

**THE AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF PHARMACOGNOSY
50 YEARS OF PROGRESS IN
NATURAL PRODUCTS
RESEARCH
1959-2009**

Edited by

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Preface

It is an honor for us to serve as editors of this special volume dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the American Society of Pharmacognosy. We wish to express our sincere thanks to the more than 100 members and supporters of the ASP worldwide who have given generously of their time, expertise and knowledge to the preparation of a set of excellent summaries. We know that the space restrictions have posed substantial challenges in documenting the considerable achievements of many outstanding scientists, and we greatly appreciate their perseverance and patience in dealing with our editorial comments and restrictions. Many have remarked that it has been one of their most challenging writing assignments, to attempt to compress decades and even centuries of outstanding achievement into two pages or less! Within these limits, we have accepted the judgment of our authors in selecting topics for inclusion in their contributions. Receiving contributions from many of our members and colleagues abroad has been very gratifying. We and the Society greatly value their input, as well as that of the many other members abroad who constitute close to 40% of the total ASP membership.

The “Evolution” chapter covers the historical aspects of our Society, both in the years leading up to the founding of the ASP, and since its inception. The “Pharmacognosy in Action” chapter presents a diverse range of research and teaching contributions from specific US institutions and from many other countries and regions to the development of pharmacognosy and natural products chemistry over the past 50 years or longer. A “Profiles” chapter honors members who have served as presidents of our Society, and members and supporters of our Society who have earned recognition for their outstanding research and service to our discipline. Significant research achievements by ASP members and their colleagues are recorded in the “Milestones” chapter. The dynamic and cutting edge advancements of our discipline are highlighted in the “Expanding Horizons” chapter. The final chapter on the “History of *Lloydia* and the *Journal of Natural Products*” by *JNP* Editor, Doug Kinghorn, provides a fitting climax, emphasizing the vital role that our *Journal* has played over the decades in communicating the contributions of pharmacognosy and natural products to many important areas of chemical, medical and biological research. Lest ASP membership should be regarded as ‘all work and no play’, a section of photos from ASP events is also included.

We can honestly say that it has been a tremendous pleasure to work with all of our colleagues, both local and abroad, in the preparation of this volume. We wish to acknowledge the vital role played by ASP young members, particularly Scott Baggett, in compiling the “Profiles” chapter, the invaluable, overall assistance provided by David Carew, Norm Farnsworth, Doug Kinghorn and Jim McAlpine, and last, but not least, Roy Okuda who initiated the project, and was a constant source of inspiration and support. We hope that all of our members and supporters find it to be an informative, educational, and enjoyable record, not only of the history of our Society, but also of the indispensable contributions of pharmacognosists and natural product scientists worldwide to the advancement of human well-being and the improvement of global health.

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