

Pharmacology of Natural Products Section (PNPS) Activity Report 2014-2015

Activities during 2014

1. Organization of the Natural Products Section at WCP2014

The 17th World Congress of Basic & Clinical Pharmacology (WCP2014) was held in Cape Town, South Africa, on July 13-18, 2014. The IUPHAR Pharmacology of Natural Products Section (PNPS) organized a symposium under the leadership of the chair, Professor Yongxiang Zhang. Five pharmacologists from Ethiopia, China, Japan, Singapore and the USA gave presentations followed by a panel discussion. The presentation topics included phytochemicals, traditional medicines and marine drugs. The delegates showed great interest in the presentations, and the discussions were very lively during this session.



Above: Professor Alejandro Mayer during his PNPS lecture
Below: Profs. Zhang (left) and S.J. Enna (right) discuss PNPS plans



2. PNPS councilor meeting



A PNPS councilor meeting (above photograph) was held during WCP 2014. During the meeting, Professor Zhang summarized the work conducted thus far then the councilors discussed the plans for further work. Dr. Fred WS Wong, from National University of Singapore, was invited to be a PNPS councilor. It was agreed that IUPHAR World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicine (WCPNTM) 2015 will be held in Singapore in July. This will be the third international meeting on natural and traditional medicine building on the success of the conferences organized by PNPS in Hangzhou, China during 2010 and Macau, China during 2012.

3. Attending the Symposium of Control of Complementary Medicines

As a pre-congress meeting, Pharmacology for Africa (PharfA) organized the PharfA Symposium of Control of Complementary Medicines on July 13, 2014. Professor Zhang (with his fellow participants in the photograph at right) was invited to present “New drug R&D and registration for traditional Chinese medicine and natural product in China”. Following his lecture, Professor Zhang discussed with the delegates the issues of new drug R&D and registration in China.



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Activities planned

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

WCPNTM 2015 will be held on July 21-24 in Singapore and co-chaired by Professor Zhang and Dr. Wong. After nearly a year of preparation, the conference plans are going well. As of the end of 2014, all five plenary lectures were confirmed and 25 pharmacologists have accepted the invitation to give lectures at the conference. The website (www.pharmconf.org) has been set up for registration and abstract submissions. Professor Guanhua Du, the Secretary-General of the conference, and Dr. Ying Zhao, the Secretary of PNPS, visited Singapore in January, 2015 to discuss and organize the preparations (board meeting below), which are proceeding smoothly.



2. Contact and cooperation with International Council for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

As the IUPHAR liaison, Professor Zhang is keeping in contact with International Council for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ICMAP). Professor Akos Mathe, ICMAP Vice President, has accepted our invitation to attend WCPNTM 2015 and give a presentation. Professor Mathe also suggested to PNPS the possibility of joint meetings with ICMAP in the future. The potential collaboration was discussed during a recent WCPNTM 2015 meeting, resulting in Hungary being proposed as the next WCPNTM location. The details will be discussed with the section councilors during the Singapore conference.

Fundraising efforts

We seek financial support when holding meetings as relying on the registration fees is insufficient to cover the meeting expenses. WCPNTM 2015 will be supported by the Singapore local organizing committee and the Chinese Pharmacological Society. We also try to elicit support from the pharmaceutical companies in China and Singapore, but it is limited. So, we need to strengthen the collaboration with pharmaceutical companies both abroad and at home for our future work.

Funds in the bank

None

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