

Society for Medicinal Plant Research Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung e.V.



Message from the President



Dear members,

the 54th annual congress of GA, held in Helsinki from Aug 29th – Sept 2nd, 2006 has been again a great success. We are very thankful to the organizers, Prof. Hiltunen and Prof. Vuorela, that they have put together such an attractive scientific and social programme, and that they have organized everything so perfectly. It was great, that Prof. Max von Schantz, who is one of our distinguished honorary members, and who had organized the congress of GA in Helsinki 34 years ago, could also attend. As in previous years, GA has also supported 25 young scientists from 25 countries with travel grants, so that they could attend our annual congress.

It was the first time after many years that the abstracts of our annual meeting were again published in *Planta Medica*, the official organ of our Society. We are very pleased about this development and I want to thank the publisher, Thieme Verlag Stuttgart, and Dr. Kuhlmann, very much that they made this possible.

On behalf of GA, I want to thank Prof. Hiltunen and Prof. Vuorela and their supporting team very much for their enthusiasm and for organizing the congress in Helsinki so successfully.

A comprehensive report on the 54th annual congress of GA can be found in this Newsletter.

During the BoD meeting in Helsinki, we discussed the future development of GA in a special workshop. The ideas range from a GA research trust, more support for scientists from developing countries, new research areas for the annual meetings, to a young scientists committee. We will discuss these items further and will inform you in the next members meeting.

Also in Helsinki, the newly established Dr. Willmar Schwabe-Award of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research was awarded for the first time. Winner of the 2006 award is Prof. Dr. Thomas Efferth, German Cancer Research, Heidelberg, Germany. The Egon-Stahl-Award in Bronze was given to Dr. Karin Wölkart from the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Graz, Austria.

I am very happy that we can announce now a further award of GA: Negotiations with Prof. Popp from Bionorica AG, ended in the establishment of the Bionorica Phytoneering Award of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research. This biannual award is sponsored by Bionorica with 10.000 € and is dedicated to acknowledge outstanding research in the field of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics of herbal medicinal products and their active principles, clinical research in the areas of respiratory tract infections, inflammation, women's health, and metabolic syndrome, as well as safety and pharmacovigilance studies with herbal medicinal products. On behalf of GA, I want to thank Prof. Popp very much for this sponsorship. Please find the details for application on the separate Flyer.

With the end of 2006, Prof. Matthias Hamburger has retired as Editor in Chief. We appreciate very much the extraordinary enthusiasm, efforts and time he spent for *Planta Medica*. Under his guidance, the online submission and reviewing system has been established, which will guarantee a successful future of *Planta Medica*. We respect that he was not able to carry this tremendous workload anymore, and we are grateful that he will still act as review editor for *Planta Medica*. Thank you very much, Prof. Hamburger! The task of being Editor in Chief will be taken over by Prof. Luc Pieters, Antwerp. And the Editorial Board will also be enlarged and the workflow rearranged. So we are optimistic that we will be able to contribute to a high quality and a high impact of *Planta Medica*. We are also negotiating a low rate on-line access to *Planta Medica* for members of GA. I hope that more members will then consider *Planta Medica* for the publication of their valuable results.

In 2007, the 55th annual congress of GA will be held in Graz, Austria, and I myself will act as the chairman. It will also be the last year of my presidency. I hope that many of you will attend. Detailed information is available from our homepage and from the second circular.

Last but not least, I wish you a healthy, lucky and successful year 2007 and I am looking forward to seeing many of you in Graz.

R. Bauer, President of GA

NEWSLETTER

New GA members since June 2006

The Society welcomes you all warmly and wishes that GA may get a platform for many scientific and personal contacts. All the best for you and GA is looking forward to your active participation in all GA events!

Dr. Elin Sofia Olafsdottir, Iceland; Ms. Daniela Spriano, Switzerland; Dr. Rawia Zayed, Egypt; Ms. Laurence Mazuranok, France; Dr. Doris Greiling, Germany; Dr. Elke Koenig, Germany; Dr. Byoung-Seob Ko, South Korea; B. M. Sunha Choi, South Korea; Dr. Yeon Hee Seong, South Korea; Dr. Stafaan Vervarcke, Belgium; Dr. Pavol Otepka, Slovak Republic; Ms. Sigrid Esianu, Romania; Ms. Eszter Laczkó-Zöld, Romania; Dr. Ecaterina T. Toth, Romania; Dr. Daniela Pomponiu, Romania; Dr. Elvira Gille, Romania; Ms. Valentina Alexandru, Romania; Dr. Smaranda Vantu, Romania; Prof. Dr. Mihaela Corneanu, Romania; Prof. Dr. Gabriel Corneanu, Romania; Prof. Dr. Nicoleta Hadaruga,

Romania; Prof. Dr. Dan Hadaruga, Romania; Prof. Dr. Maria-Magdalena Zamfirache, Romania; Dr. Irina-Neta Toma, Romania; Dr. Illoara Oniga, Romania; Prof. Dr. Ursula Helena Staexcu, Romania; Prof. Dr. Monica Hancianu, Romania; Ass. Prof. Ginanina Christina Crisan, Romania; Ms. Christina Stefanescu, Romania; Dr. Doina Danila, Romania; Dr. eng. Elena Ionescu, Romania; Dr. eng. Carmen-Elena Tebrencu, Romania; Dr. Maria Bucuresteanu, Romania; Ms. Cornelia Geanina Mircea, Romania; Prof. Dr. Tamas Mircea, Romania; Prof. Dr. Anca Miron, Romania; Dr. Ana Clara Aproto-soaie, Romania; Ms. Oana Gacea, Romania; Lect. Adrian Petre Ionescu, Romania; Ass. Prof. Madalina Vatui, Romania; Ms. Silvia Oroian, Romania; BSc Andreea Zangara, United Kingdom; BSc Chrystal Haskell, United Kingdom; MSc Andreas Kühne, Germany; Prof. Dr. Asuman Sunguroglu, Turkey; Ms. Sara Heise, Denmark; Dr. Michael Dreyer, Germany; Mag.

Pharm. Annette Ammon, Germany; Dipl.-Biol. Martin Scholz, Germany; Dr. Marjana Zovko, Croatia; Dr. Timo Niedermeyer, Germany; Dr. Müberra Kosar, Turkey; Dr. Stefan Philipov, Bulgaria; BSc. Saeed Ur Rehman, Pakistan; Dr. Tomas Girbes, Spain; Ms. Soumana Karimou, Rep. of Niger; Ms. Lily Li, USA; Dr. Jelena Cvejic, Serbia; Dr. Carina Tikanen-Kaukanen, Finland; Mag. Pharm. Robert Mayer, Austria; Dipl. chem. Christof Krieg, Austria; Dr. Ricardo Hugo Lira, Mexico; Prof. Wagner Vilegas, Brazil; Miss Flora Aigbe, Nigeria; Prof. Dr. Hannes Van Staden, South Africa; Dr. Sekou Bah, Mali; Ass. Prof. Mohd Masroor A. Khan, India; Dr. Mohamed Al-Fatimi, Yemen; Ass. Prof. Sanjay Jachak, India; Ms. Marie-Jeanne Mukazayire, Belgium; Mr. Philippe Okusa Ndjolo, Belgium; Prof. Pedro Abreu, Portugal; Ms. Petra Neumeyer, Germany.

Egon-Stahl-Award in Bronze / Silver

On the occasion of his 60th birthday, Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. *Egon Stahl* donated a medal, a document and a monetary prize in order to recognize and promote young scientists working in the field of Pharmacognosy (Pharmaceutical Biology) and Analytical Phytochemistry.

As a rule, the silver medal and an award of € 3.000 shall be awarded to scientists up to the age of about forty who have published outstanding scientific work during the years after their graduation. The bronze

medal and an award of € 2.000 will be given to young scholars up to the age of about thirty whose thesis was of outstanding quality. The prize 2007 will be awarded during the 55th annual congress of GA in Graz, Austria.

Members of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research are invited to submit nominations for candidates, preferentially for the silver medal, together with supporting data, to the President of GA, Prof. Dr. R. Bauer, Graz.

A nomination for the prize has to include a curriculum vitae incorporating the most important data on the candidate's scientific career, an index on his/her publications, and reprints of several of his/her more recent publications. All publications can be taken be into consideration, including already published papers of the last six years. All documents have to be submitted in triplicate.

Deadline for submissions is **March 15th, 2007.**
R. Bauer

Notes to all GA members


**Note to all GA members**

Please inform the secretary by phone, fax or mail of any change in your coordinates, especially in case of changes in E-mail addresses.

Fax / phone: ++49 8141 613 749

e-mail:
Ga-secretary@ga-online.org

The GA-homepage (www.ga-online.org) contains a special members area for which an access code is needed: username "gamember", password "morphine".


**Deceased members**

(to our knowledge)

Dr. Franz Pattermann,
Ingelheim, Germany,
in July 2006

Prof. Dr. Dr. Szabolcs Nyiredy,
Budakalasz, Hungary,
on 30 Oct 2006

GA will keep commemoration of these members and offers its sincere condolences.

**Editorial remark**

All contributions for the GA-Newsletter are welcome.

Deadline for submission for the next edition is fixed to May 30, 2007.

Please send all contributions by e-mail or disk to:

Prof. Dr. A. Hensel,
University of Münster, Institute for
Pharmaceutical Biology and
Phytochemistry,
Hittoffstrasse 56, D-48149 Münster,
Germany

ahensel@uni-muenster.de

Egon Stahl-Award 2006

with a bronze medal for Mag. Dr. Karin Wölkart, University of Graz, Austria



On the occasion of his 60th birthday, our honorary member, late Professor Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Egon Stahl donated a medal, a document and a monetary prize in order to recognize and promote young scientists working in the field of Pharmacognosy, Pharmaceutical Biology, and Analytical Phytochemistry.

The Egon Stahl-Award with a bronze medal should be awarded to young scholars up to the age of about thirty, whose theses are of outstanding quality.

After a careful evaluation by the panel of judges (consisted of the Vice-President B. Kopp, former presidents and the editor of *Planta Medica*) it was decided that the Egon Stahl Award 2006 with a bronze medal should be given to Mag. Dr. Karin Wölkart, University of Graz, Austria. The awarding ceremony took place on August 30th, 2006 during the opening ceremony of the 54th Annual Meeting of our Society held in Helsinki, Finland.

Dr. Wölkart was born in Graz, Austria, in 1976. She studied pharmacy at the Karl-Franzens-Universität of Graz from 1996–2002. Her major subject during her studies was on Pharmacognosy, where she decided to do her diploma thesis under the

supervision of ao.Univ.Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar. She performed analytical studies on essential oils ("GC/MS-Untersuchungen verschiedener Aetherolea"); the diploma thesis was rated as "very good". In 2002 she graduated in pharmacy with the diploma. Subsequently Dr. Wölkart started a PhD study in Graz under the supervision of Prof. Bauer.

Her thesis with the title "Über phytochemische und pharmakologische Untersuchungen von *Echinacea angustifolia* DC. sowie klinische Studien und neue Erkenntnisse zu molekularen Wirkmechanismen." was accepted by the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz with the best possible ranking "mit ausgezeichnetem Erfolg" in 2005. Dr. Wölkart has already published 11 original papers in high impact journals, including *Planta Medica*, and has presented lectures and posters at several congresses.

The panel of judges for the Egon Stahl Award decided unanimously that the studies of Dr. Wölkart are an excellent example of an interdisciplinary approach in medicinal plant research, covering the fields of pharmacognosy, pharmacology, and analytical phytochemistry, and therefore fully reflect the spirit of the Egon Stahl-Award.

Prof. Kopp congratulated Dr. Wölkart and presented her the bronze medal, the document and the monetary prize. The document reads as follows: "The Society for Medicinal Plant Research (Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung) presents the Egon Stahl-Award 2006 with the bronze medal to Dr. Karin Wölkart in recognition of her valuable contributions to pharmacognosy, pharmacology, and analytical phytochemistry, in particular by her outstanding studies on alkalimides from *Echinacea angustifolia*, their isolation and characterization, and the studies of their bioavailability and pharmacokinetics."



Dr. Wölkart gave a lecture entitled "New Insights in the bioavailability and molecular mode of action of Echinacea preparations" summarizing the results of her thesis: *Echinacea* is a widely used herbal remedy for prevention and treatment of the common cold. Recently a lot of new insights concerning the molecular mode of action of the main lipophilic constituents, the alkalimides, have renewed interest in this plant. Alkalimides have recently been shown to be quite fast absorbed and nanomolar quantities have been detected by LC-MS/MS in the blood after oral application of different Echinacea preparations in randomized open, single-dose, crossover studies. Due to the structural similarity of the alkalimides with anandamide, an endocannabinoid, we have evaluated their ability to bind to cannabinoid receptors CB1 and CB2. Each of the alkalimides was recognized by both the CB1 and CB2 receptors and can therefore be considered as a new class of cannabinomimetics. There is also evidence that alkalimide containing Echinacea preparations trigger effect on the pro-inflammatory cytokine TNF- α and chemokine IL-8 in an ex vivo study and therefore not only bind but also activate these CB2 receptors. However, due to a lot of new cognitions the effects are not exclusively related to CB binding.

B. Kopp

Travel Grants 2006 to young scientists

In order to promote the active participation of PhD students to the GA meetings the society is sponsoring since many years a steadily increasing amount of money for travel grants. For the 2006 conference in Helsinki the sum of about 15.000 € was donated to the following young members (22 from Europe, 1 from India, 1 from Nigeria, 1 from USA). GA congratulates all winners!

Ashidi Joseph, U.K.; **Biskup Edyta**, Poland; **Chaabi Mehdi**, France; **Dao Thi**, The Netherlands; **Deshmukh Vishal**, In-

dia; **Duarte Noélia**, Portugal; **Grundmann Oliver**, U.S.A.; **Gusenleitner Sandra**, Austria; **Hamed Ahmed**, U.K.; **Hornby Belinda**, U.K.; **Jalali May**, Germany; **Jasprica Ivona**, Croatia; **Khader Mohannad**, Austria; **Kram Dominic**, Germany; **Landa Premysl**, Czech Republic; **Lass Christian**, Germany; **Mbagwu Herbert**, Nigeria; **Mehner Christian**, Germany; **Nour Mohammad**, Germany; **Ortlepp Sofia**, Sweden; **Paunonen Ria**, Finland; **Schwaiberger Andrea**, Austria; **Trauner Gabriele**, Austria; **Wittschier Nicole**, Germany; **Zipfel Janina**, Germany.



The lucky GA travel grant winners of the Helsinki 2006 conference

Honorary Membership for Prof. Dr. Gerhard Franz, Regensburg, Germany

According to the Standing Rules of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research, the Board of Directors has the option to award the Honorary Membership to individuals who have rendered special service either to medicinal plant research and/or to our Society.

Based on an unanimous decision of the Board of Directors of GA the honorary membership has been awarded this year to Prof. Dr. Gerhard Franz, University of Regensburg, Germany. The awarding ceremony took place on August 30th 2006 during the opening ceremony of the 54th Annual Meeting of GA held in Helsinki.

Gerhard Franz was born in Dresden, Germany, on March 26, 1937. He studied pharmacy at the Technical University of Karlsruhe and graduated as pharmacist in 1962. He earned the Ph.D. and the Habilitation at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, in 1965 and 1970 respectively. He went to the Department of Biochemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, as a post doctoral fellow in 1966/67 and became Assistant Professor at the University of Fribourg in 1970. He was Visiting Professor at the University of Basel, Switzerland, from 1973 till 1975, and at the University of Grenoble, France, in 1987/1988. Finally he obtained the chair of pharmacognosy and became Full Professor of Pharmaceutical Biology at the University of Regensburg, Germany, in 1977, where he retired in 2004.

The scientific work of Prof. Franz started with carbohydrates (mono, oligo- and polysaccharides including cardiac glycosides). Originally interested in biosynthesis and physiology of these natural compounds he later moved into the field of therapeutically active carbohydrates including studies on structure activity relationship. His research interest broadened and in his group he worked also on analysis of various natural compounds and carbohydrate derivatives and investigated their biological activity, such as immunomodulatory activity, anti-tumour effects or anti-inflammatory- and anti-coagulant actions. He became more and more interested in quality aspects of herbal medicinal products. He developed and improved methods for quantitative analysis of natural compounds in herbal drugs, he investigated the bioavailability of natural compounds in herbal drug preparations and analysed the stability of herbal medicinal products. Moreover, he did research on

the toxicity of natural compounds. A major interest was and still is the development of modern quality monographs for the German and European Pharmacopoeia. In Strasbourg he still acts as member of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission and as chairman of the Expert Group 13B Phytochemistry. He previously was also chairman of the Expert Group Pharmaceutical Biology of the German Pharmacopoeia commission. He was member of the Commission E and of the advisory board of the German BfArM. In addition he acted as president of the International Evaluations Commission of the French speaking Schools of Pharmacy in Belgium.

Several generations of pharmacy students could benefit from his great experience and skills in teaching and received an excellent education in medicinal plants and phytotherapy.

The result of his research work is documented in more than 250 publications and some books. He also was engaged in the publication of several journals and handbooks. Thus he was Editor-in Chief of "Pharmaceutical and Pharmacological Letters", and Co-Editor of the journal of GA *Planta Medica*. Besides he was co-editor of *Scientia Pharmaceutica*, the *Pharmazie*, *Phytothérapie*, *Review of Aromatic and Medicinal Plants*, *Deutsches Arzneibuch*, and *Deutscher Arzneimittelcodex*, and was member of the scientific board of *Hagers Handbuch der Pharmazeutischen Praxis* and supervising editor of ESCOP.

He was also very active in our Society. He acted as a member of the Advisory Board of GA from 1988 – 1993. Subsequently he was elected president from 1994 – 1997. He organized two annual congresses of GA in Regensburg in 1985 and 1993, and initiated the Egon-Stahl-Award in Gold by negotiations with Bionorica.

His efforts to promote quality and application of herbal medicinal products have already been acknowledged by the German Government and by scientific societies by several awards. He was the first scientist who became honoured by the Egon-Stahl-Award in 1985, in recognition of his great scientific achievements especially in the field of polysaccharides. He received the Cancer Medal of the Japanese Cancer Society in 1988, He was honoured by the Sebastian Kneipp-Award in 1994 for his in-



vestigations on the release of flavonoids from bladder-kidney tea preparations, and he obtained the Order of Merit of the FRG ("Bundesverdienstkreuz am Bande des Verdienstordens der Bundesrepublik Deutschland") in 1998 for his scientific work and his engagement in phytotherapy and pharmacopoeia commissions. Just recently, in 2003 he was honoured by the Hermann Thoms Medal of the German Pharmaceutical Society (DPhG) for his efforts in medicinal plant research. He was awarded also Corresponding Member of "Academie Francaise de Pharmacie" 1998, and of the "Royal Medicinal Society" (Belgium) 1990 and Honorary Advisor of the Department of Health Executive Yuan ROC, Taiwan.

After his retirement he intensified one of his hobbies, painting, and achieved a professional level. Of course, plants are a major topic of his paintings and so dominate his live even after retirement.

After reading the laudation, Prof. Bauer congratulated Prof. Franz and handed over the document belonging to the honorary membership of GA which reads as follows: "The Society for Medicinal Plant Research (Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung) is awarding the Honorary Membership to Prof. Dr. Gerhard Franz in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to medicinal plant research, his great impact on the development of modern herbal monographs for the pharmacopoeias and his long and intense engagement for the aims of our Society. Helsinki, August 30th, 2006, The President of GA".

R. Bauer

Dr. Willmar Schwabe Award 2006 for Prof. Dr. Thomas Efferth, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg

It was the first time in 2006, that the Society for Medicinal Plant Research had the opportunity to honour and to promote excellent scientists by the "Dr. Willmar Schwabe Award". It is a new award of GA, but it has a long tradition in the company Dr. Willmar-Schwabe GmbH, Karlsruhe (Germany) who is the sponsor of the award. After negotiations with Willmar Schwabe Arzneimittel AG, in particular with Dr. Stumpf, it was agreed that this prestigious prize is now regularly awarded by GA and that it is dedicated to promote excellent pharmacological and clinical studies with herbal medicinal products. It will be awarded every two years.

The name of the award goes back to the pharmacist Dr. Willmar-Schwabe (1839 – 1917), one of the German pioneers in homeopathy. He founded the Schwabe company in 1866, which was producing herbal tinctures. His motivation was to set quality standards for the production of herbal medicines.

In 1872, he published the standard text book for homeopathic pharmaceuticals – the "Pharmacopoeia Homeopathica Polyglottica", which gave minutely detailed instructions on the production of homeopathic medicines – a milestone for homeopathy and phytotherapy. Soon, Schwabe's work gained world-wide recognition and was translated into many languages. His son, also named Dr. Willmar Schwabe continued this work and published a new edition in 1934, which is today incorporated into the official German Pharmacopoeia. The latter Dr. Willmar Schwabe was highly interested in science. He developed analytical methods and introduced new plants from all over the world into German phytotherapy. *Ginkgo biloba* is the most prominent example. Therefore, the name Dr. Willmar Schwabe stands also for medicinal plant research and continues still today in many research activities in the company.

Based on an unanimous decision of the jury, the Dr. Willmar Schwabe Award of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research 2006 has been awarded to Prof. Dr. Thomas Efferth, German Cancer Research Centre, Heidelberg. The awarding ceremony took also place on August 30th 2006 during the opening ceremony of the 54th Annual Meeting of GA held in Helsinki.

Prof. Efferth was born in Worms, Germany, in 1960. He studied biology at the Technical University of Darmstadt from 1980 – 1986. He obtained his PhD from the University of Heidelberg with a thesis he had prepared

at the German Cancer Research Centre. In 1991, he received the Ludolf Kehl Award of the Southwest German Society of Medicine. In 1997, he succeeded with his habilitation at the Technical University of Aachen, and he became Managing Director of the Virtual Campus Rheinland-Pfalz.

Currently he is assistant professor (*Privatdozent*) for Pharmaceutical Biology at the University of Heidelberg, but he is working at the German Cancer Research Centre, where he is head of the research group "Pharmaceutical Biology of Natural Products" and head of the International PhD program. Furthermore, he is honorary professor at the Northeast Forestry University of Harbin, China.

He is Associate Editor of the journal *Clinical and Translational Oncology*, editorial academy member of the International *Journal of Oncology*, Editorial Board member of the journal *Chemico-biological Interactions*, and Co-Editor of *Planta Medica*. Besides he is member of several scientific advisory boards.

He has published 143 papers in highly ranked scientific journals with a total Impact Factor of 377. He also has filed two US-patents on cancer treatment with natural products.

His research areas are

- Molecular pharmacology and toxicology of natural products with emphasis on anti-cancer activity. The aims are the identification of novel drugs with improved tumour specificity and efficacy against drug-resistant tumours as well as less adverse effects and the investigation of the underlying molecular modes of action.
- The genome-wide expression profiling and genomic aberrations in tumours with the aim of the development of techniques for the predictive determination for individualized therapy options.
- The analysis of novel mutations in the glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (*G6PD*) gene of patients affected with *G6PD* deficiency and the development of novel therapeutic strategies with natural compounds.

His recent research is dealing with plants from traditional Chinese medicine. He has investigated a series of plants and constituents for anti-tumour activity on a very high scientific level. He investigated successfully and in a multidisciplinary way the activity of drugs from TCM towards sensitive and MDR1- or MRP1-overexpressing multidrug-resistant human CCRF-CEM



Winner of the Dr. Willmar Schwabe-Award of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research 2006 PD Dr. Thomas Efferth

leukaemia cells, as well as multidrug resistance in human tumour cells by expression profiling of ATP-binding cassette transporter genes.

He also worked on the molecular modes of action of artesunate in tumour cell lines, and on the anti-microbial activity of clove and rosemary essential oils alone and in combination.

He has obtained outstanding results of pharmacological research in the field of herbal medicinal products, in particular with TCM drugs, and he and his group have resolved phytotherapeutic and phytopharmaceutical problems in an interdisciplinary approach.

After reading the laudation, Prof. Bauer congratulated Prof. Efferth and handed over the document belonging to the award, which reads as follows: "The Society for Medicinal Plant Research (*Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung*) presents the Dr. Willmar Schwabe-Award 2006 to Prof. Dr. Thomas Efferth for his outstanding scientific investigations of pharmacological and toxicological effects of medicinal plants and plant ingredients, especially regarding anti-cancer agents. Helsinki, August 30th, 2006, The President of GA". The monetary prize of € 10.000 has been presented by Dr. Meng as the representative of Dr. Willmar Schwabe Company.

R. Bauer

Anniversaries

Prof. Dr. Otto Sticher, 70 years

Professor Dr Otto Sticher, honorary member of GA since 2002, celebrated his 70th birthday on October, 8, 2006. He retired from his chair of pharmacognosy and phytochemistry at the Swiss Federal Institute ETH at Zurich in 2002. Nevertheless he is still active in the field of medicinal plant research, editing the well known textbook "Hänsel-Sticher: Pharmakognosie-Phyto-pharmazie"; this highly qualified standard-textbook has a high impact for a broad part of the scientific community. The 8th edition of this compendium has been successfully finished and was available to the public a few days before his birthday: A perfect gift to Otto Sticher of Springer Publishers.

Otto Sticher is one of the leading members who strongly influenced the development of GA to an international society. At the 25th Annual Congress of GA in Zurich (1977), he was elected at an age of 40 years as the youngest GA president ever in the history of the society. In that time, GA was mainly focussed onto the German speaking countries. With his many connections, Otto Sticher opened the society worldwide.

When his leadership ended and passed over to his friend and colleague Max Wichtl in 1984, his engagement for GA still continued: He was vice-president for further 4 years followed by another 8 years as a member of the board of directors of GA. Finally after twenty years of strong activity for GA he left his place in 1996 in favour of a younger person. But still he was linked closely to GA by organising excellent workshops and finally in 2000 the 48th GA annual meeting in Zurich entitled "Natural Product Research in the New Millennium". So for a long time Otto Sticher has been one of the major driving persons of GA; still he supports our society and participated at the present congress in Helsinki, for example.

A lot of successful researchers and teachers look back to a fruitful time at his department in Zurich, first located at the Clausiusstrasse, later at the Irchel campus. His students were allowed to develop their own creativity, as Otto Sticher was always open for new concepts in research. While Otto Sticher did never forget to be a pharmacist



he encouraged his co-workers not only to do analytical research, but also biological as well as pharmacological work. Consequently he focussed also on herbal medicinal products e.g. contributing many analytical methods to developing the quality of herbal products; thereby he had a long and fruitful engagement in the Swiss and European Pharmacopoeial commissions.

GA thanks Otto Sticher for his outstanding work and contributions not only to the field of Pharmacognosy but also for the prosperous development of GA. We all wish him and his wife Mirjam all the best for the years to come.

Beat Meier
Adolf Nahrstedt

Honours for Profs. Heinz Schilcher and Chlodwig Franz

From June 7 – 10 2006 the International Society for Horticultural Sciences (ISHS) together with the Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences of the University of Presov, Slovakia, organized an International Symposium on Chamomile Research, Development and Production. Dur-

ing this conference both GA members, known for their lifelong dedication to chamomile research were honoured as "Authorities of the 20th century". GA honorary member and author of two chamomile reference books Prof. Dr. Heinz Schilcher received this award and a plaque

of Presov University for "his life work on chamomile research and development", Professor Chlodwig Franz was honoured for his "important achievements in genetics and breeding research of chamomile, especially the mendelism of bisabolols". Congratulations!

GA-Representative U.S.A. Dr. V. Butterweck

During the 54th Annual Meeting of GA in Helsinki 2006, Dr. Veronika Butterweck was nominated by the Board of Directors as the representative of GA in the United States. Dr. Butterweck holds the Debbie and Sylvia DeSantis Term Professorship in Natural Products at the College of Pharmacy, University of Florida (UF), Gainesville, USA. She is also Co-Director of the Center for Food-Drug Interactions Re-

search & Education (CFDI) at UF (www.cop.ufl.edu). Dr. Butterweck received her PhD from the Westfaelische-Wilhelms-University of Muenster, Germany, in 1997 and finished her habilitation in pharmacology at the same University in 2003. Dr. Butterweck's research focuses on phytomedicines with CNS activity (including the investigation of plants with antidepressant or anxiolytic activity, and phytomedicines for

the treatment of restlessness and sleep disturbances) as well as investigations of the pharmacokinetics and bioavailability of herbal medicines and natural products (e.g. grapefruit juice interactions).

For any questions dealing with special subjects of GA within the U.S. please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Butterweck.

Minutes of the Members' Meeting 2006 in Helsinki, Finland

The annual Member's Meeting was held on 31 Aug. 2006 at 5.00 pm, at the University of Helsinki, Finland. 100 persons attended the meeting. President Prof. Bauer, welcomed all participants.

1. Passing of the agenda

The agenda which had been sent out to all members with GA NL 1-2006 in July 06 or in an E-mail on 12 July 2006 was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of the minutes of the annual Members' Meeting 2005 in Florence, Italy

The minutes of the Members' Meeting in Florence, Italy, in 2005 were published in the GA-NL 2/Dec 2005. They were accepted from the assembly unanimously with no remarks.

3. Annual reports

3.1 Report of the President Prof. R. Bauer

- Prof. Bauer gave a short review on the elections 2005 (results published in GA Newsletter 2-2005), introduced the two in Dec 05 coopted BoD members, Prof. Dr. Veronika Butterweck (USA) and Dr. Clemens Erdelmeier (Germany), and thanked again all previous BoD members who mostly had served GA for a very long time (e.g. Profs. Nahrstedt and Scheffer for 24 resp. 18 years).
- Honorary member and former Editor-in-Chief of *Planta Medica*, Prof. Ernst Reinhard (*21.08.1926) passed away on 27.9.2005. The president wrote a letter of condolence to his daughter. Prof. Kreis attended the funeral as representative of GA. An obituary (by Prof. Kreis) was published in NL 2-05, an editorial in *Planta Med* 11/05 (by Prof. Barz), a special issue of *Planta Med* in honour of Prof. Reinhard is in preparation. The audience commemorated him in a minute of silence.
- Honorary members Prof. Max Wichtl and Dr. H.G. Menssen celebrated their 80th birthdays on 6 Oct. 05 resp. 8 June 06. Prof. Bauer sent congratulations and good wishes (laudationes in NL 2-05 and 1-06).
- Honorary member Dr. Hofmann celebrated his 100th birthday on 11-01-06; to his honour GA organised a seminar within a big LSD symposium in Basel on Jan 13, 2006; a laudation in NL 1/06 and an editorial in *Planta Medica* 2006; 72: 97 – 98 by Bauer/Kubelka have been published.

- Activities of the ExC and the BoD in the last year:
 - The ExC had meetings on 20/21 Nov 2005, on 14. Jan. 2006 and on 10 July 2006
 - BoD meetings were held on 2 March 06 in Frankfurt and on August 28/29, 2006 in Helsinki.
- GA participated in a series of Workshops and Symposia:
 - Phytotherapy Congress on Oct 6-8, 2005 in Berlin; Prof. Bauer represented GA with a welcome address, attended the press conference organized by KFN and presented the "Memorandum zur Situation der Phytotherapie in Deutschland" ("memorandum of the situation of phytotherapy in Germany"): http://www.phytotherapie-komitee.de/News/m13_05_memo.html (abstracts of the Congress in a special issue of *Z.Phyt*, report in *ZPhyt* # 1/2006).
 - In order to celebrate the 100th birthday of our honorary member Dr. Hofmann a seminar entitled "Drug Discovery from Nature" was organized by GA on Jan 13, 2006 within a big LSD symposium in Basel in which GA was listed as "Patron" and where the GA president gave a welcome and congratulation address (available on DVD in the archives). The seminar included the 3 following lectures and a broad discussion:
 - Wolfgang Kubelka: "Pharmakon": From Poison to Medicine – the Chemical Improvement of Nature?
 - Rudolf Brenneisen: Cannabis – From Phytocannabinoids to Endocannabinoids
 - Matthias Hamburger: Contemporary Natural Product Drug (Press reports: http://www.eve-rave.net/abfahrer/presse/presse_06-02-27.pdf)
 - Taylor & Francis' Natural Products Series for 2006
 - "Challenges of Creating & Building Natural Product Compound Libraries" – Feb 21, 2006, Amsterdam
 - Natural Products for Drug Discovery & Development, 21.-22. June 2006 in London
 - Natural Products for Drug Discovery & Development (key areas to be covered: Biology of NPs, Target Selection and Clinical Candidates) October 2006GA had accepted with no financial support and not giving away e-mail addresses;
 - The HIV conference "Global Summit on HIV/AIDS, Traditional

- Medicine & Indigenous Knowledge" finally took place in Accra, Ghana, March 14-18, 2006 and was supported by international organisations such as WHO, UNAIDS and GA, and was officially launched by C. Quarshigah, Minister of Health of Ghana; Prof. L. Pieters, University of Antwerp, Belgium, represented GA and gave a plenary lecture. The meeting was attended by ca. 100 participants (report in NL 1-06).
- Workshop "Natural Products in Drug Discovery" in Vienna on 30./31.3.2006 organized by Prof. Dirsch; president Prof. Bauer attended and gave a welcome address; reports in NL 1-06, *DAZ* 146 (19):2030 (06), *ÖAZ* 60(17): 835 (06).
- "Pharmacovigilance of Herbal Medicinal Products" in London on 26.-28.4.2006, organized by Dr. J. Barnes; Prof. Bauer attended and gave an introduction lecture; report in NL 1-06.
- GA has been informed by **EMEA** that it is accepted as an "Interested party" at the HMPC and has been invited for the hearing on Nov 22, 05 in London. Prof. Bauer participated and presented a statement of GA with comments and suggestions on future strategies of the HMPC including a list of monographs which should be considered with first priority (report of the hearing on the EMEA web page);
 - GA sent a Statement on the EMEA HMPC Draft of the Community Herbal Monograph on Valerian Root; thanks to Prof. Winterhoff for drafting.
 - GA is in continuous contact with the HMPC (Dr. Keller) and is on its mailing list;
 - Dr. Keller expressed his interest in a GA workshop on genotoxicity.
- GA was invited by WWF to participate in the 2nd ISSC-MAP expert workshop on "International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) – Results of the field consultations", Dec 2005, Isle of Vilm; Dr. Seitz participated as representative of GA (report under www.floraweb.de/MAP-pro);
- The President of the European Federation for Pharmaceutical Sciences (EUFEPS), Professor Christian R. Noe (University of Vienna), has invited GA to a meeting with "European Presidents of Scientific Societies in the field of Pharmaceutical Sciences", on June 11, 2006, in Vienna (in conjunction with the EUFEPS Executive Committee meeting); Prof. Kopp participated as representative of GA.

GA Members' Meeting 2006 Helsinki

- GA was asked by BAH (Bundesverband der Arzneimittelhersteller; Germany) for a statement to a BAH paper dealing with a positive list of medicinal plants to be used preferentially as herbal medicinal products; it was discussed and finalised by the BoD.
- There have been several activities to increase the **visibility of GA**:
A new corporate identity design has been finalized by Prof. Kreis, that will be now used in general, e.g. in the GA letter head, the newsletter, the new and updated info flyer and the homepage, which was generally modernized and actualized.
- **GA Newsletter**
 - NL 02/05 and 01/06 were sent out by e-mail and by regular mail to all members who do not have e-mail address (actual e-mail addresses requested!)
 - NL now has a new layout and is more comprehensive (with photographs).
 - The president thanked the editor of the NL Prof. Hensel for all his work and efforts!
- **Awards of GA**
 - The Egon Stahl Award in bronze 2006 has been awarded to Dr. Karin Wölkart, University of Graz, Austria. Prof. Kopp acted as chairlady of the Egon Stahl Award committee 2006
 - A new GA award has been established: Dr. Willmar Schwabe Award of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research (originally founded in the 60ies but discontinued in the 70ies). It will be sponsored by the company Dr. Willmar Schwabe AG. President Bauer negotiated with Dr. Stumpf and Dr. Meng, Schwabe, and together, they established the final rules. The award of 10.000 Euro will be given every two years. First winner 2006 is Dr. Thomas Efferth, German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg, Germany.
 - The ExC negotiated with Prof. Popp that Bionorica will sponsor a similar award for the years in between instead of the Egon Stahl Award in Gold, which Bionorica has sponsored so far. GA will take over the Egon Stahl Award in Gold (with assisting sponsoring from Schwabe and Bionorica)
 - An editorial was published in *Planta Medica* 2005; 71, 1091 – 1092 on ESA Gold winner 2005 Prof Gröger by Floss/Leistner/Bauer
 - In 2006 Prof. Dr. Gerhard Franz, Regensburg, has been awarded the honorary membership of GA.
- Annual Meetings of GA
 - Congress 2005 in Florence
The congress was a great suc-

cess with 700 participants (list of participants in the members area of GA homepage), good media response and 36.000 € surplus. Thanks to Profs. Vincieri and Bilia!

- Congress 2006 in Helsinki
Obviously also very successful with 500 registrations from 62 countries with again a Young Researchers Pre-Symposium (70 participants); abstracts were published in a regular issue of *Planta Medica*; 25 students from 25 countries received a travel grant out of the 2006 budget of 15.000 €. The president thanked all involved people, especially the organizers of the congress, Profs. Hiltunen and Vuorela, and of the presymposium, Profs. Bilia and Hensel, as well as the TG committee Profs. S. Glasl (chair), Th. Schmidt and L. Pieters.
- A brain storming on the **future of GA** was held by the BoD in Helsinki.
The major outcome was:
 - In a trial for two years a new category of travel grants for post docs from countries with reduced fee status will be given with a budget of 10.000 €.
 - It is intended to found a GA Research Trust in order to support for example preliminary research projects. Sponsors (members, companies) are welcome!
 - Areas, that shall be strengthened in main topics of future annual meetings, e.g. (in random order)
 - Natural products from marine organisms and fungi
 - Antimicrobials (considered in Graz)
 - Biotechnology
 - Systems biology
 - Aromatic plants, cosmetics
 - Metabolomics/metabonomics/ glycomics/ .omics
 - Transgenic plants
 - Biopharmaceutics of natural products and herbal medicinal products (Graz)
 - Molecular targets of natural products and herbal medicinal products
 - Pharmacovigilance of HMPs
 - Regulatory affairs as a pre-satellite symposium in Graz
 - The engagement for Young Scientists will be strengthened by
 - continuing of the young researchers workshop
 - founding a students committee

3.2 Reports of the Vice-Presidents

Prof. Dr. B. Kopp initiated and organized the modernisation of the GA homepage; in 2006 she chaired the ESA jury and presented the winner at the opening session in Helsinki. She attended the Phytotherapy congress 2005 in Berlin, the LSD symposium in Basel, the Vienna workshop, an EMEA meeting in London and the AMAPSEEC conference in Iasi, Romania, (28-31 May 2006) with a welcome address and a plenary lecture; in a short overview she illuminated the new and in future closer cooperation with the "Association for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of South-East European Countries" (AMAPSEEC); she also gave a short report of the EUFEPS meeting "European Presidents of Scientific Societies in the field of Pharmaceutical Sciences" in June 2006 in Vienna, where she represented GA.

Prof. Kopp will represent GA at the Phytotherapy congress 2006 in Berlin on Sept 28-30.

Prof. Dr. W. Blaschek drafted various GA statements and attended the LSD symposium; he will participate at the Phytotherapy congress in Berlin and will represent GA at the 2nd EUFEPS meeting of presidents on 1 Oct 06 in Amsterdam.

3.3 Report of the Secretary

Dr. R. Seitz gave the latest statistics: On 15 Aug 2006 (compared to 2005) GA had **1092** (1136) total members from **83** (78) countries with **12** (12) honorary members, **144** (81) new members since last year; **5** (3) members deceased, **30** (19) cancelled their membership, **43** (4) members, who haven't paid for 3 or more years, were excluded; at the moment GA has 38 company members. 213 members are from countries with reduced fees, of 232 (274) members we have no actual e-mail address.

3.4 Report of the Treasurer and report of the auditors

Dr. V. Christoffel presented the annual cash report 2005, the budget draft for 2006 and the annual statement of the Egon Stahl-Awards budget. In 2005 the total revenues were 49.985 €, the total expenses 40.746 €. The income of the membership fees in 2005 was relatively high since many members had paid 3 years in advance; in the 2006 budget

the total revenues are unexpectedly high due to high returns of the Florence congress. Hence the travel grant budget for 2006 could be increased to 15.000 €.

He will introduce a new payment system starting in 2007, that allows the members to transfer the membership fees by creditcards from the homepage of our society.

The **cash auditors Profs. Stahl-Biskup and Schilcher** thanked the treasurer(s) Dr. Abel (2005) and Dr. Christoffel (since 2006) for their transparent and clear accountancy.

They agreed to act again as cash auditors for 2007.

3.5 Discharge of the ExC

The ExC was unanimously discharged with 5 abstentions.

4. Report of the Editor-in-Chief of *Planta Medica*, Prof. M. Hamburger

- *Planta Med* steadily develops, the average length of full papers increased, natural products chemistry papers increased, all others on the same level; the average rejection rate is 70%;
- China is now the leading country followed by Taiwan, Korea, Germany, United States, Brazil, Japan. The number of manuscripts from Latin America has significantly increased.
- Total citation is 6700 (increase of 10%).
- The Impact Factor of 1.66 is stable and ahead of *J. Ethnopharmacol* and *Phytomedicine*, but behind *J. Nat. Prod.*, *Phytochemistry* and *J. Agric Food. Chem.*
- The transition to electronic publishing is now completed; the publication time has finally been substantially shortened;
- *PM* is increasingly perceived as a pharmacological journal; active promotion of the other sections will be initiated;
- The Helsinki abstract book is a regular issue of *Planta Med*; in future this could attract people to attend GA meetings.
- In 2007 a new organisational and editorial structure for *PM* has to be found due to a very high workload for the editor-in-chief.

5. Reports of the Permanent Committees

5.1 Biological and Pharmacological Activity of Natural Products (Report Prof. Winterhoff)

The planned Helsinki workshop on "Pharmacological methods for the implementation of the guidelines on non-clinical documentations" could not take place, since most of the pan-

ellists cancelled their participation. Nevertheless some of the important points could be discussed in a combined workshop with Prof. Vlietinck.

5.2 Breeding and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants (Report Prof. Ch. Franz)

In his workshop with the changed title "Plant rights and plant patents", Dr. Krück, Düsseldorf, presented the topic "Commercial biological diversity", Franz himself "Plant patents and plant variety rights". This workshop topic will be continued in a symposium in Bernburg in Febr. 2008 (s.b.), also in the next World conference on MAPs (WOCMAP 4) in April 2008 in South Africa (organized by ICMAP).

5.3 Manufacturing and Quality Control of HMPs (Report Prof. Meier)

His workshop with the title "Reference Compounds" and the panellists Dr. K. Reif, Vestenbergsgreuth, Dr. U. Rose, Strasbourg and Prof. R. Verpoorte, Leiden and 80 participants gave a view in the future. The results will be published in the GA homepage from October on. Proposal for next year's workshop are welcome!

5.4 Regulatory Affairs on HMPs (Report Prof. Vlietinck)

The title of his Helsinki workshop was "Implementation of the Guideline on non-clinical documentation for HMPs in applications for marketing authorisation and simplified registration". The panellists Dr. Pelkonen, Finland, Prof. Vlietinck, Belgium, Dr. Claeson, Sweden and Dr. Abel, Germany, explained and discussed the scope, legal basis and the different aspects of this guideline and its implementation at the level of the national authorities and the manufacturers of herbal medicinal products, especially in terms of rational and feasibility.

Next year in Graz an extended workshop will be organized parallel to the young scientists' symposium.

Vietinck as member of the HMPC in London also gave a short report on the activity of this EMEA committee and the special working party for drafting monographs. Some Chinese plants will be included into the PhEur. Major tasks of the HMPC are the monographs on "well established use" and "traditional use".

6.0 Future congresses, symposia and workshops

6.1 GA Annual Meetings

- Graz 2007, 2-6 Sept (see www.ga2007.org) organized by Prof. Bauer
- 2008: 56th congress of GA (Joint Meeting) in Athens

organized probably in the 1st week of August by Prof. Skaltsounis from the Association Francaise pour l'enseignement et la Recherche en Pharmacognosie (AFERP), together with GA, the American Society of Pharmacognosy (ASP), the Phytochemical Society of Europe (PSE) and the Italian Society for Phytochemistry (SIF).

- 2009: 57th GA congress in Geneva (first week of Sept.) organized by Prof. Hostettmann

6.2 Symposia and workshops

- 2006 28-30 Sept, Phytotherapy Congress Berlin, organized by Prof. Schulz (Prof. Kopp will represent GA)
- 20. Oct. 2006 LOF Symposium Groningen on "Combinatorial Biosynthesis – Combining Science and Concepts", organized by Prof. Kayser
- 2006 30 Nov–2 Dec Mexico DF: 1st Iberoamerican Congress on Phytotherapy Prof. Bauer will participate as representative of GA and will give a plenary lecture
- 2006, GA/APV Workshop Phyto-innovations was cancelled
- 27.2.2007 Herbal Medicines Symposium, London, organized by Prof. Heinrich
- May 2007: Meeting of the Polish Herbal Committee in Poznan-Poland, organized by Prof. Dr. Przemyslaw Mrozikiewicz, Inst. of Herbal Drugs, Poznan
- 10. – 13. Oct 2007 DPhG in Erlangen (coorganizer Prof: Kreis): ev. in collaboration with GA
- 8.–10. Nov 2007, Nonnweiler/Germany: 4th Mistletoe Symposium (organized by Dr. Scheer, GA representative: Prof. Kreis)
- 18.–21. Feb. 2008, Bernburg/Germany; 5. Fachtagung Arznei- und Gewürzpflanzen – Qualität, Wirtschaftlichkeit, Nachhaltigkeit; organized by Prof. Pank; Prof. C. Franz will represent GA
- July 2008 St. Petersburg Symposium: Phytopharm (organizer Prof. Makarov).

Prof. Bauer explained the advantage of such a great activity for GA:

- increases our visibility
- activities in more regions
- usually one representative of GA in the scientific board
- reduced registration fees for GA members

7. Miscellaneous

Prof. H. Baser proposed a GA annual meeting in Turkey for 2010 or 2011 at an extremely manageable prize.

Prof. Bauer closed the meeting at 7.30 pm. For the protocol: 15 Oct 2006

Dr. R. Seitz, GA secretary
Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer, GA President



Next GA Meeting

55th Annual Congress in Graz, Austria

The Scientific and Organizing Committees cordially invite you to participate in the International Congress and 55th Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research.

The Congress will be held at the Graz Congress Centre and at the Karl-Franzens-University of Graz from September 2nd – 6th.

<http://www.GA2007.org>

Main scientific topics:

- Anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory active natural products
- Natural products with antimicrobial activity
- Analysis and biopharmaceutics of herbal medicinal products
- Traditional herbal medicinal products
- Medicinal plants in animal healthcare

Plenary speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Paul A. Cox, Jackson, USA
- Prof. Dr. Verena Dirsch, Vienna, Austria
- Prof. Dr. Chlodwig Franz, Vienna, Austria
- Prof. Dr. Simon Gibbons, London, UK
- Prof. Dr. Louis Maes, Antwerp, Belgium
- Prof. Dr. Nikolaus J. Sucher, Boston, USA
- Prof. Dr. Oliver Ullrich, Magdeburg, Germany
- Prof. Dr. Yang Ye, Shanghai, China

Workshops:

1. Young Researcher Workshop on September 2nd 2006 (A.R. Bilia, A. Hensel)
2. Regulatory Affairs on Herbal Medicinal Products on September 2nd 2006 (A. J. Vlietinck)
3. Biological and Pharmacological Activity of Natural Products (H. Winterhoff)
4. Breeding and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants (C. Franz)
5. Manufacturing and Quality Control of Herbal Remedies (B. Meier)

The SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT will be sent out in January 2007.



The best invitation to the 2007 conference in Graz...

GRAZ 2007



CORRESPONDENCE

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Other Meetings

Queenstown, New Zealand

Feb 4 – 9th. 2007

12th International Symposium of Marine Natural Products

www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/manapro12

London, U.K.

27th. February 2007

Traditional herbal medicines – opportunities and challenges for the future

www.pharmacy.ac.uk/THM.html

Cambridge, U.K.

11 – 14th. April 2007

50 Years of the Phytochemical Society of Europe, Highlights in the Evolution of Phytochemistry

www.pse50.com; Contact: PSE, to Phillipa Fletcher, PSE50 Conference Secretariat, Bregor, Winter Lane, West Hanney, Nr. Wantage, Oxon OX12 0LF, UK

Antalya, Turkey

Apr 29th. – May 4th. 2007

1st International Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Conference on Culinary Herbs

www.mapc2007ant.org

Gargnano, Garda Lake, Italy

6 – 9th. June 2007:

Future Trends in Phytochemistry – a Young Scientists Symposium

Organized by Phytochemical Society of Europe and the Società Italiana di Fitochimica.

<http://users.unimi.it/ftpsymp> or directly from Prof. F. Tomè, Dipartimento di Biologia, via Celoria 26, 20133 Milano, Italy. Tel. 00 39 02 50314773, Fax 00 39 02 50314764; E-Mail: franca.tome@unimi.it

Invited speakers include among others G. Cragg (Natural anticancer agents), B. Charlwood (Plant cell biotechnology), P. Dugo (Analysis of natural products), A. Minnaard (Natural products synthesis), N. van Dam (Chemical ecology), G. Cimino (Recent results on marine organisms and their pharmacological potential), P. Facchini (Biochemistry, molecular and cell biology of alkaloid biosynthesis in opium poppy), E. Bombardelli (Future prospects from industrial point of view). During the Symposium there will be ample opportunity for participants to present and discuss their own work in short lectures and on posters. Especially Ph. D. students and younger scientists working in the field of secondary

metabolism or natural products chemistry and analysis are invited to participate and present their research results. Bursaries are available and can be applied for.

Sankt Helene, Denmark

13 – 15th. June 2007

Nordic Natural Products Conference 2007

www.dfuni.dk/NNPC

Eskisehir, Turkey

25 – 29th. June 2007

7th. International Symposium on Plant Life of South West Asia (7thPLOSWA)

<http://www.ploswa.anadolu.edu.tr>

Leiden, The Netherlands

27 – 29th. June 2007

11th International Congress – Phytopharm 2007

www.adaptogen.ru/phyto2007.html

Portland, Maine, U.S.A.

14 – 18th. July 2007

48th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Pharmacognosy

www.phcog.org;

contact: eamorin@usm.maine.edu

Uppsala, Sweden

5 – 8th. September 2007

Materia Medica: Linnaeus and Medicinal Products

<http://www.lakemedelsakademien.se/>

[materiamedica](http://www.materiamedica.se).

Contact erika.svangard@lakemedelsakademien.se

[lakemedelsakademien.se](http://www.lakemedelsakademien.se)

Nonweiler, Germany

08 – 10th. November 2007

4th. Mistletoe Symposium: Mistletoe in cancer therapy

Deadline for abstracts: March, 31st. 2007.

Dr. Rainer Scheer, c/o Carl Gustav Carus

Institut, Am Eichhof 30, D-75223 Niefern-Öschelbronn; phone ++49 7233 68418, Fax ++49 7233 68413, e-mail: rainer.scheer@carus-institut.de, www.mistelsymposium.de

Bernburg-Strenzfeld, Germany

18 – 21st. February 2008:

18. Bernburger Winterseminar und 5. Fachtagung Arznei- und Gewürzpflanzen Qualität, Wirtschaftlichkeit und Nachhaltigkeit

<http://www.llg-lsa.de>;

Sybille.Richter@llg.mlu.lsa-net.de

MEETING REPORTS

GA Congress in Helsinki

The 54th International Congress of the Society of Medicinal Plant Research – Die Gesellschaft für Arzneipflanzenforschung (GA) was held in Helsinki, Finland 29 August to 2 September 2006. The opening ceremony was held in Great Hall in University of Helsinki, welcome addresses were presented by Prof. Raimo Hiltunen, Dean of Faculty of Pharmacy, Prof. Ilkka Niiniluoto, Rector of University of Helsinki and Prof. Rudolf Bauer, President of Society for Medicinal Plant Research.

434 persons from 61 countries attended, over 70 plenary, keynote or short lectures were presented. 5 workshops and 2 extra workshops were arranged. One with specific emphasis on: “*Rethinking the role of nasal epithelia – more than a simple barrier?*” which was great success and other for Young Researchers also very successful. More than 440 abstracts were accepted and printed in Book of Abstracts (Planta Medica 11, vol. 72, 2006). Overall 347 posters were accepted and they filled 2 floors when presented. Unfortunately 57 posters never showed up in congress for a reason or other.

Oral sessions were huge success and due the great amount of sessions we held our 3 sessions at the same time, a system that worked very well. Main topics of the congress were Drug discovery from natural products, recent advances in analysis of secondary metabolites, Genomics, pro-

teomics and metabolomics in medicinal plant research, Health beneficial effects of plant phenolics and Clinical studies with herbal medicinal products. Drug discovery from natural products was one of the highlights of this year's congress as it had most plenary and short lecture sessions of them all. Also other topics were well presented and had very informative sessions. Some sessions were so popular that sometimes lecture halls were full of people but the atmosphere was great and enthusiastic. Even the great weather in Helsinki during the congress could not drive people away from sessions.

During the congress two award lectures were given, Egon Stahl and Wilmar Schabe lecture awards. Quality of the posters was very good and our international jury selected three best ones that were awarded in closing ceremony. Two excursions were made, The Gallen-Kallela Museum Tarvaspää, Museum Hvitträsk included and excursion to Lammi Biological Station where participants had opportunity to see Finnish nature and go to sauna. Especially sauna and going for a relaxing swim in lake afterwards was very popular among the participants.

Overall the atmosphere was excellent and very international during the congress, new contacts were made and ideas were shared. On behalf of the Organizers we wish to thank all the participants and our



Organizers of the Helsinki congress, Profs. R. Hiltunen and H. Vuorela (ri and le) with the president of the Helsinki University and GA president, Prof. R. Bauer

sponsors and supporters who made this congress possible. We hope to see you all in next GA congress in Graz 2007.

The organizers

Additional information to the Helsinki conference

The pdf-file of the abstract book and list of participants of the GA congress in Helsinki in 2006 can be found in the members' area of the GA homepage. A printed version of the abstract book can be ordered at the GA secretariat (Fax: 0049 8141 613749 or E-mail: ga-secretary@ga-online.org).

Workshop “Regulatory Affairs on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMP’s)” during the Helsinki Conference

In Helsinki a workshop on “Implementation of the guideline on medicinal documentation for HMP’s in applications for marketing authorisation and simplified registration” was organised.

After a short introduction by the Chairman, Prof. A.J. Vlietinck, the viewpoints of the EMEA’s HMPC (Herbal Medicinal Products Committee) and the Swedish Medical Products Agency were presented by Prof.

O. Pelkonen and Dr. P. Claeson respectively. Both speakers explained the scope, legal basis and the different aspects of the guideline (Doc. Ref. EMEA/HMPC/32116/2005) and discussed its implementation at the level of the European and National authorities. Prof. H. Winterhoff, also on behalf of Dr. G. Abel, presented the viewpoint of the manufacturers of HMP’s, and raised several difficult points on items of legal ba-

sis, rational and feasibility of the guideline. After the presentations a long discussion among the different panellists and the more than hundred thirty participants took place, which ended at 14h30. Because of this success, the GA board decided to organise 2007 in Graz an extended workshop in parallel to the young scientists’ symposium.

A.J. Vlietinck

Young Researcher Symposium, Helsinki, 29. August 2006

A presymposium for PhD-students took place in Helsinki at August 29th 2006 just a few hours before the official GA conference was opened. 9 young scientists from all over the world had been selected from the applications to present their latest results in form of oral presentations. The program assembled was on a very high standard and all speakers presented high-impact results. The auditorium of about 60 young people discussed all presentations very intensively and freely. Especially practical aspects and methods stimulated the audience for discussion. The symposium had been sponsored by Bionorica AG (Germany) and MYRO AG (Switzerland) and the monetary prizes from the sponsors were given after a careful selection of the chair board (Prof. A-R. Bilia, Dr. D. Deters, Prof. A. Hensel and Prof. M. Keusgen) to Mrs. Ivona Jasprica, University of Zagreb (*In vitro* study of the effects of flavonoids on

cytokine production), Mrs. Amal Nour, University of Münster (Antiprotozoal effect of crude extracts and compounds isolated from Sudanese Asteraceae) and Gabriele Trauner, University of Vienna (Identification of GABA-A-Modulators obtained from *Vale-*

riana officinalis L.). The Symposium was the 2nd. Young Researcher Symposium organized by A. R. Bilia and A. Hensel together with GA and will be repeated in 2007 during the Graz-meeting as an official part of the conference. A. Hensel



Young Researcher Workshop: price-winners, organizers Drs. Hensel, Bilia and Deters and some speakers

4th AMAPSEEC Conference in Iasi, Romania

On 28 to 31 May, 2006, the 4th conference of the Association for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of South-East European Countries (AMAPSEEC) took place in Iasi, Romania. Iasi is the political and cultural capital of the Eastern Romanian province Moldavia and has one of the oldest and most famous universities of Romania.

Eastern Europe and especially its South is famous for its richness and high diversity of medicinal plant species. For this reason AMAPSEEC was founded in 2000 with the aim to guide the MAP research in the South East European countries and to establish contacts with other societies, multinational partnerships and more mutual programmes and exchanges. The earlier meetings were held in Yugoslavia, Greece and Slovakia.

The 4th conference was co-organized by the “Gr. T. Popa” University of Medicine and Pharmacy and the “Al.I.Cuzy” University, both of Iasi, and the University of Bacau. The chairs of the conference and editors of the proceedings, Prof. Dr. Ursula Stanescu, Prof. Dr. Gogu Ghiorghita and Prof. Dr. Constantin Toma welcomed the participants from almost 25 countries from all over Europe, Russia and India. In order to strengthen the bonds and further collaborations to Eastern Europe GA had agreed to an invitation of the organizers and pro-

vided 2 plenary speakers and some financial support. GA vice president Prof. Brigitte Kopp, Vienna, (honorary doctor of the Gr. Popa University of Iasi) thanked for the friendly invitation, that had come exactly at the time when GA considered a better opening to the East.

The main topics of the Iasi conference were

- Biodiversity, gene pool protection and conservation of MAPs,
- Biotechnology, cultivation and industrial processing of MAPs,
- Ecobiology of MAPs
- Quality control of MAPs.

10 plenary lectures, 44 oral presentations and 130 poster presentations in 2 poster sessions covered these themes and offered ample opportunity to fruitful exchanges and discussions. The opening plenary lecture was given by Professor Dr. Brigitte Kopp, Vienna, with the title “In vitro propagation of Medicinal Plants for Quality Assurance and Protection of endangered Species” (Coauthor: Dr. C. Wawrosch) and PD Dr. Markus Ganzera, University of Innsbruck, gave the plenary lecture “Evaporative Lightscattering – a Versatile Alternative Detection Method in Natural Products Analysis” (Coauthor: H. Stuppner).

Other important lectures dealt e.g. with “Wild and cultivated Medicinal Plants – an Important Potential for the sustainable Economic Development of Romania” by T. Onisei et al., “Conservation of MAP in Europe – a review of current progress” by Baricevic and Kusar, “Cultivation of medicinal, aromatic and spicy Plants in Slovakia after join the European Union” by P. Otepka et al. or “Review of some useful methods in taxonomic interpretation of difficult taxa of MAPs” by Z. Dajic-Stevanovic and I Stostaric.

The whole GA delegation was unanimously impressed and overwhelmed by the warm and affectionate hospitality they encountered. Besides spontaneous folk dancing in the evenings and a marvellous congress dinner, the meeting ended with an interesting excursion to some of the most famous Moldavian monasteries, that all belong to the World heritage.

But not only the Romanian hospitality was overwhelming, also the general interest in our society was surprising: 30 new members from Romania and Eastern Europe applied for GA membership. They are here-with warmly welcomed!

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Dr. R. Seitz

What's on top of European Medicines Agency concerning Herbal Medicinal Products?

Herbal Medicinal Products – Regulatory Developments in Europe

The European legal framework for medicines is applicable to herbal medicinal products as well. They are subject to the same marketing authorization requirements as all medicinal products and have to prove their quality, efficacy and safety. Contrary to chemical medicinal products, the active substance of a herbal medicinal product is a preparation from a plant or a plant part (e.g. an extract) and thus a complex mixture of different substances. Therefore, several particularities have to be considered in the testing for the three mentioned marketing authorization criteria. However, herbal medicinal products have not yet been fully established in all European countries so that the efforts to create harmonized assessment criteria in this area are of particular interest.

In addition, when a medicinal product is to be marketed in more than one Member State of the European Union, a specific authorization procedure is to be applied, which is based on the principle of mutual recognition of marketing authorization decisions and stipulated in the codified Directive 2001/83/EC (as amended by Directives 2004/24/EC and 2004/27/EC in April 2004). This procedure in principle requires a consensus of the competent authorities concerning the marketability of a product. The more different the assessment criteria and traditions in individual countries are, the more probable it is that no consensus between the competent authorities is reached. Further information on the legal provisions for marketing authorisation can be found on the website of the European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/pharmaceuticals/index_en.htm

Assessment of Quality, Safety and Efficacy

All relevant EC Directives and Guidelines, e.g. the guidelines of the International Conference on Harmonization (ICH) on stability testing are applicable for herbal medicinal products as well. For the proof of the pharmaceutical quality of herbal substances, herbal preparations and herbal medicinal products, basic requirements are described in the European Pharmacopoeia. Draft monographs and further texts are released for public consultation by publication in the Journal *Pharmeuropa* which appears four times a year. Further information can be obtained from the website of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines, EDQM under www.phEur.org.

Efficacy and safety can be proven through pharmacological and toxicological tests and clinical studies, also in form of a bibliographic application according to Article 10a of Directive 2001/83/EC. This option, the so-called “well-established medicinal use”, is of particular interest for herbal medicinal products since in most cases they are composed of well-known active substances and do not have all those studies or documents which would be indispensable for innovative medicines, e.g. toxicity studies. According to the mentioned legal provision, epidemiological data as well as further published scientific literature can be used in this case within a marketing authorization procedure. Besides the bibliographic application based on the “well-established medicinal use”, a further option has been established on 30 October 2004: the registration of traditional herbal medicinal products which will be described later on.

General guidance on the assessment of quality including stability testing, safety, efficacy and further regulatory guidance can be found on the website of the European Medicines Agency, EMEA, under www.emea.europa.eu.

Harmonisation of Assessment Criteria

For a long time, there have not been any uniform criteria for the assessment of efficacy and safety of herbal medicinal products on a European level. Therefore the harmonisation of scientific assessment was regarded to be a prerequisite for equalizing marketing authorisation decisions for herbal medicinal products having different national viewpoints and traditions in Member States of the European Union. Also today, many efforts to establish harmonized assessment criteria in this area are made by authorities as well as by interested parties and/or scientific organisations.

ESCOP – The European Scientific Cooperative on Phytotherapy

ESCOP, the European Scientific Cooperative on Phytotherapy, was founded in 1989 by six national associations of phytotherapy and in recent years, a large number of further associations have joined this scientific umbrella organisation. The main objectives of ESCOP are to establish harmonised criteria for the assessment of herbal medicinal products, to give support to scientific research and to contribute to the acceptance of phytotherapy on a Euro-

pean level. In order to contribute to the scientific harmonisation process ESCOP has been working on more than 100 monographs each containing all available data on efficacy and safety of a medicinal plant and its preparations. The new ESCOP book was published in September 2003. It can be ordered from the book trade or from the ESCOP Secretariat (www.escop.com). An addendum is in preparation and will be published soon.

ESCOP monographs can offer a detailed overview on new scientific literature, but they cannot replace an expert report or the documentation of scientific data in the marketing authorization application, nor can they be compared with official monographs such as the German Commission E or the new HPMC monographs as long as they have not been checked and adopted officially by an authority. As a collection of scientific expert knowledge, they provide valuable information on current scientific data about the medicinal use of herbal preparations.

Traditional herbal medicinal products

Besides those herbal medicinal products which are characterised through their “well-established medicinal use”, another group of products was established within the European regulatory framework. The Directive on traditional herbal medicinal products (2004/24/EC, published on 30 April 2004, now part of Directive 2001/83/EC, Articles 16a – 16i) provides a category for these products underneath the “well-established medicinal use”. It comprises herbal medicinal products with low indication claims which do not require intervention of a medical practitioner, with defined dosage levels and methods of administration as well as sufficient pharmaceutical quality and proven safety. Their efficacy must be plausible on the basis of long-standing tradition and experience, the requirements for the tradition period being 30 years (of which 15 years must be proven within the EU). The Directive is also applicable to combinations of herbal with certain non-herbal components (e.g. vitamins or minerals), the action of which has to be ancillary to that of the herbal active ingredients within the combination. All these provisions for a simplified registration procedure are laid down in the Directive, which had to be implemented by the Member States into national laws by 30 October 2005.

HMPC – the new Committee

In addition, Directive 2004/24/EC stipulates that a new Committee for Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC) should be established. It is the successor of the Herbal Medicinal Products Working Party (HMPWP) which already had prepared numerous guidelines in the field of quality, efficacy and safety of herbal medicinal products, e.g. on quality of herbal medicinal products and on specifications, on Good Agricultural and Collection Practice, on fixed combinations and on the implementation of different levels of scientific evidence.

After foundation of the Committee in September 2004, Dr. Konstantin Keller (Germany) and Dr. Heribert Pittner (Austria) were elected as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively. One of the main tasks of the new Committee is the preparation of Community herbal monographs in the area of the “well-established medicinal use” as well as for traditional herbal medicinal preparations. Furthermore the Committee is preparing a list of herbal substances, preparations and combinations thereof, which will be eligible for a simplified registration procedure without the need to submit own data on safety and duration of traditional use.

At the end of 2005, the first draft monographs and draft entries to the list were published for consultation: *Valerianae radix*, *Lini semen* as well as *Plantaginis ovatae testa*, *Plantaginis ovatae semen* and *Psyllii semen*, the three latter ones only covering the “well-established medicinal use”. They were followed by *Sennae fructus* and *Sennae folium* as well as *Fragulae cortex* and *Aloes*. Recently drafts on the traditional use of *Anisi fructus* and *Anisi aetheroleum* have been published. Further drafts are in preparation.

New guidance documents for assessment

Among a large number of guidance documents for the assessment of quality, safety and efficacy of herbal medicinal products, the “Guideline on non-clinical documentation for herbal medicinal products in applications for marketing authorisation (bibliographical and mixed applications) and in applications for simplified registration” (EMA/HMPC/32116/2005) was finalised by the HMPC. As compared to a former proposal for a Note for Guidance on non-clinical testing of herbal drug preparations with long-term marketing experience, the new document demands much more information, in particular on genotoxicity data. Comments have been submitted proposing that additional non-clinical testing of well-established and traditional herbal products should only be required if published literature is not available or insufficient and if there is reasonable suspicion for safety concerns.

The document “HMPC guideline on the assessment of clinical safety and efficacy in monographs for well-established and monographs/list entries for traditional herbal medicinal products” (EMA/HMPC/104613/2005) was released for public consultation until 15 August 2006. This document provides useful information on the documentation in particular related to the efficacy of herbal medicinal products and the borderline between the well-established medicinal use and the traditional use. For the demonstration of a well-established medicinal use according to the levels of evidence I-IV, in general at least one controlled clinical study of good quality is required. However, in the absence of a controlled trial, “a case-by-case assessment taking into account possible benefits, risks and types of disease may be acceptable if extensive clinical experience with the herbal medicinal product is well documented and supportive, conclusive (human) pharmacological data of good quality are available”.

Pharmacovigilance of herbal medicinal products

Following the assessment of case reports on a potential liver toxicity of *Cimicifuga racemosa*, an “EMA public statement on herbal medicinal products containing *Cimicifugae racemosae rhizoma* (Black cohosh, root)” (EMA/269259/2006) was published together with the HMPC assessment report. This document concludes that the discussed cases of literature and pharmacovigilance reports are poorly documented. As a connection of *Cimicifuga* and hepatotoxicity should be seen as a “signal”, the HMPC gives advice to patients to consult their doctor in case of signs and symptoms suggestive of liver disease, and advice to healthcare professionals to ask patients about the use of *Cimicifuga* and to report suspected hepatic reactions to the national health authorities.

Future Perspectives

The preparation of monographs and entries to the list by the HMPC as a basis for the “well-established medicinal use” and for the “traditional use”, respectively, are much appreciated since the publication of these documents may facilitate mutual recognition of marketing authorizations or of registrations, respectively. With the new option of a “traditional use” registration, a new group of medicinal products will be able to gain access to the European Common Market. By maintaining the “dual” system of well-established and traditional use, the classification always depending on the available data, a future harmonized and appropriate European assessment of all herbal medicinal products should be achieved.

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and their Institutes of Pharmacognosy: International, Interesting and Cooperative

We introduce and present different institutes of Pharmacognosy/Pharmaceutical Biology, dealing with medicinal plant research with their special characteristics from different continents.

Shanghai Research Center for Modernization of Traditional Chinese Medicine No.199 Guo Shou Jing Rd., Zhang Jiang High, Tech Park, Shanghai 201203, P. R. China

Email: admin@sctcm.ac.cn; gda5958@163.com

Head of institution: De-an Guo (Professor, PhD)

Main working areas:

- Studies on the active principles of traditional chinese medicine
- Studies on the in vivo pharmacokinetic process of TCM formula
- Studies on the molecular mechanism of therapeutic effect of TCM formula
- Development of innovative Chinese drugs

Two publications, representing the institution:

1. Identification and determination of major flavonoids in rat serum by HPLC–UV and HPLC–MS methods following oral administration of *Dalbergia odorifera* extract *Journal of Chromatography B*, 2006, 829, 35-44.
2. Quantitative determination of six major triterpenoids in *Ganoderma lucidum* and related species by high performance liquid chromatography; *Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Analysis*, m2006, 41, 838-844

Coworkers: Phd: Jiang-hao Sun; Shu-Hong Guan, Min, Yang, De-an, Guo

The “speciality”: Modernization of TCM

Is the institution open for cooperations, job applications? Yes, candidate should have background in phytochemistry, analytical chemistry, pharmacokinetics or new drug discovery



Shanghai Research Center, The institute

Centre for Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, The School of Pharmacy, University of London

Name and address of institution: 29-39 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AX, U.K.

Working groups: Professor Dr. Michael Heinrich (head of institute)
Dr. Simon Gibbons
Dr. Jose M. Prieto-Garcia
Dr. Deniz Tasdemir



Professor Dr. Michael Heinrich,
HoC, Dr.rer.nat.habil., MA, Dipl. Biol., FLS

michael.heinrich@pharmacy.ac.uk
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Working area: Medicinal Plants, Phytochemical Analysis, Ethnobotany, Ethnopharmacy, Phytomedicines, Phytochemistry, Transcription Factors (NF- κ B), Antioxidant Activity, Nutraceuticals, and Pharmacognosy.

2 publications, representing the institution: Bremner, P. D., H. Birkmayer, S. Tang, E. Muñoz-Blanco, B. Fiebich, D. Rivera and M. Heinrich* (2004) NF- κ B Modulators from *Bupleurum fruticosum*. *Planta medica* 70: 914–917.
Heinrich*, M., A. Pieroni and P. Bremner (2005) Medicinal Plants and Phytomedicines. IN: “The Cultural History of Plants”. Consulting Editor: Ghilleen Prance, Scientific Editor: M. Nesbitt. New York. Routledge (Taylor and Francis), pp. 205–238.

Coworkers: Dr. Matteo Politti Dr. Nic Wilson, Mrs. Maryam Modarai, Mrs. Adriana Patsoura, Mrs Nisarati Siriwatanametanon, Mr Wieland Peschel, Mrs Rocio Sancho, Mrs Sabine Nebel, and Mr Peter Giovannini, Mr. Andreas Lardos, Mr. Tim Hooper

The “speciality” or the unique selling proposition institution: Pharmacognosy/phytotherapy/natural product research (pharmaceutical biology) and ethnobotany: Ethnobotany of indigenous groups esp. in Mesoamerica (México and Guatemala), the Mediterranean and Northern Australia
Anti-inflammatory natural products focusing on the transcription factor NF- κ B and other transcription factors as molecular targets of natural product research).

Medicinal Cannabis – anti-inflammatory and anti-migraine effects. (CRAFT project, EU funded)
Nutraceuticals with anti-oxidant activity
Bioactive compounds from plants used in the treatment of gastrointestinal, dermatological and parasitic diseases.
Anthropology: Complementary and alternative medicine and medicinal plants in the medical system of the UK, esp. in ethnic minorities. Cultural history of plant use in Europe
Medical anthropology of Mexican indigenous groups. Cognitive basis of medicinal plant use.

Is the institution open for cooperation or job applications?
Prerequisites for potential candidates?

We are always looking for collaborations and applications for positions from people with an interest in ethnopharmacology and pharmacology of Phytomedicines and natural products.
We are in collaboration with some companies providing support for the development of medicines and Nutraceuticals.



Dr. Simon Gibbons

simon.gibbons@pharmacy.ac.uk
http://www.pharmacy.ac.uk/simon_gibbons.html

Working area:

Antibacterials and resistance modifying agents from plants with activity against multidrug-resistant (MDR) bacteria.

2 publications, representing the institution:

Pereda-Miranda, R, Kaatz, G. and Gibbons S. (2006) Polyacylated Oligosaccharides from Medicinal Mexican Morning Glory Species as Antibacterials and Inhibitors of Multidrug Resistance in *Staphylococcus aureus*. *J. Nat. Prod.* 69, 406-409.
Gibbons, S. (2004) Anti-Staphylococcal Plant Natural Products. *Nat. Prod. Rep.* 21, 263-277.

Coworkers:

PhD: Miss Gemma O'Donnell, Miss Winnie Shiu, Miss Karen Bascombe.
Postdocs: Dr Eileen Smith, Dr Michael Stavri, Dr Mukhlesur Rahman.

The "speciality" or the unique selling proposition of institution:

We are focusing on novel phytochemicals with activity against clinically relevant bacteria, in particular multidrug-resistant strains which exert resistance via efflux. We have a strong phytochemical expertise and excellent spectroscopic and microbiology facilities at the School.

Is the institution open for cooperation or job applications?
Prerequisites for potential candidates?

We are always looking for collaborations and applications for positions from people with an interest in phytochemistry and antimicrobial agents from natural sources are always welcome.



Dr. Jose M. Prieto-Garcia

jose.prieto@pharmacy.ac.uk
http://www.pharmacy.ac.uk/jose_prieto-garcia.html

Working areas:

Pharmacognosy, Pharmacological Effects of Medicinal Plants, Phytochemical Analysis, Pharmacology of Inflammation, Antioxidant Natural Products and Phytomedicines.

2 publications, representing the institution:

J.M. Prieto, P. Lacopini, P.Cioni, S. Chericoni.
In vitro activity of the essential oils of *Origanum vulgare*, *Satureja montana* and their main constituents in peroxynitrite-induced oxidative processes. *Food Chemistry*, (2006) in press.
J.M. Prieto, M.C. Recio, R.M. Giner, S. Mánuez, E.M. Giner-Larza, J.L. Ríos (2003) Influence of traditional Chinese anti-inflammatory medicinal plants on leukocyte and platelet functions. *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*, 55, 1275-82.

Coworkers:

PhD: 1

The "speciality" or the unique selling of institution:

Our research aims at elucidating the potential anti-inflammatory effect of medicinal plants and natural products by targeting enzymes of the arachidonate pathway and selected transcription factors.
This state-of-the-art research seeks to contribute to the development of novel lead molecules from natural

sources. We are also working on the study of antioxidant properties of medicinal plants and foods with special interest in peroxinitrite-induced processes.

Is the institution open for cooperation or job applications?

We are always looking for collaborations and applications for positions from people and companies with an interest in pharmacology of natural products and food supplements.



Dr. Deniz Tasdemir

deniz.tasdemir@pharmacy.ac.uk
http://www.pharmacy.ac.uk/deniz_tasdemir.html

Working area:

Marine Natural Product Chemistry, Phytochemistry, Antiprotozoal Drug Discovery, Antimalarial Natural Products Targeting the Fatty Acid Pathway of Plasmodium falciparum, Anticancer Drug Discovery, Phytoestrogens, Chemotaxonomy

2 publications, representing the institution:

D. Tasdemir, N.D. Güner, R. Perozzo, R. Brun, A.A. Dönmez, I. Çals, P. Rüedi (2005) Antiprotozoal and Plasmodial FabI Enzyme Inhibiting Metabolites of *Scrophularia lepidota* Roots, *Phytochemistry*, 66: 355-362.
D. Tasdemir, G. Lack, R. Brun, P. Rüedi, R. Perozzo (2006) Inhibition of *Plasmodium falciparum* Fatty Acid Biosynthesis: Evaluation of FabG, FabZ and FabI as Drug Targets for Flavonoids *J. Med. Chem.*, 49: 3345-3353.

Coworkers:

PhD students: 2

The "speciality" or the unique selling proposition of institution:

We focus on antiprotozoal and anticancer drug discovery from plants, marine macro- and microorganisms. Special interest lies in mechanism(target)-based antiprotozoal screening of natural extracts and characterization of novel natural products inhibiting multiple enzymes from the fatty acid biosynthesis pathway of the malaria parasite. We hold a strong expertise on both phytochemistry and marine natural product chemistry and have state-of-the-art spectroscopic and bioactivity facilities.

Is the institution open for cooperation or job applications?

We are always looking for collaborations and applications for positions from people and companies with an interest in antiparasitic, anticancer and antioxidant natural products.

University of Nigeria, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Department of Pharmacognosy, Medicinal Plant Research Unit, Enugu State, Nsukka 410001 Nigeria

Email: coesimone@yahoo.com

Homepage: www.unnportal.com

Head of institution: Dr. C.O. Ezugwu

Main working area:

- Bioassay Fractionation Techniques
- Characterization of Bioactive Compounds
- Herbal Drug Development

2 publications, representing the institution:

Ezugwu CO, Bedir E, Dunbar C, Khan IA, Okunji CO, Schuster BM and Iwu MM (2003). Indoloquinazoline Alkaloids from *Araliopsis tabouensis*. *Helv. Chim. Acta.* 86 (8): 2914-2918.
Esimone CO, Adikwu MU, Nwafor SV and Okolo CO (2001). Potential use of tea extracts as a complementary mouthwash: Comparative evaluation of two commercial samples. *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine* 7(5): 523-527.

Coworkers:

Dr. CO Esimone (Senior Lecturer), Dr. PO Osadebe (Senior Lecturer), Dr. CO Okoli (Senior Lecturer), Dr. CEC Ugwoke (Senior Lecturer), Dr. NJ Nwodo (Senior Lecturer), Mr. PO Udeogaranya (Senior Lecturer), Dr. UE Odoh (Lecturer 1), Mr. JM Okonta (Senior Lecturer), Mr. Eddy Omeje (Lecturer II and Ph.D student), Mr. Emeka Ezea (Asst lecturer and Ph.D Student)

The "speciality" or the unique selling proposition of institution:

Bioassay-guided screening of Indigenous medicinal plants for diverse pharmacological activities as a means of authenticating the folkloric traditional medicinal uses of these plants.

Is the institution open for cooperations, job applications? Prerequisites for potential candidates?

The institute is very much open for cooperation. Several Nigerian medicinal plants have been screened and cooperation is needed with institutes that would assist in structural elucidation of the isolated bioactive compounds. Job application as lecturers is welcomed. Presently, holders of doctoral degree in pharmacognosy are eligible.



Recent thesis on medicinal plant research

(notices of Ph.D- and diploma thesis to the editor are welcome any time!)

Ph.D. thesis (2006) Chemical composition of the essential oil from *Eriocephalus tenuifolius* DC. (Cape chamomile oil). By: Hanco-Giesbert Mierendorff; Promotor: Prof. Dr. E. Stahl-Biskup, Institute of Pharmacy, Division Pharmaceutical Biology and Microbiology, University of Hamburg, Germany.

Ph.D. thesis (2006) Properties and antimicrobial activity of β -triketones of essential oils from Myrtaceae. By: Cornelia Sojka; Promotor: Prof. Dr. E. Stahl-Biskup, Institute of Pharmacy, Division Pharmaceutical Biology and Microbiology, University of Hamburg, Germany.

Ph.D. thesis (2006) Zur Entstehung primärer Amidglykoside aus cyanogenen Glykosiden (Studies on the formation of primary amide glycosides from cyanogenic glycosides). By: Jandirk Sendker; Promotor: Prof. Dr. Adolf Nahrstedt, Westf. Wilhelms-Univ., Muenster, Germany.

Ph.D. thesis, 2006, Phytochemische und pharmakologische Untersuchungen chinesischer Arzneipflanzen unter besonderer Berücksichtigung von *Centipeda minima*. By: Mathilde Fischer, promotor: Prof. Dr. R. Bauer; Inst. Pharm. Sci., University of Graz (Austria).

Diploma thesis, 2006, Phytochemische Untersuchung von *Dracopis amplexicaulis*, einer nordamerikanischen Asteraceae (Heliantheae). By: Martina Blunder, promotor: Prof. Dr. R. Bauer; Inst. Pharm. Sci., University of Graz (Austria).

Diploma thesis, 2006, Chromatographische Untersuchungen der chinesischen Arzneidroge "Xiakucao" (*Prunellae Spica*). By: Silke Rust, promotor: Prof. Dr. R. Bauer; Inst. Pharm. Sci., University of Graz (Austria).

Diploma thesis, 2006, Traditionelle chinesische Vorbehandlungsverfahren bei Arzneidrogen und ihre Überprüfung mit westlichen Untersuchungsmethoden. By: Tanja Klug, promotor: Prof. Dr. R. Bauer; Inst. Pharm. Sci., University of Graz (Austria).

Diploma thesis (2006) Einfluss von Polysacchariden aus *Typha latifolia* L. auf die Zellphysiologie humaner Keratinozyten. By: Kirsten Gescher; Promotor: Prof. A. Hensel, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Germany.

Diploma thesis (2006) Einfluss von Extrakten aus *Cyanara scolymus* L. auf die Funktionalität humaner Leberzellen. By: Gesine Müller; Promotor: Prof. A. Hensel, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Germany.

Diploma thesis (2006) Quantifizierung von Saponinen aus *Solidago gigantea* AIT. mittels Hochleistungsflüssigkeitschromatographie. By: Christa Göckler; Promotor: a.o. Univ. Prof. G. Reznicek, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Pharmakognostische Untersuchungen an *Artemisiae scopariae* herba, *Leonuri* herba, *Astragali* radix und *Isatidis* radix. By: Sibylle Heschl; Promotor: a.o. Univ. Prof. R. Länger, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Nachweis von Kontaktallergenen in Pflanzenextrakten. By: Gerhard Kaniak; Promotor: a.o. Univ. Prof. G. Reznicek, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Pharmakologische Wirkungen von Inhaltsstoffen und Metaboliten des *Achillea millefolium* agg. By: Kerstin Kloock; Promotor: Univ. Prof. B. Kopp, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Analyse der Flavonoide in Vertretern des *Achillea millefolium* agg. mittels Kapillarelektrophorese. By: Barbara Loidl; Promotor: Univ. Prof. B. Kopp, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Krebszellen als Target für VIP-Rezeptor-Liganden? By: Anna Ortner; Promotor: a.o. Univ. Prof. S. Glasl, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Anticomplementary Activity of Guatemalan Plants. The Active Principle of *Brysonima crassifolia*. By: Irene Ritzberger; Promotor: Univ. Prof. B. Kopp, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria, and Prof. Dr. S. Canigüeral, University of Barcelona, Spain.

Diploma thesis (2006) Phytochemical Analysis of Phenolic Compounds in Commercial Samples of *Achillea millefolium* L. s.l. By: Evelien Rozema; Promotor: Univ. Prof. B. Kopp, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Phytochemische und pharmakologische Untersuchungen an traditionell angewendeten sedierenden Arzneidrogen. By: Denise Schellmann; Promotor: Univ. Prof. B. Kopp, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Pharmakognostische Untersuchungen an *Lycii fructus*, *Aconiti radix*, *Angelicae sinensis* radix. By: Katalin Somogyi; Promotor: a.o. Univ. Prof. R. Länger, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Einfluss der k. u. k. Pharmazie auf die Entwicklung der Pharmazie in Serbien von 1830–1918. By: Kosta Cvijovic; Promotor: emer.Univ. Prof. W. Kubelka, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Identification and characterisation of the antiinflammatory agents and evaluation of the antibacterial activity of *Plantago major* L.. By: Barbara Buchacher; Promotor: Univ. Prof. B. Kopp, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria, and Prof. Dr.R. Della Loggia, University of Trieste, Italy.

Diploma thesis (2006) Untersuchungen an Arzneidrogen der Traditionellen Chinesischen Medizin. By: Marion Bahr; Promotor: a.o. Univ. Prof. R. Länger, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Quantifizierung von Cyanopikrin und Bestimmung des Gesamtflavonoidgehaltes in *Saussurea amara*. By: Ester Wurm; Promotor: a.o. Univ. Prof. S. Glasl, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) In vitro-Vermehrung von *Glycyrrhiza glabra* L. über Nodienkultur. By: Elena Fursova; Promotor: Univ. Prof. B. Kopp, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Oberflächenstrukturen als Grundlage der Identifizierung europäischer *Equisetum*-Arten. By: Franz Josef Gerngroß; Promotor: a.o. Univ. Prof. R. Länger, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Vergleich von morphologisch-anatomischen und molekularbiologisch gewonnenen Daten in der Gattung *Achillea*. By: Bernhard Ganster; Promotor: a.o. Univ. Prof. J. Saukel, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Pharmakognostische Analytik von Bois bandé (*Chione venosa*, Rubiaceae). By: Elisabeth Fürnkranz; Promotor: a.o. Univ. Prof. G. Reznicek, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2006) Charakterisierung von phenolischen Inhaltsstoffen der mongolischen Heilpflanze *Myricaria longifolia* EHRENB. By: Oliver Donath; Promotor: a.o. Univ. Prof. S. Glasl, Dept. of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2006) Ethnomedicine – A survey of plants traditionally used in age related brain disorders. By: Francine Gmünder; Promotor: Prof. Dr. M. Hamburger, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Basel, Switzerland

Diploma Thesis (2006) Natural products acting on targets implicated in Alzheimer's disease II. By: Donata Schnyder; Promotor: Prof. Dr. M. Hamburger, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Basel, Switzerland

Diploma Thesis (2006) Chemicals modulating the activity of secretase. By: Marc-A. Thiemard; Promotor: Prof. Dr. M. Hamburger, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Basel, Switzerland

Diploma Thesis (2006) Effekt von Retinolsäure auf Transkription, Translation und Aktivität von Presenilinen. By: Jessica Aeberhard; Promotor: Prof. Dr. M. Hamburger, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Basel, Switzerland

Diploma Thesis (2006) Phytochemical investigation of the constituents of the Açai fruit pulp. By: Matthias Eyer; Promotor: Prof. Dr. M. Hamburger and Dr. O. Potterat, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Basel, Switzerland

Diploma Thesis (2006) Isolation of two iridoid glucosides from *Morinda citrifolia* (Noni) fruit and development and validation of a method for quantification of major constituents in Noni and Noni-products. By: Roger von Felten; Promotor: Dr. O. Potterat and Prof. Dr. M. Hamburger, Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology, University of Basel, Switzerland

Editorial remark

All contributions for the GA-Newsletter are welcome. Deadline for submission for the next edition is fixed to May 30 2007. Please send all contributions by e-mail or disk to: Prof. Dr. A. Hensel, University of Münster, Institute for Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, Hittorfstrasse 56, D-48149 Münster, Germany; ahensel@uni-muenster.de

