



NEWSLETTER

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Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung · Society for Medicinal Plant Research

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Message from the President

This Newsletter appears with a delay of one year. First of all, I offer the GA membership our apologies for the delayed publication of this Newsletter. The cause was in fact due to an accumulation of problems. So, much to our regret, the Editor who is depending on material sent to him, did not receive sufficient material (news, reports, announcements, etc) in due time. However, I think that most problems now have been solved, and therefore I am happy that the Newsletter of December 2000 will be published together with the present one.

Fully independent of the situation described above, the present editor has decided to finish with his tasks of the editorship, as his activities at the university are no longer related to pharmaceutical biology. Herewith I like to thank Dr Herman Woerdenbag for his efforts to publish the Newsletter during the last two years.

Fortunately, we were able to find Dr Andreas Hensel, University of Erlangen, ready to take over the job of editor. He already started with his task; the next Newsletter, issue December 2000 will appear according to schedule. Finally, in view of the above, I kindly ask our membership to be more active in sending material to our new editor of the Newsletter, Dr Andreas Hensel. His address and other data are given in the next issue of the Newsletter.

J.J.C. Scheffer

Report from the 47th Annual Congress, Amsterdam 1999

In 1999, 26–31 July, the 47th Annual Congress of our Society took place in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in the form of a Joint Meeting, which usually is organized every five years. The previous joint meeting was held in Halifax, Canada, in 1994. Prof. Dr R. Bauer, one of the two vice-Presidents of the GA, wrote a report of the meeting that appeared as an Editorial in *Planta Medica* **65**, 589 (1999). For those members who do not have access to *Planta Medica*, his report is reprinted here in our Newsletter.

'2000 Years of Natural Products Research – Past, Present and Future' was the title of the 5th joint congress of the American Society of Pharmacognosy, the 'Association Française pour l'Enseignement et la Recherche en Pharmacognosie', the Society for Medicinal Plant Research, and the Phytochemical Society of Europe, which was organized by Prof. Verpoorte and his colleagues in Amsterdam July 26–31, 1999. Of course, knowing the past is necessary for planning the future, but at such a global meeting it was of much more interest to learn what is going on in the field of natural products right now and to get some ideas on the trends for future projects. More than 1100 scientists from 68 countries participated in that big symposium. Never before has a congress of this kind reached this size. Therefore it was also a demonstration, that natural products research is very alive and that it has a good perspective for the new millennium. It must have been a big impression for the young scientists, to meet that many colleagues from all over the world working in the same field. Moreover, the congress demonstrated the global importance of natural products research and the many international collaborations which are already existing.

The meeting in Amsterdam also showed the broad range of topics which are nowadays covered by natural products research and its multidisciplinary approach: the presentations reached from biodiversity, ethnopharmacology, agriculture, chemistry, via biochemistry, molecular biology, biotechnology, genetics, microbiology, pharmacology, to pharmaceuticals and clinical studies. That is the range of 'pharmaceutical biology' (pharmacognosy) in its modern expression. With this understanding, this discipline should have a bright future.

It is evident that macromolecular chemistry (besides the micro-molecular) will have increasing importance. 'Genomics' and 'proteomics' are new terms which represent this modern field. Working with DNA has become important not only in the taxonomy of organisms, but also for biotechnology, pharmacology and therapy. Proteins are important as drug targets but also as 'workers' in biotechnological natural products.

However, the importance of natural products research should not only be measured by the number of participants, the number of lectures (76) and the number of posters (795). Besides the contribution to basic science it has also to be measured by the impact to practical use, e.g. the contribution to drug development or the number of compounds which reach the market. Paclitaxel and camptothecin are excellent examples of such successful natural products. But we need more of them. Compared to the many published papers on pharmacologically active extracts and compounds there is rather little further development which really leads to marketed products. Let's hope that some of the interesting compounds which have been presented in Amsterdam will have a chance to reach the market, e.g. nymania 1 from *Trichilia emetica* and *Nymanina capensis*, which has a camptothecin like activity, guttiferone from *Garcinia pyrifera*, which has a paclitaxel like activity, or integric acids from *Xylaria obovata*, which are promising anti-HIV compounds.

Of course, one can also object such big meetings (sometimes it was really difficult to get through) and ask for more familiar ones. It is true that small symposia are more straightforward and more intensive in terms of working atmosphere in a particular field. Discussions are more deep and intensive when only the specialists meet. This need has been recognized by the Society for Medicinal Plant Research and led to the organization of smaller and more specific workshops and symposia during the year. However, both types of congresses are necessary. The big ones to 'look over the edge', to meet scientists from other fields and countries, and to get new ideas for multidisciplinary collaboration, and the small ones to have intensive insider discussions. In my feeling it would even be advantageous to have such big joint meetings more often, e.g. every two or three years. Globalization has also taken place in science (it started there even long before the economic globalization) and it may be necessary to have such a large scale worldwide scientific exchange more often than in the past. Having this in mind, I am aware of the big efforts the organizers have to undertake in order to make the meetings happen. Therefore many thanks to Rob Verpoorte and his team for that great job.

Rudolf Bauer

* published December 2000.

Minutes of the Members' Meeting 1999/Amsterdam

The annual Members' Meeting was held on 29 July 1999 in Amsterdam. Conference venue: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam; lecture hall: Auditorium. 127 GA members attended the session.

Topic 1 Passing of the Agenda

The agenda was accepted.

Topic 2 Minutes of the annual Members' Meeting 1998 in Vienna

The minutes of the annual Members' Meeting 1998 in Vienna were accepted.

Topic 3 Annual reports

The president thanked the members of the old Board of Directors for their work.

3.1 Report of the President: Prof. Dr J. J. C. Scheffer

Prof. Scheffer reported about some activities carried out since the previous annual Members' Meeting, held in Vienna on 1 Sept 98.

In Nov 98 (20–21), he participated in an informal meeting in Florence organized by Prof. Vincieri, to discuss some papers and activities of the EMEA Ad Hoc Working Group on Herbal Medicinal Products (=HMP). Also Dr Keller (BfArM) and Prof. Kemper (GPhyt) were present on that occasion.

(EMEA= European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products)

One week later, 27–28 Nov, our President participated in the joint symposium of the GPhyt and the GA, that took place in Bonn; it was a successful meeting, indeed. The symposium was entitled "Phytopharmakaforschung 2000". Prof. Scheffer gave a welcome address, and Dr Abel, Prof. Bauer and Dr Frank also represented the ExC.

As to the EMEA again, in Dec 98, after careful discussions the ExC prepared a few comments on some papers released by the Ad Hoc Working Group mentioned before.

On 15 Jan 99, a 'LOF-Symposium' – an annual meeting organized by pharmacognosists in The Netherlands and Belgium – took place for the first time also under auspices of the GA. Probably as result of this, a number a German participants were present in Gent. A report of this meeting has appeared in the GA Newsletter of June 99.

On 27 Jan 99, our President went to Cologne to participate in an Advisory Board Meeting of the GPhyt.

In Apr 99, the ExC discussed again some papers released by the (Ad Hoc) Working Group on HMP of the EMEA. The discussions took place by phone and by making extensively use of e-mail. A number of comments were prepared and subsequently sent to the EMEA in London at the end of April.

On 10 and 11 May, Prof. Scheffer participated in a Workshop organized jointly by the APV and the GA, on which occasion he gave a welcome address. The symposium entitled 'Quality of Herbal Medicinal Products – A Global Challenge' was a real success, scientifically as well as financially. Prof. Bauer was thanked because of his efforts to organize this Joint Workshop, that took place in Darmstadt.

On 5 July, our President gave a welcome address at the Workshop entitled "Arnica, Arzneipflanze mit Tradition

und Zukunft" that took place in Düsseldorf and was organized on the occasion of the 65 th birthday of Prof. Dr G. Willuhn, who on that occasion retired from the university. Prof. Scheffer thanked Prof. Willuhn for his contributions to medicinal plant research and for his activities for the GA in particular, and presented him a print on behalf of the GA as a token of our appreciation. The ExC was also represented by Dr Frank and Prof. Bauer.

Our President finished by saying that other activities of the ExC would become clear under the following topics of the Agenda.

3.2 Reports of the vice-Presidents

3.2.1 Prof. Dr R. Bauer

Prof. Bauer reported that he was in charge of preparing the joint meeting of the GA with the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Pharmazeutische Verfahrenstechnik" (APV) on 'Quality of Herbal Medicinal Products – A Global Challenge', which was held on 10–11 May 99 in Darmstadt/Germany. The meeting was well attended (68 participants from 17 countries). The meeting resulted in a financial profit of 38.000.– DM, which will be shared in equal parts by the two societies, APV and GA.

Together with Prof. Merfort/Freiburg and Dr Schmidt/Düsseldorf Prof. Bauer organized a GA Workshop entitled "Arnika – Arzneipflanze mit Tradition und Zukunft", which was held in occasion of the 65th birthday of Prof. Willuhn on 5 Jul 99 in Düsseldorf. The workshop covered seven invited lectures from cultivation, via taxonomy, chemistry, pharmacology till clinical studies and was attended by ca 60 participants. It was financially supported by the GA and some sponsoring companies. The final financial settlement is not yet finished.

For preparing the mistletoe symposium "Die Mistel in der Tumorthherapie – Grundlagenforschung und Klinik", which will be held 12–14 Nov 99, in Nonnweiler/Germany, Prof. Bauer had a meeting with Dr Scheer discussing the announcement of the meeting and the programme, as well as the participation of the GA. The meeting will be organized under the auspices of the "Deutsche Pharmazeutische Gesellschaft", the "Karl-und-Veronica-Carstens-Stiftung", the "Gesellschaft anthroposophischer Ärzte" and the GA. Prof. Bauer acts as representative of the GA in the organizing committee. The meeting and the contact address have been announced in the last GA Newsletter.

3.2.2 Prof. Dr B. Kopp

Prof. Kopp reported that she participated in the Agnuscatus Workshop at Zürich, held on 20 Nov 98, and in the Solidago Workshop in Berlin, on 25 Mar 99. She gave a welcome address to the members. Both workshops were very successful.

After the annual meeting at Amsterdam the GA Questionnaire will be sent. The evaluation of the GA Questionnaire will be presented at the Workshop in Vienna on 18 Feb 00.

3.3 Report of the Secretary: Dr B. Frank

Statistics of the GA membership:

	1999	1998
Total members	945	833
Honorary members	11	11
Company members	41	43
New members	112	87

Cancellations	20	19
Deceased members	3	-
Addresses unknown	113	103

The large number of new members is probably due to our internet activities and the travel grants.

3.4 Report of the Treasurer: Dr G. Abel and the cash auditor: Prof. Dr G. Harnischfeger

Dr Abel

(see enclosure)*

Prof. Harnischfeger and Prof. Schilcher agreed to do the cash audit again.
The cash auditors were accepted.

The cash balance is very well. Reason: Annual meeting at Vienna.
A proposal was made: to reduce the congress fees.

The budget for 1999 was accepted.

3.5 Discharge of the Treasurer

The treasurer was relieved (unanimous).

3.6 Discharge of the President

The president was relieved (unanimous).

Topic 4 Membership fees

The proposal to pay the membership fee in EURO or alternatively in DM was accepted (start is 2000). **RESOLUTION**

Membership fees:

Reduced fee for certain countries: 12.5 EURO (DM 25)

Membership fee for individual members:
25 EURO (DM 50)

Membership fee for students: 12.5 EURO (DM 25)

The proposals were accepted. **RESOLUTION**

Employment of a part-time Secretary Assistant:
salary maximum 2500.- DM/month.

The proposal was accepted. **RESOLUTION**

Topic 5 Report of the Planta Medica Editor-in-Chief: Prof. Dr A. Nahrstedt

Report of Prof. Nahrstedt (see enclosure)*:

The situation of Planta Medica in 1999:

The average input of manuscripts is very high, ca 65 manuscripts per month; this means a high rejection rate, because the pages in PM are limited.

The publication deadline is at the moment ca 9–10 months, because of the long evaluation period, especially for Pharmacology.

From 1998, 8 instead of 6 issues; that also results from a larger number of manuscripts.

There should be more Rapid Communications. I would like to have at least one Rapid Communication in every second issue. Publication deadline: ca 5 months.

Germany is the country with the most published manuscripts (1998: 40), followed by Japan, Korea and China. Spain followed at number 7 as the next European country.

PM had in 1998 with 1.430 the highest Impact Factor since the year of publication of the journal.

Two months ago a publisher meeting took place. It was decided, that clinical studies will also be published in Planta Medica. The condition for it: a clearly phytochemically characterized plant extract.

No more 'Notes' will be published in PM; such information should be published in a 'Letter'-Format.

Topic 6 Reports of the Permanent Committees (PC)

PC Production and Quality Control of Herbal Medicinal Products – Prof. Dr B. Meier

Prof. Meier gave a summary about the order of events at the workshop 'CO₂-Extraction' in Sept 98 in Vienna and a preview of the workshop 'Validation of Extr. Procedures' in Zürich 2000.

PC Biological and Pharmacological Activities of Natural Products – Prof. Dr H. Winterhoff

Prof. Winterhoff gave a summary of the programme of the workshop 'Test systems for prostatic Hyperplasia' in Sept 98 in Vienna and about the workshop 'In-vitro and in-vivo-tests for antidiabetic drugs' in Zürich 2000.

Topic 7 Future Annual Congresses

Annual Congresses:

2000: Zürich (Prof. Sticher)

2001: Erlangen (Prof. Kreis)

2002: Barcelona

2003: Münster (Prof. Nahrstedt) ?

Workshops:

24 Sept 99: Calendula Workshop (Vienna)

Oct 99: Symposium in Chile

12-14 Nov 99: Mistel Workshop (Nonnweiler)

18 Feb 00: Pharmakognosie (Vienna)

Topic 8 Election of the Board of Directors

Prof. Dr H. Schilcher was accepted as returning officer.

The President

Prof. Dr J.J.C. Scheffer

(votes: 124 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions)

The vice-Presidents

Prof. Dr B. Kopp (votes: 122 yes, 1 no, 3 abstentions)

Prof. Dr R. Bauer (votes: 122 yes, 1 no, 3 abstentions)

The Treasurer

Dr G. Abel (votes: 124 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions)

The Secretary

Dr B. Frank (votes: 121 yes, 1 no, 4 abstentions)

The Advisory Board

The following candidates were re-elected:

Prof. Dr W. Blaschek

Prof. Dr T. Dingeremann

Prof. Dr G. Harnischfeger

Prof. Dr R. Hiltunen

Prof. Dr W. Kreis

Prof. Dr B. Meier

Prof. Dr A. Nahrstedt

Prof. Dr A. J. Vlietinck

In addition the following candidates were elected:

Dr P. Houghton

Dr S. Alban

Prof. Dr H. Winterhoff

Topic 9 Miscellaneous

For the Egon Stahl Award (ESA) in 2000 excellent nominations have already been submitted.

*enclosures not published in this Newsletter

Dr B. Frank, secretary

Prof. Dr J.J.C. Scheffer, president

Egon Stahl-Award 1999

On the occasion of his 60th birthday, in 1984, Prof. Dr Egon Stahl donated a medal, a document and a monetary prize in order to recognize and to encourage young scientists working in the field of Pharmacognosy (or Pharmaceutical Biology) and Analytical Phytochemistry. As a rule, silver and bronze medals are awarded in alternate years.

In 1999, after a careful evaluation by the panel of judges, Mrs Marion Resch was selected for the Egon Stahl-Award in Bronze; this medal is to be given to a young scientist who has presented an outstanding PhD thesis.

Mrs Resch, born in 1969, studied pharmacy at the University of Würzburg; she graduated as pharmacist in 1993. Thereafter she started a PhD study in Düsseldorf under the supervision of Prof. Dr R. Bauer; in addition Mrs Resch worked part-time as a pharmacist in a public pharmacy.

In Jan 99, she obtained her PhD degree with the highest rating, namely 'summa cum laude'.

The topic of her thesis was 'Zur Inhaltsstoffführung und antiphlogistischen Wirkung der Rhizome von *Atractylodes lancea* und verwandter Arten' (On the constituents and anti-inflammatory activity of the rhizomes of *Atractylodes lancea* and related species).

Mrs Resch isolated a number of constituents from *A. lancea* with inhibitory activity against 5-lipoxygenase and cyclo-oxygenase. After having used an activity-guided isolation, she identified three highly potent components from this plant, namely an atractyloquinone, an atractylochromene, and an atractylohydroquinone. By means of various chromatographic and modern spectroscopic methods, a broad range of constituents were studied, and Mrs Resch was also able to identify unambiguously some related species of the same genus, which are also used as medicinal plant in East-Asia. Publications dealing with her study have meanwhile appeared in Phytochemistry, the Journal of Natural Products, and Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Letters.

The jury considered the study of Dr Resch an excellent example of modern pharmaceutical biology, as she combined analytical-phytochemical methods with biological testing, and because she applied this approach to study plants that are used as a medicinal plant in China.

The 'laudatio' in the certificate dedicated to Dr Resch reads: "in recognition of her valuable contributions to pharmaceutical biology, in particular by her studies on *Atractylodes lancea* and related species using a combination of *in vitro* activity tests and chromatographic procedures to isolate and identify the active plant constituents" (Amsterdam, 27 July 1999).

Subsequently, Dr Resch gave an excellent lecture to tell the participants in the Joint Meeting held in Amsterdam (at the same time the 47th Annual Congress of the GA) in more detail about the studies she had performed.

J.J.C. Scheffer

Egon Stahl-Award 1999 in Gold

The first Egon Stahl-Award – with a silver medal – was granted in 1985, and since then nine more silver and six bronze medals have

been awarded (included the one given to Mrs Resch). Until now, the GA had no opportunity to award a scientist because of his/her lifework. Therefore, the GA was very grateful to Bionorica Arzneimittel (Neumarkt, Germany), because this company enabled the GA, via a donation, to create a new award, namely the Egon Stahl-Award in Gold. By means of this award, which can be granted every third year, the outstanding lifework of a scientist should be acknowledged in the area of Pharmaceutical Biology, or Natural Products Chemistry, in its whole range.

After the announcement of the new award in the GA Newsletter, a number of really excellent candidates were nominated, so the Executive Council of the GA, which is in charge to make a selection, was posed for a difficult decision; however, it was able to make a choice unanimously. So it was a great pleasure to the GA President to make known the first scientist to be awarded with the highest scientific honour of the GA, namely Prof. Dr Robert Hegnauer. Of course, there was no need to introduce Prof. Hegnauer, who was earlier, i.e. in 1978, appointed honorary member of the GA. Apart from that, he also received honours from other societies, for example from our sister societies the ASP and the PSE.

Subsequently the GA President read an abstract from the nominations concerned, for example: "more than numerous times I was looking for some data in the book series 'Chemotaxonomie der Pflanzen', and always I found the relevant data".

In one of the nominations, it was written: "the enormous opus 'Chemotaxonomie der Pflanzen' is not only compiling phytochemical data, but it is also discussing the structural variation of plant constituents, their biosynthetic routes, their variability in different plant taxa above and below the level of species, their impact on plant systematics, their biological effects, and last but not least their function in terms of plant's benefit".

The first volume of this opus appeared as early as 1962. After publication of the last volume, it will comprise about 9000 printed pages. The opus in question is indeed a very rich source of information, not only for phytochemists or taxonomists, but also for the chemical ecologist, the plant physiologist, the plant biochemist, the toxicologist, and of course the pharmacognosist.

The GA President further stated: "the scientific life of Prof. Hegnauer has always been, and still is dedicated to the secondary constituents of higher plants. It is his great merit that he gave a strong impulse to the inclusion of not only chemical, but also biogenetic and physiological data into plant systematics". He also emphasized that Prof. Hegnauer has always been ready to help and inform those who asked his advice.

The President did not finish without saying that this tribute to Prof. Hegnauer was certainly also partly meant to be given to his wife Minie for her essential supporting role. Mrs Hegnauer became more and more actively involved during the preparations of the last volumes of 'Chemotaxonomie der Pflanzen', as is also clear from her co-authorship of these volumes.

At the end of the ceremony - during the Joint Meeting held in Amsterdam, July 1999 - the GA President presented to Prof. Hegnauer the Medal, the Document and the cheque belonging to the Egon Stahl-Award in Gold. The 'laudatio' in the document dedicated to Prof. Hegnauer reads: "in recognition of his extraordinary lifework in the area of pharmaceutical biology and natural products chemistry, in particular by his invaluable contributions to chemotaxonomy by the publication of the monumental multi-volume book 'Chemotaxonomie der Pflanzen' (Amsterdam, 27 July 1999)".

J.J.C. Scheffer

International Congress on Phytopharmaceuticals in Santiago de Chile, October 1999

18–21 Oct 99, an international congress took place in Santiago de Chile with the topic 'International Standards for Registration and Marketing Authorization of Herbal Medicinal Products, Medicinal Plants and Natural Products'. The organizer of the meeting was the "Fundación Chile", an organization founded in 1976 with financial support of the American industry and the State of Chile. This organization supports the technological development of Chile, especially in the areas of agriculture and forestry as well as fishery.

The congress was intended for representatives of health authorities and research institutes as well as pharmacists, and producers of phytopharmaceuticals, food supplements and cosmetics; the meeting was made possible by the active co-operation of the Chilean health authorities of the "Instituto de Salud Pública de Chile" (ISP) as well as by the Society for Medicinal Plant Research (GA) and the 'Iberoamerican Program of Science and Technology for Development' (CYTED).

The goal of this congress was on the one hand an exchange of experiences regarding the production, the quality control, and the pharmacological, toxicological and clinical testing of phytopharmaceuticals as well as the formal requirements for their registration and authorization. On the other hand, the goal was to have a discussion about criteria of the examination and registration of such products in the countries of "Mercosur" and in Chile. Therefore the congress consisted of a series of lectures and a workshop. A summary of the results of the workshops is given here.

Workshop I: Classification of Products, Quality and Production

A consensus was obtained that a future harmonized system in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay should consider the following aspects: Plant products with an indication for medical use should have a registration with the status of a pharmaceutical.

There was also a consensus about three groups of products, based on a different level of proof for their efficacy:

1. So-called 'rational Herbal Medicinal Products (HMP)' of which the efficacy has been established through controlled clinical studies.
2. 'HMP' having a bibliographically documented application as well as efficacy and safety ('well-established use'). The validity of bibliographic data for a specific preparation is an important issue.
3. 'Health Products' of which the efficacy has not been established experimentally, but it probably exists. A declaration may only include general statements as to health care. Plants permitted and 'indications' in the form of 'health claims' will be listed by the responsible Health Authorities. Using this group of 'Health Products' may prevent a "grey" market of 'Nutraceuticals'. The quality and safety of the products must be guaranteed. GMP rules must be applied during the production of these products, and a charge-documentation is needed.

Workshop II: Pharmacology and Toxicology

As basis of the discussions, guidelines and other publications of the WHO and the EMEA regarding the pharmacological and toxicological examination of phytopharmaceuticals were used.

For the evaluation of the safety of phytopharmaceuticals, the following points were found to be applied:

1. Prerequisite is a good botanical examination and identification of the plants used.

2. HMP of which no toxicological data are present, but for which on the basis of their chemical constituents toxicological doubts do exist, must be submitted to additional toxicological examinations (if possible using in-vitro systems).
3. Toxicological examinations should be limited to specific questions which cannot be answered by studies in daily practice, e.g. the examination of mutagenicity (Ames test, chromosomal aberration test, micronucleus test in rodents), carcinogenicity (only in case of a serious suspicion) or, if a preparation is intended to be used during pregnancy, reproduction toxicity.
4. An expert report should include all aspects of the products, and therefore existing data of pharmacovigilance should also be considered.

Workshop III: Medicines and Efficacy

First an agreement was achieved, that requirements for the clinical studies have to be based primarily on the indications concerned. The various needs for evidence of the efficacy can be derived from the guidelines of the EMEA paper HMPWG/23/99 ('Draft Points to Consider on the Evidence of Safety and Efficacy Required for Well-Established Herbal Medicinal Products in Bibliographic Applications'), in which criteria for different levels of evidence of safety and efficacy are divided into six groups.

For the evaluation of phytopharmaceuticals which are in use for a long time already (well-established HMP), literature data should be studied in particular.

The quality requirements of clinical studies on phytopharmaceuticals have to be based on the GCP guidelines. This is especially true for the group of 'rational HMP' mentioned above.

For products of the group 3, the so-called 'Health Products', no data about efficacy are needed, but data about the quality and safety (well-established use) of the respective products are needed. Indications, dosage as well as the type of use will be stated in lists made by the authorities.

Concerning fixed combinations of phytopharmaceuticals, the participants of the workshop were of the opinion that the guidelines of the EMEA (HMPWG/15/99, 'Note for Guidance on Fixed Combinations of Herbal Medicinal Products with Long-Term Marketing Experience – Guidance to Facilitate Mutual Recognition and Use of Bibliographic Data') are satisfactory.

At the end of the workshops, two lectures were given by representatives of the Chilean Ministry of Economics and of the "ISP", in which the economic integration of Chile in activities of "Mercosur", under special consideration of health politics, were discussed. Until now some working parties were active, but the future goal should be an intensified cooperation.

Dr S. Hose, Würzburg

Calendula Symposium in Vienna, 24 September 1999

The Symposium on *Calendula officinalis* L., organized by the Institute of Applied Botany, the Society for Medicinal Plant Research (GA) and the Austrian Society of Phytotherapy, took place at the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna with the aim to present the state of the art in research of marigold and to propose further activities. Representatives from academia, industry and regulatory authorities focused in their lectures on different aspects of *Calendula* concerning their special working fields.

The Workshop was opened by Prof. Ch. Franz, who gave an outline of the development of marigold from an ornamental flower and a traditionally used remedy to a modern herbal medicinal product that is even applied in veterinary medicine.

Prof. B. Kopp emphasized the importance to combine traditional

experience in therapy with new phytochemical and pharmacological studies.

Dr M. Simanyi, president of the Austrian Society of Phytotherapy, expressed her hope for further clinical studies.

Dr O. Isaac, Hanau (Germany), gave a full survey on history, botany, chemical and pharmacological aspects of active compounds, therapeutical applications and galenic formulations of *Calendula*. Because of their wound healing and anti-inflammatory activities marigold preparations are used for therapy of skin defects and in cosmetics.

Dr W. Junghanns, Groß-Schierstedt (Germany), and Dr J. Novak, Vienna, spoke about cultivation and breeding of marigold. The main goals of breeding are large amounts of active compounds and resistance to plant diseases.

Dr P. Theiss, Naturwaren OHG, Homburg/Saar (Germany), presented galenic formulations of marigold in the pharmaceutical industry. On the one hand conventional lipophilic solvents are mostly used for pharmaceutical preparations, on the other hand CO₂-extracts are used in cosmetics with the advantage of no registration needed.

Prof. G. Reznicek, Institute of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, and Prof. K. Zitterl-Eglseer, Institute of Applied Botany, University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, introduced a new HPLC method to analyse the faradiol monoesters in preparations of marigold and presented investigations on the variability and stability of these compounds.

Ir R. Janssens, University of Wageningen (The Netherlands), reported of an uncommon use of the fatty oil of marigold, which is non-toxic and fast drying, in the paint and synthetic industry.

Prof. R. Della Loggia, University of Trieste (Italy), described the difficulties in finding the main active principles in an extract of marigold consisting of a great number of active compounds. He presented the anti-oedematous activities of the faradiol esters, tested by the inhibition of Croton oil-induced oedema of the mouse ear.

Dr. U. Wissinger-Gräfenhahn, "Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel", Berlin, underlined the necessity of further clinical data concerning the topical application of *Calendula* preparations for indications like *ulcus cruris* and inflammations of the skin and mucosa. Furthermore, CO₂-extracts have to be checked for their allergenic and sensitizing potential and lack of side-effects.

Some aspects of this lecture induced an animated final discussion moderated by Prof. Ch. Franz. New registrations, especially of CO₂-extracts, cause a great number of problems and costs for small companies producing herbal medicinal products. Closer collaboration between regulatory agencies, industry and academia would be desirable.

For more detailed reports of the symposium, see: *Dtsch Apoth-Ztg* **139**, 121–122 (1999), *Z. Phytotherapie* **21**, 138–169 (2000), and *Drogenreport* **13**, 69–72 (2000).

Arnica Workshop in Düsseldorf, 5 July 1999

A workshop entitled "Arnica, Arzneipflanze mit Tradition und Zukunft" was organized by Dr Th. Schmidt, Prof. Dr I. Merfort and Prof. Dr R. Bauer in Düsseldorf on the occasion of the 65th birthday of Prof. Dr G. Willuhn. Seven lectures covered nearly all aspects of Arnica research, from cultivation and systematics, via chemistry and pharmacology, to clinical application. A summary of the contributions has been published in *Z. Phytotherapie* **21**(1), 39–54 (2000).

Mistletoe Symposium in Nonnweiler (Germany), 12–14 November 1999

In 49 lectures, the symposium was dealing with all aspects of mistletoe in tumour therapy – from basic to clinical research. It was organized by Dr R. Scheer on behalf of the 'German Pharmaceutical Society', the 'Society for Medicinal Plant Research' (GA), the

'Karl and Veronica Carstens-Foundation', and the 'Society of Anthroposophic Physicians in Germany'. The GA was represented in the Organizing Committee by Prof. Bauer. The proceedings of the symposium will be published in a book entitled "Die Mistel in der Tumorthherapie – Grundlagenforschung und Klinik", KVC Verlag, Essen, 2001 (ISBN 3-933351-22-7).

Anniversary: Professor Dr Robert Hegnauer 80 years old

On 1 Aug 1999, Prof. Dr Robert Hegnauer, honorary member of our Society since 1978, celebrated his 80th birthday. Earlier that week, on 27 Jul 99, Prof. Hegnauer was awarded the Egon Stahl-Award in Gold. During the ceremony, the GA President already wished him a nice birthday celebration together with his wife and children.

The GA cordially congratulated Prof. Hegnauer on this 'special' birthday, and wished him and his wife much vigour for the time to come, also knowing that they were very active in finishing the multi-volume book "Chemotaxonomie der Pflanzen".

Professor Dr. Dr.h.c. Walter Poethke 1900 – 2000-05-30

In connection with the hundredth anniversary of Professor Dr. Dr.h.c. Walter Poethke, May 30th 2000, there are several reasons to commemorate him for his vital contributions to the development of the pharmaceutical sciences inclusive pharmacognosy of the post war Germany in general and in the so-called German Democratic Republic in special. During the communistic regime in the GDR, Professor Poethke was highly respected and honored in the pharmacy all over Europe for his personality and his integrity. He did his best to create possibilities for young scientist in the GDR to meet and obtain contact with scientists in the free world, among others by inviting such scientists to international congresses organized by the Pharmaceutical Society of the GDR in which he for many years served as the president. His conviction that the science knows no political borders or limits, and that science is and has to be international, brought him wide respect. Although originally a pharmaceutical chemist, Professor Poethke showed early and clearly his interest for phytochemistry, as in his excellent 'habilitation thesis' on 'The alkaloids of *Veratrum album*' from 1937.

Numerous doctoral theses in phytochemistry and phytochemical analysis emerged from the institute of professor Poethke in Jena and his many students and graduate students admired him as an inspiring and sympathetic professor.

Professor Poethke was a member of the 'Society for Medicinal Plant Research' from its foundation in 1953, he served as its vice-president from 1960 to 1963, and was awarded the honorary membership in 1990.

Professor Poethke died in 1990. In the old Nordic Edda it says:

Cattle dies,
Friends die,
One day you will also die,
But one thing will never die,
The fame of a man of honor.

A. Baerheim Svendsen, Oslo

Note

This delayed Newsletter (see Message from the president) is the last under my editorship. I would like to thank all those I have cooperated with in this function and I am grateful for the contributions I received the past years. I wish my successor, Dr Andreas Hensel, all the best in fulfilling his new task and I hope he will receive the input necessary to maintain a publication like this.

H.J. Woerdenbag