

Pharmacology of Natural Products Section Activity Report 2011-2012

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Chair of the Pharmacology of Natural Product Section of IUPHAR

1. Second World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines

During the IUPHAR Executive Committee meeting held in Paris last October, I briefly introduced the plans to hold the Second World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines. After careful planning and preparation, we have established the organizing committee. Thanks to the efforts of the organizing committee, we have finished the first stage of the preparations and circulated the first announcement.

The conference will be sponsored by the Pharmacology of Natural Products Section, co-sponsored by Chinese Pharmacological Society (CNPHARS), International Society for Chinese Medicine (ISCM) and University of Macau (UM). It will be held November 6th to 8th, 2012, in Macau, China. The theme of the conference is **“Pushing forward the study of natural and traditional medicines with new ideas and technologies”**. The scientific program of the conference will consist of oral presentation, posters presentations and discussion sessions, all focusing on basic and clinical pharmacological research as well as new drug discovery and development based on, or related to, natural and traditional medicines or ethnomedical resources. The conference will offer delegates the opportunity to display and communicate their results, new ideas, new methods and technologies in the pharmacological study of the natural and traditional medicines.

In order to encourage the participation of young scientists in the pharmacological study of natural and traditional medicines, we shall hold an oral presentation competition. For this special session we will organize a jury. The judges will select the winners based on their levels of their research, competency in reporting, fielding questions, and the quality of their presentation slides. In addition, we shall hold a judged poster session, in which the winners will be selected by the jury according to the participants' levels of research, responses to questions and the quality of the poster presentation. The awards for both competitions will be presented during the closing ceremony.

We plan to invite the IUPHAR Executive Committee members to attend the conference. They are also welcome to make presentations at the conference, for which the organizing committee will cover local accommodation expenses in addition to waiving the registration fee.

2. Preparing the proposals for 2014 World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2014)

In response to the call for proposals of topics, sessions and focused conferences for WCP2014 we have submitted the following proposals on line:

Proposal #1

Natural products and traditional medicines (NPTM) are primary tools in the prevention and treatment of diseases in many countries and their effectiveness has been well established during the long history of application. Even today, they are

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commonly used in the clinical treatment of diseases. Modern pharmacological studies demonstrate that natural products and traditional medicines possess distinctive effects and mechanisms of action. In addition, several natural products and traditional medicines show better safety. Many new drugs have been recently developed from natural products and traditional medicines, such as *ephedrine*, *camptothecin*, *taxol*, *verogen*, etc. Research of NPTM is presently receiving quite a bit of attention and is becoming one of the most rapidly advancing research fields.

The focused conference tentatively consists of four sessions, including pharmacology of natural products, pharmacology of traditional medicines, new drug R & D from NPTM, and new techniques in the study of NPTM. We envision four to five speakers for each session, who would be selected after the proposal is approved by the WCP2014 organizers.

Proposal #2

Network pharmacology and pharmacometabonomics are both newly emerging research areas in biomedical sciences. Both study the molecular mechanisms of diseases, especially the complicated diseases, to elucidate the pathogenesis from the angle of biomodulating network. It is very important and promising research in the area of molecular pharmacology, as well as beneficial to the study of natural and traditional medicines, therefore, we propose one Network pharmacology session and one pharmacometabonomics session. For each session, there would be four to five speakers, who would be selected once the proposal is approved. These sessions could be arranged as symposia or workshops.

During the Second World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines, the executive committee of our section will hold a meeting to discuss future academic activities and how to organize the proposals on natural product and traditional medicines for WCP2014. As required by the WCP014 Programme Committee, we are preparing full proposals, which include specifics on probable speakers and titles of likely presentations. We hope that the program proposals for natural products and traditional medicines will meet with approval by the WCP2014 organizers.

3. The International Council for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ICMAP)

As the IUPHAR liaison to ICMAP, I have established contact with Professor K. Husnu Can Baser, the President of ICMAP. We also sent him an invitation to attend the Second World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines in order to discuss future plans for communicating and collaborating between ICMAP and our section. ICMAP has two meetings scheduled at this time:

7th Conference on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Southeast European Countries

The conference will be organized by the Association for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of Southeast European Countries (AMAPSEEC) & the Josif Pančić Institute for Medicinal Plant Research in Belgrade. The conference will be held in Subotica, Serbia, May 27th to 30th, 2012. AMAPSEEC is the first regional association that gathers people interested in Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) or are working in

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this field, in order to promote and support the exchange of ideas and cooperation in the southeast regions of Europe and beyond.

The main topics related to MAPs include Biodiversity, Management and Conservation; Biotechnology, Cultivation and Industrial Processing; Phytochemistry; Pharmacognosy; Ethnopharmacology, Pharmacology and Toxicology; and Quality Control. There will be nine plenary and oral sessions with three poster sessions. More information is available from the conference secretary, Dejan Pljevljakušić (amapseec@mocbilja.rs).

5th World Congresses on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (WOCMAP)

The 5th WOCMAP will be held concurrently with the 29th International Horticultural Congress in Brisbane, Australia, August 17th to 24th, 2014 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The International Horticultural Congress is hosted under the auspices of the International Society of Horticultural Science (ISHS) by the Australian Society of Horticultural Science, the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community; and the World Congress on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants is organized by ICMAP. The staging of both events at the same venue provides an even wider range of scientific opportunities for all delegates. It is said that these world congresses will draw worldwide attention and are anticipated to become important scientific events in pharmaceutical research. More information may be obtained from the ICMAP Secretary General, Dr. Renate Seitz (reseitz@gmx.de) or Prof. Michael Heinrich (michael.heinrich@scu.edu.au)

4. 5th International Conference on Polyphenols and Health

Prof. Valérie Schini-Kerth (University of Strasbourg of France), Vice Chair of the Pharmacology of Natural Products Section, attended the 5th International Conference on Polyphenols and Health (ICPH), one of the leading meetings promoting the health effects of natural products. The conference, held in Sitges, Barcelona, Spain, October 17th to 20th, 2011, was characterized by a high level of attendance and scientific expertise. Nearly 600 original communications were presented. During the four-day conference, distinguished basic and applied scientists from all over the world addressed a wide range of related topics, such as polyphenols in food plants, bioavailability, microbiota effect, health-promoting effects such as those on the cardiovascular system and on the ageing process, cancer, metabolic diseases, and inflammation. The meeting provided an update on the latest topics and developments in the polyphenol field and human health and actively contributed to promote academic and industrial international exchange and cooperation in the field of polyphenols.