

# Pharmacology of Natural Products Section (PNPS) Activity Report 2015-2016

## Activities during 2015

### **1. IUPHAR World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines (WCPNTM) 2015**

The IUPHAR World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicine 2015 (WCPNTM 2015) was held in Singapore on July 21-24, 2015. The conference was co-organized by IUPHAR-PNPS, the Department of Pharmacology of the Yong Loo Lin School of the National University of Singapore, the Pharmacological Society of Singapore, and the Section on the Pharmacology of Traditional Chinese Medicine and Natural Products Section of the Chinese Pharmacological Society (CNPHARS). Professors Yongxiang Zhang and WS Fred Wong co-chaired the conference, themed "Harnessing the Pharmacological Frontiers for Natural Products Drug Discovery and Development". Included among the dignitaries was Professor Michael Spedding, the IUPHAR Secretary-General, who offered a plenary lecture. Over 300 participants from 16 countries and regions attended the conference. The scientific program of the 3-day conference consisted of five plenary lectures, 29 invited lectures, 10 young scientist oral presentations and 148 poster presentations. During the conference a Councilor meeting was held, where it was agreed that the 4<sup>th</sup> WCPNTM will be held as a joint meeting with the International Conference on the Mechanism of Action of Nutraceuticals (ICMAN) in Aberdeen, UK in 2017.

### **2. Collaboration in the facilitation and development of natural products**

During WCPNTM 2015, Professor Spedding discussed with the IUPHAR-PNPS Councilors a possible collaboration of IUPHAR, NC-IUPHAR and IUPHAR-PNPS to compose an article on the pharmacological study of natural products and traditional medicines based the presentations at WCPNTM 2015. Professor Spedding subsequently circulated a draft outline and brief summary of the envisioned article, which will likely be submitted to a high level international journal, such as *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery*. Professor Spedding also introduced Professor Zhang to the Guide to Pharmacology database to demonstrate how NC-IUPHAR may advance the pharmacology of natural products. Several experts on traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) and medicinal natural products were introduced to Professor Spedding to explore how such collaboration may achieve the inclusion of natural products in the database.

### **3. Special issue in the journal *Pharmacology & Therapeutics*.**

During the 2015 IUPHAR Councilor meeting in Xi'an, China, May 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Professor S.J. Enna, IUPHAR President and Executive Editor-in-Chief of *Pharmacology & Therapeutics* (P&T), discussed with Professor Zhang the possibility of inviting the WCPNTM 2015 speakers to write reviews on natural products research to appear as a special issue in P&T. Of the 18 articles submitted to P&T, 15 were accepted by the end of 2015. At this time, most of the articles are available on-line through ScienceDirect with the special issue expected to be appear in print in May, 2016.

## Activities planned

### **1. ICMAN-IUPHAR Natural Products (NP) Joint Meeting**

The ICMAN-IUPHAR NP joint meeting will be held in Aberdeen, UK on September 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Professor Valérie Schini-Kerth, the IUPHAR PNPS Vice-Chair, is now keeping close contact with Professor Cherry Wainwright, the Director of the Institute for Health and Wellbeing Research at Robert Gordon University, in preparation for the joint meeting. The draft proposal for the joint program was completed in January, 2016, and the nomination of scientific committee was confirmed in February, 2016.

### **2. Contact and cooperation with the International Council for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ICMAP)**

As the appointed IUPHAR liaison, Professor Zhang is keeping in contact with Professor Ákos Máthé, ICMAP President, who accepted our invitation to give a presentation during WCPNTM 2015, but was ultimately unable to participate. We have invited Professor Máthé to be a member of scientific committee and deliver a lecture during the joint meeting in 2017, which he has accepted. We plan to organize a joint scientific conference on natural product with ICMAP in 2019.

## Fundraising efforts

We seek financial support when holding meetings as the registration fees are insufficient to cover the meeting expenses. In China, we seek funding from both the government and pharmaceutical companies, however, such funding may only be used within China. So, we encourage the local organizers of each conference to obtain additional financial support. For the meetings held in 2012 in Macau and in 2015 in Singapore, the local organizers, Professors Yitao Wang and WS Fred Wong, contributed to the success of the meetings by identifying the necessary support from sponsors. We plan to further strengthen the collaboration with pharmaceutical companies, both abroad and at home, in our future work.

## Funds in the bank

None

Yong-Xiang Zhang  
Chair of the IUPHAR Pharmacology of Natural Product Section

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Secretary of the IUPHAR Pharmacology of Natural Product Section

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