2000 Years of Natural Products Research
Past, Present and Future
Joint Symposium to be held in Amsterdam in July

The American Society of Pharmacognosy (ASP), the Association Francaise pour l'Enseignement et la Recherche en Pharmacognosie (AFERP), the Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung (GA) and the Phytochemical Society of Europe (PSE) are holding their 5th Joint Symposium July 26 through July 30 at the Free University. See page 2 for additional information.

News from the Northern California Section of ASP

On April 22, Ray Cooper (Vice President of Pharmanex, Inc.) spoke at a joint seminar organized between the Northern California Section of the ASP and the Santa Clara Valley Section of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Cooper’s talk was entitled "Dietary Supplements: Scientific Challenges and Perspectives" and was well received by an audience of about 60 comprised of ASP and ACS members, and students and faculty of San José State. This was the first joint meeting between the two groups, who share many members and common interests, and future activities will be planned. If you would like to be placed on the mailing list for NCS-ASP events, please send contact. Roy Okuda at 408-924-2525 or by email at okuda@sjsu.edu
2000 Years of Natural Products Research - Past, Present and Future -
Joint Meeting of the ASP, AFERP, GA and PSE
Amsterdam, July 26-30, 1999

Climate: In July the weather is mild with daily temperatures ranging between 18° and 30°C, with always a chance of rain.

Travel: Amsterdam can be reached by car, train and plane. Schiphol Airport is 10 min by train from the congress venue. The Amsterdam-Zuid/World Trade Centre railway station is 5 min walking from the congress venue. By car the Vrije Universiteit can be reached from the motorway A10, exit S108 Hospital Vrije Universiteit (H VU), Zuid/Amstelveen. Turn left at the end of the split road onto Amstelveensweg, after about three hundred meters (at the hospital) turn left again onto De Boelelaan. The VU can be reached via city routes S108 and S109. All participants will receive a ticket for free public transport in Amsterdam (bus, tram, metro) for the time of the meeting.

Parking: Parking in the city of Amsterdam is difficult. At the congress venue there are only limited parking facilities (all paid parking), there is a parking garage at the VU hospital close to the congress center. A number of parking places for the handicapped are reserved in front of the VU Main Building and within its grounds.

Currency: The Dutch currency is the guilder; the exchange rate is 1 US $ for about NLG 2.00, 1 Euro for about NLG 2.20. All major credit cards are widely accepted.

Visa: Participants who need an entry visa are advised to make the application with the Dutch Embassy or Consulate in their home country at least two months before the intended arrival date. If required for a visa or for raising travel funds, a letter of invitation can be obtained from the Organizing Committee (address below); such a letter is not a commitment on the part of the organizers to provide any financial support.

Insurance: Please arrange your own travel insurance. The organizers will not be liable for any accident, injury, theft, loss and property damage to any person.

Address for information on the programme, exhibition, and submission of abstracts
Organizing Committee 1999 Congress
Division of Pharmacognosy, Leiden/Amsterdam Center for Drug Research
PO Box 9502, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands
tel: (+)31 (0)71 527 4510
fax: (+)31 (0)71 527 4511
Email: FCOGSYMP@LACDR.Leidenuniv.NL

The URL for the ASP website is http://www.phcog.org/
Teller’s Committee Report 1998 ASP Election

The Teller’s Committee, appointed by President Gordon M. Cragg, now wishes to report on the following results of the 1998 election.

Vice President (1999-2000):
John H. Cardellina, II

Executive Committee Member (1999-2002)
John Clardy

Constitution and By-Laws Change Proposal--Passed.

A total of 1096 ballots (647 USA and 449 non-USA) were mailed in early January 1999. Of this total, 494 ballots (303 USA and 191 non-USA) were returned and counted. Therefore, 37% of the qualified voting members of the ASP participated in the election.

Submitted by:
Dr. William J. Keller, Chairman
Dr. John G. Eley
Dr. T. Sam Roe

FROM THE PRESIDENT

WHEN IT COMES TO DIVERSITY, NATURE COMES OUT AHEAD

I’m sure many of you who receive Chemical and Engineering News saw the above headline in the March 29 issue (p. 28). As reported by Pamela Zurer, some researchers at Bayer in Germany have performed a statistical investigation into the structural similarities of natural products and synthetic compounds [reported in the March 1 issue of the International Edition of Angewandte Chemie (p. 643)]. The investigation was prompted by the observation that, with the recognition of the strengths of combinatorial chemistry, “quite a few people predicted that natural products will simply be substituted by synthetic compounds”. On the basis of their evaluations, the Bayer scientists concluded that there is a clear difference between the structural properties of natural products and synthetic compounds. The section head of natural products chemistry at Bayer, Dr. Thomas Henkel, states: “Nature is and will be the more efficient and talented source of innovative lead structures. Even anticipating strong progress in synthetic methodology, it is hard to imagine that combinatorial synthesis will ever substitute for natural products”.

The group of eminent scientists who recently reviewed the NCI Developmental Therapeutics Program also noted that “natural products have proven to be the most effective small molecules in terms of their ability to alter the function of proteins relevant to cancer”, and that “by continuing the discovery of new anticancer natural products and by applying the insights derived from the study of these natural products to the design and construction of synthetic molecules, it should be possible to develop new anticancer agents”.

To me, it is significant and encouraging that there continues to be the recognition by experts in industry, academia and government, of the immense value of natural products as an important source of leads in drug discovery and development. Rather than taking a confrontational attitude to technologies such as combinatorial chemistry, and feeling continued on page 7.

The URL for the ASP website is http://www.phcog.org/
THE ASP WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!!

New Active Members

Nagatoshi Ide
Wakunaga Pharm. Co.
Hiroshima, Japan

Muhammad Ilias
University of Mississippi

Akira Inada
Setsunan University

Hirakata, Osaka, Japan

Ting-Ting Jong
National Chung-Hsing University
Taichung City, Taiwan

Daniel Joulin
Robertet S.A.
Grasse, France

Yuto Kamel
Saga University

Karatsh, Saga, Japan

Charles Kamenka
Accutec Technologies, Inc.
Point Roberts, Washington

Catherine Lavaud
University of Reims
Reims, France

Ik-Soo Lee
Chonnam National University

Kwangju, Korea

Robert M. Levin
Albany College of Pharmacy
Albany, New York

Shwu-Jiuan Lin
Taipei Medical College
Taipei, Taiwan

Zimin Liu
Nocturnal Alternatives, Int'l.
San Marcos, California

Peter Lorenz
Kaden Biochemicals GMBH
Hamburg, Germany

Taifo Mahmud
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

H.A. Mahomed
University of Natal
Durban, Republic of South Africa

Gilbert D. Martin
Merck and Company, Inc.
Boytownt, Pennsylvania

Zlatko Mehmedc
University of Mississippi

Rita M. Moraes
University of Mississippi

Dhammika Nanayakkara
University of Mississippi

Bhairab D. Pandey
North Brunswick, New Jersey

Greg Pennyroyal
Leiner Health Products
Carson, California

Jat Rana
Ada, Michigan

Manyam B. Rangavalli
University of Mississippi

Pascal Richomme
UFR Sciences
Angers, France

Jeanette C. Roberts
University of Utah

Samir Anis Ross
University of Mississippi

Vitalina Rozenfeld
Easton, Maryland

Pamela Seefeld
Clearwater, Florida

Young Geun Shin
University of Illinois
Chicago, Illinois

Monique S. J. Simmonds
The Royal Botanical Gardens
Kew Richmond, Surrey, U.K.

Cameron J. Smith
OSI Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

R. William Soller
Washington, D.C.

Maria Julia Verde Star
San Nicolás de los Garza, Mexico

Sidney Sudberg
Alkamists Pharmaceuticals
Costa Mesa, California

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Associate Members

Nektarios Aligiannis
University of Athens
Greece

Scott Baggett
Lehman College
Bronx, New York

Gail L. Becker
Boca Raton, Florida

Jennifer Ann Carroll
University of California
Santa Cruz, California

Kyle Craig
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, British Columbia

Rohan Davis
Mt. Gravatt, Australia

Faith Demirci
Anadolu University
Eskisehir, Turkey

Christine J. Duncan
University of Mississippi

Sherweit El-Ahmedi
Texas A&M University

College Station, Texas

Maria Elena Y. Francisco
Clark University

Worcester, Massachusetts

Ahmed A. Hussein
Inst. de Quimica Organica General
Madrid, Spain

Patrick F. Jonas
University of Illinois

Chicagn, Illinois

Wilson C. Julio
University of Brussels

Brussels, Belgium

Laura Mydralrz
University of California

Santa Barbara, California

Sandra Maria Newton
Bradford University

Lancashire, U.K.

Fokia Lakis Nikolaos
University of Athens

Greece

Magiatis Prokopios
University of Athens

Greece

Ira Rajbhandari
University of Mississippi

Jennifer Schmidt
University of Alabama

Huntsville, Alabama

H.F. Smit
Utrecht, Netherlands

Websites of organizing Societies

American Society of Pharmacognosy:
http://www.phcog.org/

Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung: http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/WWW/GA/

Phytochemical Society of Europe:
http://www.dmu.ac.uk/ln/pse

Schedule of activities:

Monday, July 26
Evening: registration, welcome drinks

Tuesday, July 27
Opening, lectures
Reception at the Rijksmuseum

Wednesday, July 28
Lectures and poster session

Thursday, July 29
Lectures and poster session

Friday, July 30
Lectures and poster session
Congress dinner

The URL for the ASP website is http://www.phcog.org/
Future ASP Meetings

1999 - July 26-31 - Amsterdam, The Netherlands. International meeting with the Phytochemical Society of Europe, the Gesellschaft fur Arzneipflanzenforschung, and the Association Francaise 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: 34-981-16700 Ext. 2170, Fax: 34-981-167065, e-mail: carlosigm@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

The ASP website is http://www.phcog.org/
THE MATT SUFFNESS SYMPOSIUM

As many ASP members know, the late Matt Suffness was a driving force behind establishing the "Young Investigators’ Symposium" as a forum for younger natural products scientists to present the results of their research and gain timely recognition from their colleagues for their contributions to the science.

At the annual meeting of the ASP in Orlando in 1998, several members questioned the use of "young" in the title, and after thorough discussion, the ASP Executive Committee has unanimously decided to rename the Symposium, "The Matt Suffness Symposium." The Symposium will be held at annual Society meetings in the United States, with the first one being in Seattle in 2000.

The Awards and Funds Committee has been charged with the selection of speakers according to the following procedure:
1) The number of speakers per year shall be limited to two, but may be one or none if suitable nominations are not received in a particular year.
2) Nominees must be ASP members.
3) The age limit of nominees shall be 40 years.
4) Nominees shall be within 12 years of receiving their Ph.D., and within 10 years of gaining their first independent position (e.g., Assistant Professor or equivalent position in industry and government).
5) Nomination paperwork shall be kept as simple as possible. The Awards and Funds Committee will prepare a Nomination Form for use in soliciting nominations.
6) A nomination must be accompanied by the nominee’s CV, an abstract of the presentation proposed by the nominee, and relevant reprints. Selected speakers will be invited to submit a short review paper to the Journal of Natural Products.
7) Nominations will be solicited in the Newsletter, on the Website, and from recipients of the Research Achievement Award. Self-submissions will not be accepted.
8) Nominations will only be accepted from active ASP members.
9) The Awards and Funds Committee must keep in close contact with the appropriate ASP meeting Scientific Program Committee.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Maktoob Alam,
University of Houston
College of Pharmacy
R. Bryan Miller,
University of California at Davis

FROM THE PRESIDENT continued from page 3

threatened by such developments, I feel we must recognize that our respective disciplines complement each other; we should strive to form multidisciplinary collaborations with experts in these areas in order to maximize the contribution of our natural products to the development of efficacious drugs and other bioactive agents.

I’m sure that the upcoming joint meeting in Amsterdam will address many of the issues critical to the continued progress of our important, and indispensable, discipline. I look forward to seeing you there!

Gordon Cragg

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

The ASP website is http://www.phcog.org/
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, and 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