500.

**Student Travel Grants.** The Committee selected four for funding:

**Ms. Melissa Flagg**, University of Arizona, \$500.

**Ms. Tracy Pohl**, University of Natal, South Africa, \$500.

**Ms. Kathryn Thornell**, University of Natal, South Africa, \$1000.

**Mr. Prokopios Magiatis**, University of Athens, Greece, \$1000.

**Active Member Travel Grants.** Two applications were submitted; the Committee elected to fund both:

**Dr. Hamdani Mahomed**, University of Natal, South Africa, \$1000.

**Dr. Deniz Tasdemir**, University of Utah, \$1000.

No applications or nominations were received for the ASP Graduate Student Research Award or the Kilmer Prize. The Committee did coordinate its selections with those of the European societies, which were able to support some of the travel grant applications the ASP could not.

**II. The Matt Suffness Symposium.** The Executive Committee has decided that the Young Investigators Symposium, which was initiated by Matt Suffness with the support of several other ASP members and held intermittently at ASP meetings, should be a

continued on page 5

### Future ASP Meetings

- 1999 - July 26-31 - Amsterdam, The Netherlands. International meeting with the Phytochemical Society of Europe, the Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung, and the Association Française pour l'Enseignement et la Recherche en Pharmacognosie.
- 2000 - July 22-26, Seattle, Washington
- 2001 - Oaxaca, Mexico
- 2002 - New Brunswick, NJ, joint with Monroe Wall Symposium

### Future AAPS Meetings - 1999

November 14-18 - New Orleans Hilton, New Orleans, Louisiana

### Other Meetings of Interest—1999

**September 12-16, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, Second Euroconference on Marine Natural Products** Contact: Prof. Carlos Jimenez Gonzalez Departamento de Quimica Fundamental e Industrial Facultad de Ciencias, Campus da Zapateira, s/n Universidade da Coruna, 15071 A Coruna. Espana, Tel: 34-981-167000 Ext. 2170, Fax: 34-981-167065 , e-mail: carlosjg@udc.es.

**November 3-5,--Silver Spring, Maryland International Conference on Ethnomedicine and Drug Discovery.**

Contact: Magnus A. Azuine, Ph.D. Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme, 11303 Amherst Avenue, Suite #2 Silver Spring, MD 20902, USA Phone (301) 962-6201, Fax (301) 962-6205 E-mail: azuine@bioresources.org

### Other Meetings of Interest—2000

**January 18-22, -- Karachi, Pakistan. 8th International Symposium on Natural Product Chemistry.** For information contact: Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman (Chairman), Director, International Center For Chemical Sciences, H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry, University of Karachi, Karachi-75270, Pakistan. Telephone: 92-21499-0007; 92-21-496-8497; Fax: 92-21-496-3373; 92-21-496-3124. E-mail: hejric@digicom.net.pk

### EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

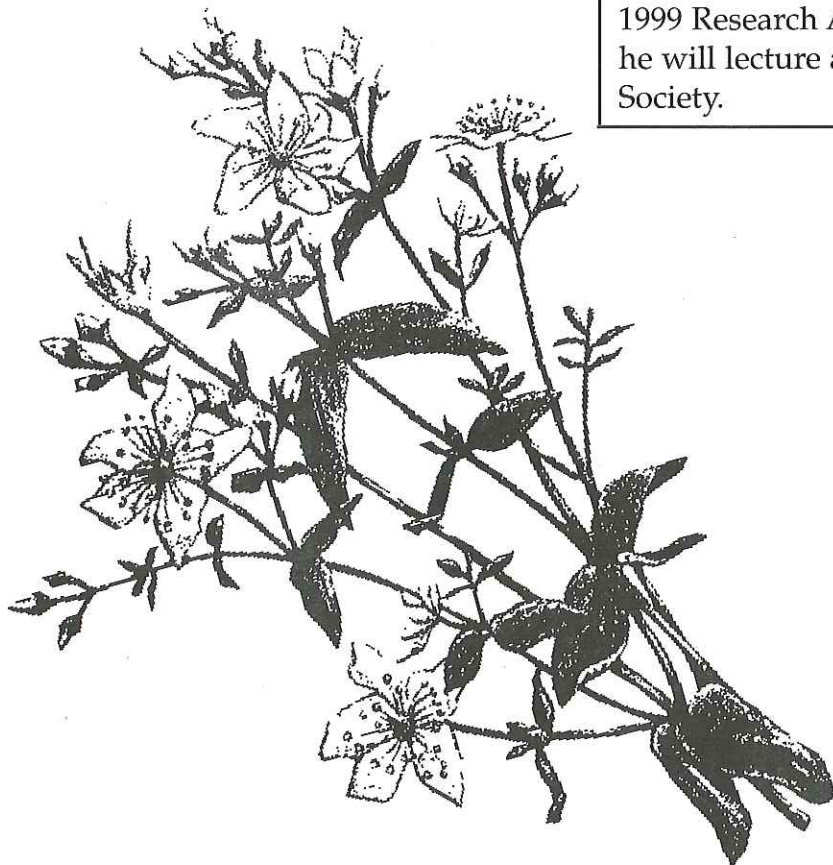
The American Society of Pharmacognosy offers a placement service to aid our members in seeking positions or employees. This service is available only to ASP members and is free to both the applicant and the prospective employer. Once an application is submitted, it will remain on file for one (1) year, 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

## 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: **Yuzuru Shimizu**, Ph.D., Department of Biomedical Sciences, College of Pharmacy, University of Rhode Island, 41 Lower College Rd., Kingston, RI 02881; Phone: 401-874-2752, Fax: 401-874-2181, E-mail: yshimizu@uri.edu



**Report** continued from page 3

regular feature of ASP annual meetings held in the United States. The Executive Committee has further decided to rename the symposium The Matt Suffness Symposium and to charge the Awards and Funds Committee with the selection of speakers according to specified guidelines, which will be published together with the other award criteria.

**Kingston** continued from page 1

most recently been invited to speak at the International Symposium on Antitumour [sic] Agents from Higher Plants in Paris and the ACS National Meeting in Dallas. As the 1999 Research Achievement Award winner he will lecture at the annual meeting of the Society.

Dr. E. John Staba  
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David J. Slatkin, Ph.D., Treasurer  
The American Society of Pharmacognosy  
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Glendale, Arizona 85318-2548

## 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: \$59 (Print edition), \$65 (Web edition), \$86 (Both Print and Web); Canada and Mexico: \$79 (Print edition), \$65 (Web edition), \$106 (Both Print and Web); Europe: \$92 (Print edition), \$65 (Web edition), \$119 (Both Print and Web); All other countries: \$99 (Print edition), \$65 (Web edition), \$126 (Both Print and Web)

### Associate Membership

Associate membership is open to students of pharmacognosy and allied fields only. These members are not accorded voting privileges. Dues are \$15.00 per year. In order to receive the *Journal of Natural Products* the subscription rates are as follows: United States: \$44 (Print edition), \$65 (Web edition), \$71 (Both Print and Web); Canada and Mexico: \$64 (Print edition), \$65 (Web edition), \$91 (Both Print and Web); Europe: \$77 (Print edition), \$65 (Web edition), \$104 (Both Print and Web); All other countries: \$84 (Print edition), \$65 (Web edition), \$111 (Both Print and Web).

### 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. 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. E. John Staba, University of Minnesota
- 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 American Society of Pharmacognosy  
P.O. Box 12548  
Glendale, AZ 85318-2548

### ASP Newsletter

Joy B. Reighard, Ph.D.  
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Deadlines for submission of information are as follows:

- Spring Issue - March 1st
- Summer Issue - June 1st
- Fall Issue - September 1st
- Winter Issue - December 1st

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