

Report of the Section on the Pharmacology of Natural Products, IUPHAR (2009)

The Section on the Pharmacology of Natural Products was formally recognized by the IUPHAR General Assembly held during the 15th World Congress in July 2006 in Beijing. After the official formation of the section, the IUPHAR Executive Committee appointed Ricky Y.K. Man as Chairman and Professor Yong-Xiang Zhang as Vice-Chairman. In October 2008, Professor Yong-Xiang Zhang assumed the chairmanship of the section.

1. The main activities in 2009

(1) Organized the International Conference on the Pharmacology of natural products and traditional medicine

As planned and programmed in 2008, “**The First World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines**”, sponsored by the Section on Pharmacology of Natural Products of IUPHAR and the Chinese Pharmacological Society, was held on 9th -12th, September 2009, in Hangzhou, China, with the aim of promoting international academic exchange and cooperation in the field of pharmacology of natural and traditional medicines, which brought together more than 200 distinguished experts and scholars engaged in this area from a number of countries and regions worldwide including the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Denmark, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Pakistan, Indonesia, South Africa, China mainland, Hong Kong and Macao.



This was the first international academic conference held by the Section on Pharmacology of Natural Products of IUPHAR since it was established in 2006. The

theme of the conference was “The Present and the Future of Natural and Traditional Medicines”. Topics focused on basic and clinical pharmacology of natural products and traditional medicines and related new drug research and development. Participants enjoyed a series of keynote lectures, symposium reports and poster sessions. Eight experts gave keynote lectures and 16 invited speakers made presentations on hot topics related to the area. To enhance new drug R&D from natural and traditional medicines, a workshop on “New Drug R&D from Natural and Traditional Chinese Medicines” was held during the conference. Chiefs and experts from the Department of Social Development of Ministry of Science and Technology, the Center for Drug Evaluation, State Food and Drug Administration, and Botanical Review Team of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration were invited to give special reports, followed by in-depth feedback and discussions.



During the conference, the scholarship committee held selecting activity of "Excellent Poster Award", and 13 participants won the "Excellent Poster Award" and were honored at the closing ceremony. In addition, special ceremonies also took place during the conference to bestow the titles of the 13th “Sevier—Chinese Pharmacological Society Award for Outstanding Young Scholars”. Eight outstanding

young Chinese mainland scholars won the awards respectively.



The Organizing Committee held a welcome reception on the opening night. Delegates gathered together like a big family to share their thoughts. Many participants got on the stage and sang songs. The atmosphere was wonderful, full of joy, and friendship.



During the conference, Professor Yong-Xiang Zhang, Chair of the Section on the Natural Products, held a group meeting to discuss how to further promote the section's academic activities. Prof. Valérie Schini-Kerth, the Vice-Chair of the Section, Professor Zhi-Bin Lin, Professor Ricky Y.K. Man and Professor Thomas Efferth attended the meeting. The experts aired their views and discussed warmly on the issues and made constructive suggestions. The Second World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines was scheduled for 2011.

The conference has reflected the latest progress and new frontiers in current pharmacological studies of the natural and traditional medicines, and demonstrated new ideas, new technology and new methods. Participants generally agreed that the conference was informative, well arranged and scheduled, with a stimulating academic atmosphere. It provided delegates an opportunity to learn about the world's latest advancement in pharmacological study of the natural and traditional medicines. It received wide acclaim from all the participants, who have benefited enormously from the conference. The conference will also play a positive role in facilitating international academic exchange and cooperation and boosting progress in the field of pharmacological studies, and also in new drug R&D from natural and traditional medicines.



(2) Preparing for attending the 16th World Congress of Pharmacology

In order to promote the exchange of scientific information and research progress, and to provide a forum for interactions among the scientists from around the world involved in pharmacological study on natural products and traditional medicine, Professor Yong-Xiang Zhang and Professor Zhi-Bin Lin submitted 5 proposals on the pharmacology of natural and traditional medicines to the Organizing Committee of the 16th World Congress of Pharmacology in 2008. With the strong and active supports and instructions of Professor Vanhoutte, the former President of IUPHAR and Professor Michael Mulvany, the Secretary-general of the 16th World Congress of Pharmacology, Professor Zhi-Bin Lin, the Executive Member of IUPHAR and

Professor Ricky Man, the former Chair of the Section on the Pharmacology of Natural Products, the Focused Conference of “Natural Products: Past and future” has been arranged during the 16th IUPHAR Congress. In order to organize more delegates to participate the Focused Conference, we have made broad propaganda both at the “The First World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines” and the national pharmacological conferences organized by Chinese Pharmacological Society.

2. The projected initiatives for 2010

(1) In order to attract and draw together more scientists from around the world involved in teaching and researching pharmacology on natural products and traditional medicines by the Section on Pharmacology of Natural Products, we shall do our best to run the Focused Conference well and make it successful under the instruction of the conference leaders.

(2) The meeting of the Executive Committee of the Section on the Pharmacology of Natural Products will be held during the 16th IUPHAR Congress. The next works and activities regarding construction and development of the section will be discussed at the meeting, such as the plan for organizing “The second World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines”, etc.

In summary, the efforts and new activities will promote the worldwide research, scientific communications and collaborations in this area, and also the education, etc., an essential objective of the Natural Products Section of IUPHAR.

Prepared by Yong-Xiang Zhang, Chair of the Section on the Pharmacology of Natural Products, IUPHAR, March 30, 2010 in Beijing.