Dear members of GA,

Publication of the second newsletter coincides with the end of the year. This is the moment where, on the one hand, one looks back on events and developments that took place in 2015 and, on the other hand, looks forward on what 2016 will bring.

The 63rd Annual Congress was held in Budapest, from 23 to 27 August 2015. It was a successful event. We had participants from all over the world to gather in Budapest for four days, interesting plenary lectures, award lectures, short lectures, posters, and well-attended pre-congress events on Sunday. I wanted to express here my gratitude to Prof. Judith Hohmann, Dr. Deszö Csupor, Attila Varga, and to all the other members of the organizing team for a smooth organization of the congress!

Elections for the Executive Committee (ExC) and Advisory Board took place in the Members Meeting that was held during the congress. I am happy that Prof. Olaf Biela is my successor as from January 2016. On the other hand, ExC members vice-president Prof. Wolfgang Blaschek and our treasurer Dr. Bernd Roether had decided to step down by the end of this year for their services to GA! As new vice-president Prof. Oliver Kayser was elected, and Dr. Ulrike Reusner as our new treasurer. It is my pleasure to welcome them in the ExC! By the time the newsletter is published we will already have had our first ExC meeting with incoming and outgoing members to ensure a smooth transition.

I also wanted to thank the Advisory Board Members for their contributions over the past two years. And now to important news for 2016: The 9th Joint Meeting of Societies will be held from 24 to 28 July in Copenhagen. For this time GA acts as the lead organization, and Prof. Matthias Hamburger is heading the local organizing team. The Joint Meeting will be a major event with well over 1000 participants. For the first time the Japanese Society of Pharmacognosy (JSP) will participate, besides ASP, PSE, GA, AFERP and SIF. The Korean Society of Pharmacognosy also has expressed interest in these joint meetings, and we will discuss in Copenhagen the further extension towards a gathering of all important societies in the field of medicinal plant and natural products research. There will be several pre-congress events on Sunday, namely the Young Researchers Workshop, the Regulatory Affairs Workshop, and a pre-symposium on advances in (bio)analytical techniques applied to natural products research. Please read the announcement of the congress in this newsletter, and consult the congress website for further details on this important event!

Awards given in 2016 include the Egon Stahl Award in Bronze, the Dr. Willmar Schwabe-Award Award, and the Dr. Willmar Schwabe Research Scholarship. Announcements of the awards have been published, and you will also find them in this newsletter and on the GA website.

I also wanted to express here my special gratitude to all the members of the organizing team and to the Advisory Board Members. The 63rd Annual Congress was a spectacular event and the further extension towards a gathering of all important societies in the field of medicinal plant and natural products research. There will be several pre-congress events on Sunday.

Let me close by wishing you all a happy, prosperous, and successful 2016!

Matthias Hamburger
President of GA
Notes from the Society

Editorial remark

All contributions for the GA-Newsletter are welcome.
Deadline for submission is fixed to May 25th 2016.
Please send all contributions by e-mail:
Prof. Dr. A. Hensel
University of Münster,
Institute for Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry,
Corrensstrasse 48,
D-48149 Münster, Germany
ahensel@uni-muenster.de

Deceased members

(to our knowledge)
Prof. Beate Diettrich
(Halle, Germany)
passed away October 10th 2015
GA member since 1990
Obituary in this newsletter.
Prof. Dr. Dres. h. c. Adolf Nahrstedt
(Münster, Germany)
passed away January 7th 2016
GA member since 1972
The Society will keep commemoration and offers its sincere condolence.

GA introduces free Webinars for all Members

Why does GA offer webinars? Of course, web-based teaching and conferencing is a common trend. But this format is also an excellent chance to reach scientists in the field of pharmacognosy and natural product research all over the world in order to discuss a specific topic. This may be an opportunity to increase the awareness that GA is a scientific organization that wants to fuel the exchange of knowledge, to strengthen networking and, in particular, to support young scientists. Finally, GA webinars might also help to acquire new members.

Scientific talks followed by a lively discussion are a fundamental part of science. They are of great importance for the distribution of new findings, concepts and methodologies. In contrast to papers, talks provide the unique opportunity to get into contact with interesting and inspiring persons. This is of great advantage especially for young scientists. But giving or listening to a talk is somewhat of a challenge: On the one hand, the presenters have to travel and to invest a substantial amount of time. This also generates considerable expenses. On the other hand, the fixed date and location of a talk is not always easy to handle for the audience, especially for graduate students with a tight schedule full of lab experiments. Fortunately, all these obstacles can easily be overcome today, since web-based techniques allow to broadcast and to record talks and the subsequent discussions. No need to travel, no need to be at the right place. It’s quite simple: The listeners need a computer with a web browser, loudspeakers, and a stable internet connection. On the presenter’s side, a webcam and a microphone are additionally required.

GA wants to take full advantage of these possibilities. We will start off with four different topics covered by experts in the field. The dates, topics and speakers can be found in the table. The live webinars will be hosted by Dr. Robert Fürst, Professor at the Goethe-University Frankfurt (Germany). We are very proud to announce that the webinars are free and open to everybody. Participants do not need to be members of the GA. The announcement of each webinar will be distributed to all members of the GA by email (as it has already been done for the first talk). Please feel free to forward this invitation to staff members, collaborators and everybody else who might be interested in the topic. Participants have to register for each webinar by a simple email to ga-secretary@ga-online.org. The registration deadline will be disclosed in the respective invitation email. If you can not join the live event, you will find the recorded talk and Q&A session on the GA homepage, but of course only in the members’ area.

Do you have an idea for a topic or a speaker? Please do not hesitate to make suggestions to Robert Fürst (fuerst@em.uni-frankfurt.de). We are very much looking forward to the first round of webinars and we hope that this new format will attract a high number of participants, in particular young scientists who might see a great advantage of becoming a member of GA.

Robert Fürst, Frankfurt/Main, on behalf of the GA Working Group Congresses and Workshops.
3

New GA members

Since May 2015 the following 72 members and 2 company members have joined our Society. GA warmly welcomes all new members and hopes that the Society may get an international platform for many scientific and personal contacts.

Shereen Abd El Gaffar, Sudan; Rania Abou El Ezz, Egypt; Dr. Khadiga Ahmed, Egypt; Suhaib Al-Mehrab, Iraq; Dr. Fuad Al-Rimawi, Israel; Aljawharah Alqathama, United Kingdom; Chinyere Amandikwa, Nigeria; Agyei Felix Ampadu, Ghana; Aaron Opoku Antwi, Ghana; Amara-chukwu Anwuchaepe, Nigeria; Prof. Giovannni Appendino, Italy; Dr. Norman Balcazar, Colombia; Dr. Rasha Batran, Egypt; Freddy Bernal, Germany; Dr. Kristin Bossaert, Switzerland; Amel Bouzapoata, Algeria; Vasiliki Boznou, Greece; Mahboobeh Bozorgi, Iran; Dr. Lucie Cahlikova, Czech Republic; Jayesh Chaudhary, India; Dr. Christoph Crocoll, Denmark; Dicle Demir, Turkey; Dr. Haytham El-Doueik, United Kingdom; Dr. Samiah El Newary, Egypt; Dr. Sherien Eldaly, Egypt; Mohamed Elmagar, Egypt; Dr. Wael Elsayed, Egypt; Dr. Walid Elsayed, Egypt; Earnest Erhirhie, Nigeria; Ihechiluru I. Ezeigbo, United Kingdom; Dr. Rania Fawzi, Egypt; Dr. Ahmad Gaara, Egypt; Dima Hammoud, Benin; Fabian Herrmann, Germany; Daniela Huclova, Czech Republic; Dr. Hisahiro Kai, Japan; Kyo Bin Kang, Korea; Mark Njogu Kimani, Kenya; Luiz Klein-Junior, Belgium; Paula Mariana Kustiawan, Thailand; Nuria Llurba, Germany; Oluwatoyin Makinde-Adeleye, Nigeria; Guilherme Mazocante, Brazil; Rozalia Michalea, Greece; Dr. Rasha Mohamed, Egypt; Dr. Tahia Mohamed, Egypt; Faezeh Monji, Singapore; Dr. Balakrishnan Nair, India; Mamona Nazir, Germany; Charles Nwachukwu, Nigeria; Nwando Nwokoye, Nigeria; Dr. Anthony Ojekale, Nigeria; Newman Osafio, Ghana; Dr. Wilfred Otang Mbeng, South Africa; Dr. Federica Pollastro, Italy; Anna Quartey, Ghana; Dr. Terry Roberts, United Kingdom; Dr. Sara Maria Robledo, Colombia; Dr. Arash Rouhani Laridjani, Netherlands; Marcela Safatova, Czech Republic; Tiji Shinkafi Salihu, India; Dr. Joseph Sarkodie, Ghana; Jasmin Schmitt, Germany; Alma Shabbar, Syria; Vitor Soares, Brazil; Dr. Laphookhieo Surat, Thailand; Dr. Agnieszka Szopa, Poland; Barbara Eva Tóth, Hungary; Dr. Moufid Yassine, Syria; Dr. Martin Zehl, Austria; Dr. Alzhan Zhusupova, Kazakhstan; Dr. Jelena Zivkovic, Serbia.

New company members:

Amway, Germany; APOMEDICA Pharm. Prod. GmbH, Austria.

Dr. Birgit Benedek, GA-Secretary
Announcement:

Egon Stahl-Award in Bronze 2016 of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)

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. The bronze medal and an award of € 1.500 is given to young scholars up to the age of about thirty whose thesis are of outstanding quality.

In 2016 the Egon Stahl Award in Bronze will be given in a ceremony during the 9th Joint Natural Products Conference 2016, Copenhagen, July 24–27, 2016. Members of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research are invited to submit nominations for candidates, together with supporting data. A nomination for the prize (self nominations will not be considered) should include a motivation letter explaining the significance of the scientific achievements of the candidate, a curriculum vitae of the candidate, an index on his/her publications, and reprints of his/her most significant publications.

Deadline for submissions for the Egon Stahl-Award 2016 is March 15, 2016. Documents are to be sent in electronic form, attached to an E-mail (maximum size of all attachments 20 MB) to: Prof. Dr. Matthias Hamburger, Pharmaceutical Biology, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Basel, Klingelbergstraße 50, CH-4056 Basel, Switzerland. e-mail: matthias.hamburger@unibas.ch

Announcement:

Dr. Willmar Schwabe Award 2016 of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)

The Dr. Willmar Schwabe-Award acknowledges outstanding results of pharmacological and/or clinical research in the field of medicinal plants and natural products. The aim of the award is to motivate preferentially young scientists (normally 40 years or younger) to resolve phytotherapeutical and phytopharmaceutical problems in an interdisciplinary approach, in order to support the evidence-based use of natural products.

The award is endowed with 10,000 €. Scientists or research groups of universities and other non-commercial scientific institutions are entitled to apply.

Up to three relevant scientific publications on a specific topic which have been published during the last three years can be considered. They must be submitted together with CV(s) and list(s) of publications, along with an accompanying document explaining the significance and relevance of the submitted publications in the broader scientific context.

The Dr. Willmar Schwabe Award will be bestowed in a ceremony during the 9th Joint Natural Products Conference 2016, Copenhagen, July 24–27, 2016. The award-winning scientific results shall be presented during the congress in a lecture of 30 minutes.

Deadline for submissions for the Dr. Willmar Schwabe Award 2016 is February 28, 2016. Documents are to be sent in electronic form, attached to an email (maximum size of all attachments 20 MB), to: Prof. Dr. Matthias Hamburger, Pharmaceutical Biology, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Basel, Klingelbergstraße 50, CH-4056 Basel, Switzerland. e-mail: matthias.hamburger@unibas.ch
Announcement:

Dr. Wilmar Schwabe Research Scholarship 2016 for Young Scientists by the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research

Awarding Institution:
Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)

Endowing Sponsor:
Dr. Willmar Schwabe GmbH & Co. KG, Karlsruhe (Germany)

Endowment: 10,000 EURO

Objective
The aim of the Dr. Wilmar Schwabe Research Scholarship for Young Scientists is to support young scientists, especially from developing countries, in a research attachment to a leading research institution. Projects focusing on pharmacological or clinical research of phytopharmaceuticals and their active substances are particularly welcome. The award is exclusively used for travelling and living costs of the awardee, and not for consumables. Duration of the attachment of at least 6 months is mandatory.

Criteria for Application
• Advanced PhD students (year 2 onwards), and postdocs.
• In case of similar scientific quality of applications applicants from developing countries shall have priority.
• GA membership for at least one year prior to application, with paid fees.
• Age: preferably 30 years of age (postdocs) or younger (PhD students).
• The hosting institution states in the Letter of Acceptance that (i) it is prepared to cover the cost of consumables used for the research project; (ii) that the student will have an adequate laboratory infrastructure and; (iii) that a tutor is assigned who will supervise the applicant during his/her stay.

Documents for Application
• Letter of Motivation (applicant)
• Letter of Support (supervisor)
• CV and list of publications
• Project description including experimental design, time schedule and justification why the research shall be performed in the respective institution
• Letter of Acceptance (hosting institution)
• Confirmation of the host institution to cover the laboratory costs (consumables)
• Specification of costs for travelling and living

All documents have to be submitted as email attachments to the address below:

The Dr. Wilmar Schwabe Research Scholarship for Young Scientists will be bestowed in a ceremony during the 9th Joint Natural Products Conference 2016, Copenhagen, July 24–27th, 2016. The scientific results of the project shall be presented during the next annual congress, preferably in a short lecture. The awardee has to prepare a final report on the project supported by this grant. This report is to be signed by the head of the host institution. A copy of the signed report has to be sent to the GA president and to Dr. Willmar Schwabe GmbH & Co. KG. In case of publication of the results the award has to be mentioned in the Acknowledgement. The deadline for submissions for the 2016 announcement is February 28, 2016.

Documents are to be sent in electronic form, attached to an email (maximum size of all attachments 20 MB), to:
Prof. Dr. Matthias Hamburger, Pharmaceutical Biology, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Basel, Klingelbergstraße 50, CH-4056 Basel, Switzerland.
e-mail: matthias.hamburger@unibas.ch

Awards and Honours during GA 2016 Annual Meeting in Budapest, Hungary

Honorary Membership of GA to Prof. Dr. Brigitte Kopp

The Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA) appoints meritorious members as Honorary Members. At the 2015 Annual Congress of GA, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Brigitte Kopp, Vienna, was awarded with the Honorary Membership. Professor Kopp obtained a degree in Pharmacy from the University of Vienna in 1972, and a PhD from the same university in 1976. She then spent several research attachments in other labs, with Prof. Gerhard Franz in Regensburg, and with late Prof. Jeffrey Harborne at the University of Reading, UK. Prof. Kopp obtained her habilitation in Pharmacognosy in 1984, and became University Professor in Innsbruck in 1989. She held guest professorships at the University of Navarra, Pamplona, Spain, and the University of Cairo, Egypt. In 2000 she was appointed University Professor in Vienna. Besides research and teaching Prof. Kopp served the University of Vienna in various administrative functions, such as Dean of Study Affairs, Head of the Institute of Pharmacognosy, and for 10 years, as Studien-
präsés of the University (Chief Officer of Student Affairs). She was representative of Austria in various European Organisations, ranging from the European Pharmacopeia, Strasbourg, to the EC Committee on Pharmaceutical Education and Training, Brussels. Prof. Kopp served GA for an extended period in various functions, as Member of the Board of Directors, as Vice-President from 1998–2007, and 2012–13, and as President from 2008–2011.

Her research focus has been, in the beginning, mainly on Plant Biotechnology. Later she moved more into the field of isolation and structure elucidation of bioactive natural products, and analysis. In recent years she worked in collaborative efforts on various pharmacologically active compounds. Prof. Kopp published well over 200 contributions in scientific journals, books, congress proceedings. Also, she served as Guest Editor of the Wiener Medizinische Wochenschrift. For her contributions she has received several distinctions, such as the Theodor-Körner-Prize, a honorary doctorate and, in 2015, the Silberne Ehrenzeichen of the Republic of Austria.

Prof. Kopp was unfortunately unable to attend the award ceremony due to an accident she had suffered while hiking in the Austrian mountains. On her behalf, Prof. Judith Rollinger, her successor in Vienna, came to the stage, to receive the official document of appointment from the president of GA.

Egon Stahl-Award in Silver 2015 of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)

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. The Silver Medal is awarded to scientists up to the age of approx. forty who have published outstanding scientific work during the years after their graduation.

The 2015 Silver Medal was awarded to Dr. Maria Halabalaki, University of Athens, School of Pharmacy. Dr. Halabalaki obtained a degree in Pharmacy from the University of Athens, and completed in 2005 her PhD in the group of Prof. Skalsounis. She then continued her research career in Athens, interrupted by various research attachments in other European labs.

The early research was mainly devoted to discovery and characterization of phytoestrogens. In recent years, she increasingly focused on LC-MS and NMR-based metabolomic studies, and in LC-MS based metabonomic characterization of molecular targets and pathways affected by natural products. Dr. Halabalaki authored or co-authored some 40 research papers in well regarded international journals, and several reviews and book chapters.

The award was given by the President of GA, and Dr. Halabalaki delivered a lecture on her research during the second day of the congress.

Bionorica Phytoneering Award 2015

The Bionorica Phytoneering Award acknowledges outstanding research in the field of development and application of phytopharmaceutical products. The 2015 Phytoneering Award was given to PD Dr. Eike Steinmann and Dr. Anggakasuma, TWINCORE, Hannover, for their project entitled “Turmeric curcumin inhibits entry of all hepatitis C genotypes into human liver cells”.

The team addressed the issue of hepatitis C which is among the most common causes of chronic liver disease worldwide, leading to chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis, and
to various forms of liver cancer. Dr. Steinmann and his team found that curcumin prevented the entry of viral particles into liver cells, by modulating the flexibility of the viral envelope. Given the poor bioavailability of curcumin the compound was packed into a nano-carrier delivery system to improve bioavailability. These findings may open alternative ways for dealing with this viral infection, given that standard therapy with interferon and direct acting antiviral drugs are typically not accessible and affordable in developing countries.

On behalf of Prof. Michael Popp, CEO of Bionorica, Dr. Bernd Roether presented the award to the winners. PD Dr. Elke Steinmann and Dr. Anggakasuma presented their results in the subsequent award lecture.

Dr. Wilmar Schwabe Research Scholarship 2015 for Young Scientists to Dr. Boakye Duah Yaw

The aim of the Dr. Wilmar Schwabe Research Scholarship for Young Scientists is to support research of young scientists, especially from developing countries, to join a leading research institution for at least 6 months. Projects focusing on pharmacological or clinical research of phytopharmaceuticals and their active substances are particularly welcome. The 2015 Research Scholarship was awarded to Dr. Boakye Duah Yaw, from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana. With the support of scholarship he will join the group of Dr. Elke Heiss, Molecular Targets Group of the Department of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, to carry out a project entitled “Influence of geraniin and Phyllanthus muellerianus on vascular inflammation”. The award was given by Dr. Günter Meng, Dr. Wilmar Schwabe Company. The awardee will present the results of his project at the 2016 Joint Meeting of Societies, in Copenhagen.

Planta Medica Most Innovative Paper of the Year

Two years ago, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Planta Medica, the official organ of the Society of Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research, Thieme Publishers and GA established a yearly award for the Most Innovative Paper of the Year.

The Editorial Board of Planta Medica decided that the prize for the most innovative paper published in Planta Medica in 2014 would go to the publication: “Influence of Gut Microbiota-Derived Elagittannins’ Metabolites Urolithins on Pro-

Inflammatory Activities of Human Neutrophils” by Piwowarski, Granica and Kiss (Planta Medica 2014; 80: 887–895). Jakub Piwowarski presented the awarded paper in a few slides at the GA congress in Budapest in August 2015, and accepted the award on behalf of all authors from the Department of Pharmacognosy and Molecular Basis of Phytotherapy, Medical University of Warsaw, Faculty of Pharmacy, Warsaw, Poland.
Poster Awards during GA conference 2015 in Budapest, Hungary, for the most exciting and scientific excellent poster presentations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bingrui Liu</td>
<td>High-resolution $\alpha$-glucosidase and radical scavenging profiling combined with HPLC-HRMS-SPE-NMR for identification of bioactive constituents in crude extract of <em>Pueraria lobata</em>.</td>
<td>University of Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norbert Kúsz</td>
<td>Isolation and structure determination of novel jatrophone diterpenes from Euphorbia dulcis and their GIRK-channel-inhibitory activity.</td>
<td>University of Szeged, Hungary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lorraine Ezra</td>
<td>Chemical constituents from <em>Xylocarpus rumphii</em> (Meliaceae).</td>
<td>University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigoni Cheilari</td>
<td>Comparison of HPLC-UV and NMR methodologies for the quantification of Silymarin complex in <em>Silybum marianum</em> fruit extracts.</td>
<td>University of Innsbruck, Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irem Atay</td>
<td>Isolation of anti-inflammatory compounds from <em>Sambucus ebulus</em> leaves through in vitro activity-guided fractionation.</td>
<td>Istanbul Medipol University, Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jong Hun Ryu</td>
<td>Ameliorating effect of swertisin in MK-801 induced prepulse inhibition deficits and cognitive impairment.</td>
<td>Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea</td>
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Young Researcher’s Workshop 2015

The Young Researchers’ Workshop (YRW) is a very special pre-symposium of each year’s GA conference. This year in Budapest it was organized and chaired by Professor Sandra Apers from the University of Antwerp, Belgium, and Professor Robert Fürst from the Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany.


The YRW has been established in order to bring together young scientists, in particular PhD students, for the presentation and discussion of their work, thus promoting presentation skills, scientific exchange and networking. Traditionally, all YRWs start with an impulse lecture given by a younger, but already well established scientist. This year, Professor Elke Heiss from
the Department of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria, talked about “Dissecting the molecular mechanisms of bioactive natural products – why the effort pays off”.

Professor Elke Heiss

Her brilliant lecture sharpened the view of the audience on why and how to perform mechanistic in vitro studies on biogenic compounds. After this talk, the workshop was split into a phytochemistry-based and a pharmacology-oriented session, where 7 short talks were given, each. The afternoon ended with a joint wrap-up session and with a discussion on future perspectives. All participants highly appreciated the format of the YRW. Also the implementation of webinars and the reasons to be or to become a member of the GA was discussed with the participants. Most importantly, also the awards were bestowed in the closing session. Due to the generous and constant financial support of the company Bionorica SE (Neumarkt, Germany), we were able to award 4 prizes for the best presentations. Robert Biney (Department of Pharmacology, Kwame Nkrumah University, Kumasi, Ghana) and József Csábi (Institute of Pharmacognosy, University of Szeged, Hungary) were awarded for their outstanding talk and scientific work with a prize money of 200 Euro, each. Moreover, they had the exciting opportunity to rerun their presentation during the main conference program in front of a much bigger audience. Two further prizes (100 Euro each) were awarded to Diana Ulrich (Institute for Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, University of Münster, Germany) and to Kuei-Hung Lai (Graduate Institute of Natural Products, Kaohsiung Medical University, Taiwan). The proud awardees were honored in the closing ceremony of the congress. Unfortunately, Robert Biney could not join this ceremony, so that a colleague of him stepped in.

Thanks to the high scientific standard of each presented work and the very enthusiastic speakers, the YRW 2015 was of great success. The next YRW will take place in Copenhagen on Sunday, July 24, 2016 and will be chaired by Jürg Gertsch and Alessandra Braca. We are very much looking forward to hearing about the latest research of highly talented young researchers!

Prof. Dr. Robert Fürst, Frankfurt, Germany

GA Travel grants for young researcher (Ph.D. students and post docs) for visiting the GA annual conference 2015 in Budapest, Hungary: GA spends more than 15.000 € for the next generation of natural products researcher!

Ph.D. students
Verena Spiegler
Kuei-Hung Lai
Carmelina Flavia Massaro
Clizia Guccione
Teresa Faleschin
Tina Wardecki

Charlotte Petit
Adnan Amin
Sonja Krstin
Karmen Kapp
Robert Peter Biney
Fong Lai Yen
Ejlal Abdulrazig Omer Ahmed
Ajaghaku Daniel Lotanna

Chika C. Abba
Lorena Cursino
Jelena Katanic

Post docs
Dr. Emelia Oppong Bekoe
Dr. Mohamed L. Ashour

Ph.D. students

Verena Spiegler
Kuei-Hung Lai
Carmelina Flavia Massaro
Clizia Guccione
Teresa Faleschin
Tina Wardecki

Charlotte Petit
Adnan Amin
Sonja Krstin
Karmen Kapp
Robert Peter Biney
Fong Lai Yen
Ejlal Abdulrazig Omer Ahmed
Ajaghaku Daniel Lotanna

Chika C. Abba
Lorena Cursino
Jelena Katanic

Post docs
Dr. Emelia Oppong Bekoe
Dr. Mohamed L. Ashour
Minutes of GA Members Meeting 2015

The Members Meeting took place during the annual congress in Budapest on 25 Aug. 2015 from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. 119 GA members attended the meeting.

1. Approval of the Agenda
President Prof. M. Hamburger welcomed all participants. The agenda, published in the GA Newsletter 1-2015, was unanimously approved. One additional topic (Report on the Foundation “Plants for Health”) was added to the agenda by Prof. Hamburger (topic 7: Miscellaneous).

Prof. Hamburger informed the participants about the members who had passed away during the last months (Ms. H. Hofer, Prof. R. Hiltunen, Mr. K. Đurnikow, Ms. M. Hartwich, Prof. C.A. López Moreno, Prof. J.G. Wolley, Prof. H. Schilcher) and asked for a minute of silent commemoration. He also expressed his gratitude for the outgoing ExC members, Prof. Blaschek and Dr. Roether, for their longstanding service for GA.

2. Approval of the Protocol of the Members Meeting 2014
The minutes of the previous Members Meeting on 2 Sept. 2014 in Guimarães, published in the GA Newsletter 2-2014, were unanimously approved.

3. Annual reports
3.1 Report of the President
Prof. M. Hamburger
He was in continued exchange with J. Hohmann and D. Csupor regarding the 2015 Annual Congress in Budapest, and he reviewed abstracts for the congress. As to the 2016 Joint Meeting he did a site visit in Copenhagen to meet with the organizing team of A. Jäger, D. Staerck and N. Ronstaed. He was in continued contact with a. Jäger on various issues. He attended the 2015 ASP Annual Congress in Copper Mountain, where he gave with B. Timmermann two presentations to promote the 2016 Joint Meeting.
He was involved with preparations for the 2017 Annual Congress of GA in Basel. He was in contact with D.-a. Guo and H. Stuppner to confirm and the 2018 (Shanghai) and 2019 (Innsbruck) Annual Congresses.
He coordinated the GA awards of 2015 and was member of the respective award juries.

3.2 Reports of the Vice-Presidents
Report of Vice-President Prof. A.R. Bilia
She was a member of the award juries and participated in the abstract evaluation for the annual congress.

Report of Vice-President Prof. W. Blaschek
He was involved in the planning and organization of the annual GA-Congress 2015 in Budapest and in the evaluation of award candidates for this congress. He was in permanent contact with the other members of the ExC for discussion of various issues.

On behalf of GA he was involved in the organization of the congress Phytopharm 2015 in Bonn on July 21-24 and in reviewing abstracts. He also gave a greeting address of GA during the opening ceremony.

He participated in a meeting of the German Group “Zukunft Phytotherapie” in Berlin on May 21 together with representatives from other scientific organisations and from pharmaceutical industry. The future name of the group will be “Bündnis Phytotherapie”. A position paper will be elaborated until the next meeting in September.

The website of the group is: http://www.zukunft-phytotherapie.de
He also has written a greeting address of GA for the Phytkongress 2015 organised by the German Gesellschaft für Phytotherapie in Rostock on October 8-11.

On behalf of GA he will participate in the Misteltoe Symposium in Nonnweiler in November and give a greeting address. GA acts as Co-Organiser of the meeting. As a member of the Scientific Committee he was involved in the abstract reviewing.

3.3 Report of the Secretary
Dr. B. Benedek
She organised, attended and documented the ExC and BoD meetings during the last year. She was in close contact with the organizers of the annual congress in Budapest, and supported the local organizing committee on behalf of GA.

She arranged the graphical relaunch and printing of a new edition of the GA flyer. She attended the event “111 Years of Pharmacognosy at the University of Vienna” on behalf of GA and wrote a contribution about the event for the NL 1-2015.

She prepared the BoD elections, and was in contact with B. Gehrmann who accepted to succeed E. Stahl-Biskup as supervisor of the elections.

She presented the members statistics: GA currently has 1,163 active members. 559 thereof pay the regular membership fee of 60 EUR, 536 the reduced fee of 20 EUR. GA has 31 company members. For 38 members the membership fees are waived. Of these, 10 are Honorary Members.

For 28 members the fees are waived due to 40 or more years of membership. The following persons have reached 40 years of GA membership in 2015, and were informed about the waiver of membership fees in a formal letter: Prof. E. Wollenweber, Prof. E. Leistner, Prof. H. Wagner, W. Weber, Dr. I. Bungert-Hansing, Prof. E. Stahl-Biskup, Prof. R. Verpoorte.

During the congress in Budapest 30 participants applied for GA membership, and they will be mentioned personally during the closing ceremony. 68 existing members paid their membership fees in cash at the congress with a total revenue of 3,830 EUR. Regarding the countries of origin of the members Germany is the most prominent country, followed by Nigeria.

3.4 Report of the Treasurer
Dr. B. Roether
He reported about the current financial situation of GA: The total assets of GA amount to 146,388 EUR (funds value: 46,530 EUR, cash: 99,858 EUR), The Egon Stahl fund currently amounts to 56,511 EUR (funds value: 52,688 EUR, cash: 3,823 EUR). The revenues in 2015 were 127,967 EUR so far, the expenses in 2015 were 67,081 EUR so far, leading to a saldo (revenues minus expenses) of 60,886 EUR so far. The high revenues are due to the highly successful annual congress in Guimarães in 2014, with a surplus of over 80,000 EUR.

Planta Medica online subscriptions: 24 members have subscribed to PM online back to 1998, 18 members back to 1953.

He thanked the ExC for the good cooperation during his 8 years of service as Treasurer of GA. He also thanked his assistant, Ms. Lahse, for her support, and he introduced his co-worker Dr. Ulrike Reusner, who will run for the position of the Treasurer at the elections.

3.5 Discharge of the Executive Council
The cash auditor Dr. B. Frank presented the Reports of the Auditors. According to the reports of both auditors (Prof. E. Stahl-Biskup and Dr. B. Frank) the expenses and revenues were plausible and appropriate, and they both expressed her compliments for a good accounting and cost awareness.

Dr. Frank therefor asked for the discharge of the ExC which was accepted unanimously by the whole assembly.

4. Report of the Editor-in-Chief
of Planta Medica Prof. L. Pieters
Prof. Pieters presented key figures and facts regarding Planta Medica and Planta Medica Letters. He announced that he was stepping down as EIC of Planta Medica at the end of 2015, but that he continues to serve as EIC of Planta Medica Letters.

Prof. Hamburger thanked Prof. Pieters for his work over the past years. He also thanked those Editors who will step down at the end of 2015.

Prof. Hamburger introduced Prof. V. Butterweck as new Editor-in-Chief, starting as from January 2016.

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5. Elections of the Executive Council and of the Advisory Board
Dr. Beatrice Gehrmann, Germany, acted as election supervisor and carried out the elections according to German law. One additional candidate for the Advisory Board, Dr. Günter Meng (Schwabe, Germany), was suggested by Prof. Susanne Alban. His name was duly added to the list of candidates on the ballot papers. 117 persons cast their ballots. Dr. Gehrmann presented the results of the elections to the EC after the meeting.

5.1 Election of the President
Prof. Anna Rita Bilia: 111 votes

5.2 Election of the Vice-Presidents
Prof. Matthias Hamburger: 105 votes
Prof. Oliver Kayser: 96 votes

5.3 Election of the Secretary
Dr. Birgit Benedek: 114 votes

5.4 Election of the Treasurer
Dr. Ulrike Reusner: 115 votes

5.5 Election of the Advisory Board
Five regular and two junior positions (candidates up to 40 years of age) were elected:

Regular Positions:
Prof. Judith Rollinger: 72 votes
Prof. Rudolf Bauer: 61 votes
Prof. Andreas Hensel: 55 votes
Prof. Deniz Tasdemir: 51 votes
Prof. Michael Heinrich: 48 votes

Junior Positions:
Prof. Robert Fürst: 100 votes
Dr. Christian Agyare: 98 votes

According to the bylaws of GA, the Executive Council, co-opted three further persons to the Advisory Board after the elections: Prof. Dezső Csupor, Dr. Nikolas Fokialakis, Dr. Günter Meng.

6. Future Congresses, Symposia and Workshops
Annual GA Congresses
- 2016: Copenhagen, Denmark (Joint Meeting, organiser: A. Jäger)
- 2017: Basel, Switzerland (organiser: M. Hamburger)
- 2018: Beijing/Shanghai, China (organiser: D. Guo)

Future Congresses and Workshops
- "Mistletoe Symposium", 12–14 Nov. 2015, Ottenhausen, Germany
- 6th International Symposium Breeding Research on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (BREEDMAP 6), June/July 2016, Quedlinburg, Germany

Meeting Reports

63rd International Congress and Annual Meeting of GA in Budapest, Hungary

The 63rd International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA) was held in Budapest, Hungary, between 23rd and 27th August, 2015. Budapest, the capital of Hungary, a historic city and at the same time a modern metropolis was an ideal place to host the Congress. The congress venue Budapest Congress Center (BCC) provided all facilities and conditions which were essential to organise the congress in a pleasant and comfortable environment. This was the second time that Hungary was honoured to organise the GA congress. Previously the annual meeting of 1977 was held in Budapest, as a joint meeting with the International Society for Horticultural Science Section Spices and Medicinal Plants. GA meetings usually attract many participants from all around the world. This year more than 674 scientists from 54 countries (Europe, Africa, North and South America, Asia and Australia) had followed the invitation of the GA and the congress chairs Prof. Judit Hohmann and Dr. Dezső Csúpor (Institute of Pharmacognosy, University of Szeged).

The conference program started on 23rd August with the Pre-Congress Symposium on Advanced Analytical Technologies as Applied to Natural Products Research, organised by Mark O’Neil-Johnson (Sequoia Sciences). This meeting was an excellent opportunity to hear cutting edge science from industry leaders who provided complete overview of all the latest analytical equipment available to perform successful phytochemical work. Two workshops were also held on Sunday. The Regulatory Affairs Workshop discussed the problems of Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products (THMP) from Non-European Countries in Europe and vice versa. This workshop, involving 6 lectures, was organised and chaired by Prof. Susanne Alban. The 6th Young Researcher Workshop, including 14 outstanding lectures in two sections, was conducted by Prof. Sandra Apera and Prof. Robert Fürst. The awards of this workshop were delivered to József Csábi and Robert P. Biney in frame of the closing ceremony, and the awardees had the opportunity to held their lecture also during the main congress.

The main conference started on Sunday evening with the Get-together-Party in the Patria Hall of BCC; during this an a capella concert was given by the UniCum Laude Vocal Group. The congress was officially opened on Monday morning with the welcome address of Prof. Tamás Freund, vice-president of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Gábor Szabó, rector of University of Szeged and GA president Prof. Matthias Hamburger. Prestigious GA awards were delivered during the opening ceremony. Prof. Brigitte Kopp (Vienna, Austria) was awarded as Honorary member of GA for her outstanding and...
The scientific program was started with the plenary lecture of Prof. Nicholas H. Oberlies (University of North Carolina at Greensboro, United States) which focused on approaches and progress toward bioactive leads from fungi. The plenary lecture of Prof. Thierry Langer (Vienna, Austria) dealt with 3D feature-based pharmacophore models, which are regarded as efficient tools for profiling natural products. Prof. Langer gave an overview on the development of this technology over the last decade and presented the results of several success stories. The importance of ethnomedical and ethnopharmacological knowledge for research and development of natural products was demonstrated by Prof. Ben-Erik Van Wyk (Johannesburg, South Africa) focusing on the African perspectives, and by Prof. Armando Cáceres (Guatemala, Guatemala), who spoke about the Mesoamerican medicinal plants used in phytotherapy in Guatemala.

The “Cannabis plant and the endocannabinoids: how an ancient medicinal plant helps uncovering of a major signaling system in our body” – this was the subject of the plenary lecture of István Katona (Budapest, Hungary). He summarized the molecular and physiological logic of endocannabinoid signaling, provided examples for its pathophysiological significance and highlighted recent efforts aiming to exploit the therapeutic potential of cannabis without triggering unwanted side effects. A further neurological topic was “Natural substances and neurodegenerative diseases: from molecular mechanisms to clinical effects”, presented by Prof. Anne Eckert (Basel, Switzerland). This lecture surveyed the main pharmacologic features of natural substances and discussed the main outcomes reached by clinical studies designed to demonstrate the efficacy of them in patients.

The plenary lecture of Prof. Gisbert Schneider (Zurich, Switzerland) focused on computational approaches in natural products-based lead discovery. He has spoken about concepts and ideas for predictive models of structure-activity relationships, the de-orphaning of bioactive compounds, and discussed de novo design approaches that have proven their usefulness in drug discovery. The plenary lecture of Prof. John S. Markowitz (Gainesville, United States) gave an overview on the problems and challenges in evaluating botanical-drug interactions using in vitro methodologies. The lecture emphasized that many predictions generated from in vitro studies are inconsistent with clinical findings. Prof. Giovanni Appenino (Novara, Italy) gave a plenary lecture entitled “Helichrysum italicum: back to medicine from the tinsel of luxury”, demonstrating many aspects of the title plant, including ethnopharmacology, molecular investigations on its constituents and their pharmacological targets, variability of the phytochemical profile.

The scientific program of the congress offered 75 short lectures in three parallel sections. It is important to note that all lectures were presented, none of them was cancelled! The program represented the broad diversity of medicinal plant and natural product research, with especial interest to the central topics: From natural products toward potential drug leads; Natural products and medicinal plants in CNS-related diseases and in the treatment of chronic diseases; Pharmacokinetics of phytochemicals; Clinical and observational studies with herbal products; Quality assessment of medicinal plants, Phyto medicines and herbal dietary supplements; New opportunities for biotechnology and cell wall biology and Ethnobotany and ethnopharmacology.

A further hot topic of the congress was “Metabolomics in medicinal plant research”. This section of short lectures was introduced by the keynote lecture of Roger G. Linington (Burnaby, Canada). He reported about the development of a new platform for integrated natural products discovery that uses image-based screening and high-resolution mass spectrometry to permit ‘function-first’ annotation of natural products libraries and provide a comprehensive annotation of the identities and biological attributes of all bioactive constituents.

In the poster section 565 posters were presented. The Poster&Wine and Poster&Coffee sessions offered discussions of the lectures and poster, brought together scientists from diverse disciplines and stimulated the exchange of experiences and knowledge. Moreover, the conference provided an appropriate environment for intense discussions of new technological approaches and for networking between academia and industry, since 50 companies (including the exhibitors) involved with phytotherapy, food products, cosmetics and natural product analysis have registered on the congress.

In frame of the congress the Research Institute for Medicinal Plants and Herbs, Budapest, Hungary celebrated his centenary; this institution was the main sponsor of the congress. The director of the Institute, József Pallós in his lecture summarized the history and present activity of the institute. Abstracts for all contributions were published in a special issue of Planta Medica (Vol. 81, 2015).

It was now the second time that the ”Africa Research Network Meeting” was organized in frame of the GA congress, aiming to promote research with and within African countries, organized by Christian Agaye. Furthermore, a very successful Networking Meeting on Animal Healthcare and Veterinary Medicine organised by Michael Walkenhorst was held during the conference. As usual, the annual members meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research was held on Tuesday late afternoon with election of the new management. The successful congress was summarised by J. Hohmann during the closing ceremony, and awards for the best posters were presented by M. Hamburger. Finally the next congress JNPC 2016 – 64th International Congress (Joint Meeting with ASP, AFERP, JSP, PSE and SIF) and Annual Meeting of GA, held from July 24 to 28 in Copenhagen, was announced.

Beyond the scientific program, a great variety of social events were organised which provided an insight into the history and traditions of Budapest and Hungary. An organ concert was arranged for Monday evening in the famous Matthias Church, the congress dinner was held in Lázár Equestrian Park (Domony valley) with horse show and folklore program. Excursions to Tihany and Pannonhalma visiting the monasteries, arboretum, herbal garden, the distillery building and wine degustation in Badacsony gave impressions of the rich culture of Hungary. We hope that all participants had a pleasant and fruitful GA2015 meeting with science, culture and hospitality!

Profs. Judit Hohmann and Dezse Csutoro Chairs of the Congress
Since 2007, a Workshop of the GA’s permanent committee on Regulatory Affairs is held as a pre-symposium on Sunday afternoon at the International Congress and Annual Meetings of GA. “Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products (THMP) from Non-European Countries in Europe and vice versa – Experiences and Future Perspectives” was the subject of the this year’s Workshop in Budapest, organized and chaired by Prof. Susanne Alban (Kiel, Germany). Experts from both regulatory authorities and industry discussed this topic together with numerous participants of the workshop.

Initially, Prof. Werner Knöss (Chair of the HMPC, EMA) presented the state of the work of the Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC). Since the provisions of Directive EC 2004/24 offer also options to Non-European Countries in Europe and vice versa – Experiences and Future Perspectives. The discussion panel of the Regulatory Affairs Workshop party of the EP, reported on the progress, but also the difficulties of this activity. Meanwhile more than 50 monographs of the initially planned 75 monographs are implemented in the EP, but the work program will be successively extended. Ongoing problems include monographs on potentially toxic herbal drugs, the “processing” of TCM herbal drugs and the questionable equivalence of commercial TCM granules with the corresponding herbal drug and the respective decoctions, respectively. Prof. Franz emphasized the importance of a closer collaboration between Europe and China as a prerequisite for a successful quality assurance of TCM.

Dr. Emiel van Galen (CBG/MEB, The Netherlands), who has regulatory experience by the registration of the first non-European THMP, focused on needs and future strategies based on the existing legislative principles for non-European THMP. He considered the preparation of monographs on herbal drugs used in non-European countries as an appropriate strategy whereby quality monographs in EP should be always a first starting point. The selection of herbal drugs for the elaboration of EU herbal monographs will be a multi-disciplinary and critical task. Interestingly, numerous assessment reports on EU herbal monographs already contain information on the use of herbal drugs in non-European traditional medicinal systems, which however seems to be forgotten.

The view of industry regarding THMP from non-European countries was presented by Dr. Mei Wang (TNO Quality of Life, The Netherlands), who was involved in the application of the first registered non-European THMP. As shown by the example of the root extract of Dioscorea nipponica, it is challenging to translate the “explanatory system-level functionalities” in TCM into a Western biochemical, functional and clinical understanding. Key for acceptance of TCM products is the ability to provide scientific evidence combined with a quality control system ensuring safe use.

Finally, Dr. Bernd Roether (Bionorica SE, Germany) discussed the situation concerning THMP from Europe in non-European countries. Whereas the EU legislation on THMP simplifies the market access for pharmaceutical companies and also opens the access to Ayurvedic and TCM products, if these have been placed for at least 15 years on the EU market, the “vice versa” situation is so far rather disappointing. European THMP often do not inevitably meet requirements stipulated by competent authorities abroad, all the more defining criteria of a tradition might be different. He concluded that harmonization of quality requirements is urgently needed and emphasized that market liberalization throughout the world subsists only on mutual acceptance of rules for different approaches of authorizing THMP and needs therefore a common understanding.

Similarly, it emerged also from the final open discussion that an important prerequisite for the wished globalization of HMP is communication and mutual understanding. For this, the GA and its meetings offers a suitable platform.

Prof. Dr. S. Alban, Kiel, Germany
The meeting of the African Research Network was held on Tuesday the 25th August, 2015 at Lehar II-II Hall, Diamond Congress building, Budapest, Hungary.

The meeting commenced at 1:30 pm with the introduction of the speakers for the meeting by Dr. Christian Agyare and they included:

1. Prof. Dr. Andreas Hensel, University of Muenster, Germany
2. Prof. Dr. Michael Heinrich, School of Pharmacy, University of London, UK
3. Dr. Karin Faerber, Chemical Abstracts Services (CAS), Germany

Prof. Dr. Hensel spoke on the topic “Planning of research projects and how to establish a successful project proposal”. He also made a presentation on preparation of manuscripts for journal and conference proceedings publications. Prof. Dr. Heinrich spoke on the relevant and important issues to be considered in ethnopharmacological surveys.

Chemical Abstracts Services (CAS) is currently preparing a program to increase their engagement in Africa. Based on the efforts of some of the European members of the network including Prof. Dr. Hensel and Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmidt it was discussed with CAS to get African members cheap access to SciFinder®, one of the leading data bases for chemicals and natural products, including primary literature, patents and manifold advanced search function. Out of this engagement, Dr. Karin Faerber of CAS made a presentation on SciFinder® and she stressed on the advantages and benefits of the software to scientists. She indicated that SciFinder® has more than 10,000 active journals with 50,000 titles since 1907 and these include CAplus® and more than 5600 in Medline, 63 authorities from the world, more than 37 million references from patents, journals, dissertations, abstracts, reviews and the fact that the software is also link to original publications.

After Dr. Faerber presentation, questions were asked on how this offer can be actualized in some of the member countries and local conditions or situations are different in member countries. The meeting suggested that national academies or Ministry of Education and Research of each country can purchase the special offer of SciFinder® to low income countries in Africa so that universities and research institutions within the same country can easily have access to it without paying as individual entity since the cost will be too much for them.

The meeting had 23 participants and was closed at 2.40 pm.

Prof. Dr. C. Agyare, Kumasi, Ghana
20 years’ Mistletoe Symposium: “Mistletoe in Tumour Therapy – Basic Research and Clinical Practice”

From 12 to 14th November 2015, over 100 scientists and doctors from a variety of scientific disciplines and therapeutic approaches met at the European Academy in Otzenhausen (in Nonnweiler, Saarland) for the 6th International, Interdisciplinary Mistletoe Symposium, coordinated by Dr. Rainer Scheer. The symposium was organised by numerous medical and pharmaceutical professional associations together with the Karl and Veronica Carstens Foundation.

At the symposium, the latest results from research and clinical medicine were presented, discussed and compared in 46 lectures, producing a multidimensional and comprehensive picture of the current state of scientific knowledge on mistletoe extracts. The specific areas dealt with included manufacture and testing as well as regulatory assessment of mistletoe preparations, the effects of various ingredients, in vitro and in vivo preclinical studies, studies on immunology and cytotoxicity, clinical results obtained in various applications and tumour entities in both human and veterinary medicine, reports from medical practice and clinical studies designed to demonstrate specific effects, the efficacy, the safety and tolerability of mistletoe preparations. Oncological guidelines and the treatment of pancreatic and gastro-intestinal tumours were chosen as a topic for special attention and also dealt with in depth in a podium discussion. A particular focus was placed on the results of the pioneering Phase III study conducted by Galun and Tröger, as well as the controversial debate this has kindled in the literature.

The organisers hope that in future the Mistletoe Symposia will prove to be a forum for scientific exchange and discussion of questions relating to safe and reliable use of mistletoe in tumour therapy between professional associations and representatives not only of complementary, but also of conventional oncology.

All the abstracts from the symposium are published in English in Phytomedicine 22 (2015) Supplement 1 and are freely available on the Internet at www.ScienceDirect.com. The summary papers that are still in stock are available on request from the author of this article. It is again planned to make the full texts of all contributions to the symposium available in a book published by KVC-Verlag, Essen. The print and online version will probably be available by the end of 2016.

The Mistletoe Symposia have been held every 4 years since 1995. This year’s participants again rated the congress as important and stimulating in terms of the results presented, the quality of the lectures, the discussions, the opportunity for individual conversations as well as the possibility to establish contacts. This was further underscored by the harmonious atmosphere as well as the excellent culinary, spatial and technical setting of the venue throughout the symposium.

It is planned to continue this fruitful exchange at the 7th Mistletoe Symposium in 2019, again at the European Academy in Otzenhausen and again with simultaneous interpretation into English. For more information about this and previous Mistletoe Symposia visit www.mistelsymposium.de.

† Heinz Schilcher passed away on 17th June 2015. The co-organisers of the symposium acknowledge his reliable long-time support and the indispensable contributions he made to the Mistletoe Symposia.

Dr. Rainer Scheer
Carl Gustav Carus-Institut,
Am Eichhof 30,
75223 Niefern-Öschelbronn;
Tel. +49 (0)7233 68418;
email: rainer.scheer@carus-institut.de

Representatives of scientific associations and organisers of the 6th Mistletoe Symposium (from left): Prof. Dr. Hans Becker (St. Ingbert), Dr. Günther Spahn (Mainz), PD Dr. Harald Matthes (Berlin), Dr. Rainer Scheer (Niefern-Öschelbronn), Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Kreis (Erlangen), Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Blaschek (Kiel).
9th Joint Natural Products Conference 2016

Dear GA Members,

Welcome to JNPC2016 in Copenhagen!

It is a privilege and a great honour to welcome you to the 9th Joint Natural Products Conference 2016 in Copenhagen – a joint conference organized by University of Copenhagen on behalf of:

- The Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)
- The American Society of Pharmacognosy (ASP)
- The Phytochemical Society of Europe (PSE)
- Società Italiana di Fitochimica (SIF)
- Association Francophone pour l’Enseignement et la Recherche en Pharmacognosie (AFERP)
- The Japanese Society of Pharmacognosy (JSP)

The conference takes place July 24–27, 2016 at the Tivoli Congress Centre in central Copenhagen. More information can be found on the conference homepage: www.jnpc2016.dk.

Abstract submission: March 1, 2016
Notification of acceptance or rejection will be May 1, 2016.


The conference covers a broad range of scientific disciplines within natural products research. We trust we have put together a tantalizing programme of high scientific standard, with interesting talks and time for networking. The scientific programme includes plenary lectures by invited speakers, and keynote/short talks on recent topics of natural product research. The poster sessions also provide opportunities for scientific discussions.

A Young Researcher Workshop takes place the day before the conference. There will also be a pre-conference workshop on Regulatory Affairs and a pre-symposium on Advances in (Bio)Analytical Techniques Applied to Natural Products Research.

We hope you will enjoy the various social events like an Evening in the Botanical Gardens, and make the most of the light Nordic summer nights.

We have organised a Botanical Excursion the day after the conference. The excursion goes to three unique habitats on Zealand, the island where Copenhagen is situated.

Kind regards,
Anna Jäger, Conference Chair

6th International Conference on Breeding Research of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

Breedmap 6 will be held from 19th to 23rd June 2015 in Quedlinburg, Germany. Main topics are Next Generation methods as chances for medicinal and aromatic plant characterization, cell, tissue and organ culture techniques, and latest advances on endophytic symbiotic communities. Furthermore, resistance breeding as well new phytopathogens and metabolic optimization of organisms for bioreactors and photo bioreactors are central research topics to be discussed. Invited speakers will share their knowledge on latest plant breeding concepts, plant analytics and protecting genetic resources by wild collection and domestication. main target groups are breeders and scientist involved in medicinal plant breeding and photochemical analytics.

More information and register at http://breedmap6.jki.bund.de
In memoriam Heinz Schilcher (1930 to 2015)

Heinz Schilcher attended an uncounted number of conferences and congresses in Europe and overseas and was a well recognized plenary speaker, assisted by his wife Barbara, who prepared the lectures in English. One could meet him not only at the GA annual conferences, but also at ISEO (the essential oil symposia), at plant breeding and cultivation meetings, and in phytotherapy as well as aromatherapy. There was almost no oral presentation at conferences where Heinz Schilcher did not put a – sometimes very critical and emotional – question. He always liked to share his experience and knowledge with others to promote a science based development of herbal medicinal products and of phytotherapy. Therefore he was active in continuous education of pharmacists, phytotherapists as well as technicians. In addition he was member of several scientific committees and professional associations and he contributed likewise to the development of Good Agricultural Practices of Herbal Materials as to the Commission E Monographs on Herbal Products. He was author of a large number of publications and textbooks, to mention only the „Leitfaden Phytotherapie“ (a phytotherapy manual, now in 5th edition), „Die Kamille“ (camomile) or his contribution to the „Handbuch des Arznei- und Gewürzpflanzenbaus“ (Handbook of medicinal and aromatic plant production). Heinz Schilcher liked also to participate in professional tours to be acquainted with all steps from seed quality to the efficacy of the herbal product. I remember several such travels e.g. in Germany, Austria, Eastern and Southern Europe.

Due to his manifold activities he received a number of honours and decorations, besides of Honorary Member of the GA e.g. the S.-Kneipp-Award, the R.F.-Weiss-Award, the Sertürner-Medal and the Federal Order of Merit.

But Heinz Schilcher was also an enthusiastic sportsman, alpine skiing and canoeing have been his favourite disciplines and he collected almost as many medals or trophies as competitions he participated. And he liked to travel – with or without professional background. For instance to Zimbabwe, where his sister-in-law lives and he could get experienced in tropical African botany and primary health care. Or once to „Schilcher-Land“ in Austria („Schilcher“ is a rosé grape and wine in Styria), and there he taught my son in yodel during a botanical excursion.

Heinz, we miss you!

Prof. Chlodwig Franz

In memoriam Prof. Dr. Beate Diettrich (1954 to 2015)

With deep regret we announce the death of our colleague Prof. Beate Diettrich at October 10th 2015.

Beate Diettrich was born in 1954 and started her scientific career in 1976, immediately after she had completed studies of Pharmacy at the Martin-Luther-University of Halle. Under the scientific guidance of Prof. Dr. Martin Luckner she investigated the use of protoplasts in the propagation and cultivation of cell cultures of Digitalis species and received the PhD in 1979. This work marked the origin of a successful research into the area of cell and tissue cultures, predominantly of Digitalis. It was based on the idea that systems of lower complexity can help to understand the interdependence of morphological and chemical cell specialization in higher plants, of which the biosynthesis of cardenolides is a prominent resultant. These studies also promoted the use of cell cultures in the production of valuable cardenolides and in the breeding of plant species with a desirable spectrum of secondary compounds. In 1986 Dr. Diettrich was graduated as Dr. Sc. at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the same University and in 1988 accepted a call at the position of a University Professor for Cell Culture Technology at this faculty. In these years, she focused her scientific interest at the cryopreservation of valuable cell strains. Results originating from these studies are of permanent value as they facilitate actual efforts to preserve the diversity of valuable plant species for food and medical purposes by low-temperature storage.

The scientific work of Prof. Diettrich was done in close cooperation with Prof. Martin Luckner, which also led to her deep involvement into the organization and logis-
tical maintenance of the Institute (later re-named Department) of Pharmaceutical Biology. Here, she invested high activity and devotedness to govern the movement to and reconstruction of a new building, and the renewal of scientific and teaching facilities during the processes of German reunification. Prof. Diettrich was also much interested in providing a modern and research-related education to both novice and PhD students. Unfortunately, her high engagement in science, institutional organization and education took its toll from her personal life. In the last years, health problems forced her to seek medical services and to reduce and later on to quit her university activities. We have lost a colleague with extraordinary devotedness to science and education in Pharmaceutical Biology. We will miss her refreshing frankness to friends and colleagues and her friendly sense of humor.

Prof. Dr. Werner Roos
Titisee-Neustadt, November 2015

90th Birthday of Prof. Max Wichtl

The names of very few pharmacognosists/pharmaceutical biologists have become an eponym for a book they have written. Professor Max Wichtl is among those few. The “Wichtl”, as most users call the book titled “Teedrogen und Phytopharma” (Herbal Drugs and Herbal Medicinal Products), is a compendium that is known across the world to countless pharmacists, students of pharmacy, and scientists in the fields of pharmacognosy and phytotherapy.

After starting his academic career at the University of Vienna, Professor Wichtl was appointed in 1973 as a Full Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Marburg, Germany, where he remained up to his retirement. Besides being an academic teacher and a well-known researcher in the field of cardiac glycosides, Professor Wichtl was a highly appreciated member of various commissions, such as the Pharmacopoeia Committee, the Scientific Committee of the Bundesgesundheitsamt (BGA), and the Pharmacobotany-Pharmaceutical Biology section of the APV. His commitments to the Society of Medicinal Plant and Natural Products Research (GA) were manifold: He was a Co-Editor of Planta Medica, served in the Advisory Board, as Vice-President, and as President of GA from 1990 to 1993. Also, he was organizer of the Annual Congress of GA in Marburg in 1995. For his contributions to GA and to the field of Pharmaceutical Biology in general, Professor Wichtl was awarded with an honorary membership of GA in 1995, and with the Egon-Stahl-Award in Gold in 2008.

On behalf of GA it is my great pleasure to congratulate Professor Wichtl on the occasion of his 90th birthday by wishing him many more years of good health and happiness!

Matthias Hamburger

75th Birthday of Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Drs. h.c. Adolf Nahrstedt

Adolf Nahrstedt was born in Northeim/Harz, Lower Saxony, Germany, on August 9th 1940. After studying Pharmacy and Food Chemistry, and receiving a PhD (1971) and Habilitation from the University of Freiburg (1976), he was appointed as an Associate Professor at the Technical University Braunschweig. He was full Professor at the University Muenster (1986-2004), where he served in various capacities, such as Vice-Dean and elected Dean of the College of Chemistry and Pharmacy, and as Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences. He was a member of the Founding Commission for the Institute of Pharmacy, University of Leipzig and, after his retirement in 2004, served as Visiting Professor at Mahasarakham University, Thailand, and as an Adjunct Faculty Member in the Department of Pharmaceutics, University of Florida, Gainesville, USA.

His research covered the biochemistry and physiology of secondary metabolites, particularly of cyanogenic glycosides in plants and insects, as well as the phytochemistry of traditional herbal drugs. He is well known for his major contributions on St. John’s wort and its active constituents. He demonstrated that coeffectors procyanidin B2 and hyperoside influence the biopharmaceutical properties of hypericin. He published over 200 papers and book chapters, and delivered some 200 lectures worldwide. His honors include a Honorary Membership of the European Academy of Natural Medicine, the Rudolf Fritz Weiss Award of the German Society of Phytotherapy, the Varro Tyler Award of the American Society of Pharmacognosy (ASP), and honorary doctorates from the Ovidius University, Constanta, Romania, and the University of Mahasarakham, Thailand.

Professor Nahrstedt is an eminent member of the Society of Medicinal Plant and Natural Products Research (GA). He served for many years on the GA Advisory Board where he continuously gave valuable input to the Society. His balanced and thorough opinions on scientific issues in nearly all fields of phytotherapy and phytochemistry were highly respected and appreciated. His most important service to GA, however, has undeniably been his editorial activities for the official journal of GA, Planta Medica. Professor Nahrstedt has been associated with the journal for more than 30 years, first as Co-Editor (1983-1992), later as Editor-in-Chief (1993-2004), and currently as Senior Editor (2005-present). In recognition of his outstanding service the GA bestowed him in 2005 with an honorary membership.

Those who know Professor Nahrstedt personally have always appreciated his direct, gently teasing, but sympathetic personality. Malcolm S. Forbes once said “You can judge the character of a man by how he...”

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Drs. h.c. Adolf Nahrstedt

Drs. h.c. Adolf Nahrstedt
treats those who can do nothing for him". Professor Nahrstedt always treated students, colleagues, coworkers and friends with great respect, absolute fairness and natural human warmth. These characteristics of his personality are probably the key to his outstanding success as past Editor-in-Chief of Planta Medica.

On behalf of GA we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Nahrstedt on the occasion of his 75th birthday, and wish him many more years of good health, happiness and creative power.

Veronika Butterweck & Matthias Hamburger

Just before completion of the GA Newsletter we received the sad news that Prof. Dr. Adolf Nahrstedt passed away on the 7th January 2016. Prof. Nahrstedt will be deeply missed in the scientific community not only as a great colleague, but also as a true friend and great personality. Our deepest sympathies are with his family. An obituary will be published in the next GA Newsletter.

Honorary award for Prof. Dr. G. Franz

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Franz, University of Regensburg, Germany received the Annual Award of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies in recognition of his contributions which promote the modernization of Traditional Chinese Medicine quality standards. This award acknowledges also the 10 years work of Prof. Franz as chairm of the EU-TCM Working Party.

Additionally the German Bundesamt für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte – the German drug registration authority – appointed Gerhard Franz in August 2015 as a member of the German Pharmacopoeia Commission „Deutsche Arzneibuchkommission“. GA congratulates!

Andreas Hensel

New Books

Ethnopharmacology

Edited by Michael Heinrich and Anna K. Jäger

Ethnopharmacology is one of the world’s fastest-growing scientific disciplines encompassing a diverse range of subjects. It links natural sciences research on medicinal, aromatic and toxic plants with sociocultural studies and has often been associated with the development of new drugs. The Editors of Ethnopharmacology have assembled an international team of renowned contributors to provide a critical synthesis of the substantial body of new knowledge and evidence on the subject that has emerged over the past decade. Divided into three parts, the book begins with an overview of the subject including a brief history, ethnopharmacological methods, the role of intellectual property protection, key analytical approaches, the role of ethnopharmacology in primary/secondary education and links to biodiversity and ecological research. Part two looks at ethnopharmacological contributions to modern therapeutics across a range of conditions including CNS disorders, cancer, bone and joint health and parasitic diseases. The final part is devoted to regional perspectives covering all continents, providing a state-of-the-art assessment of the status of ethnopharmacological research globally.

- A comprehensive, critical synthesis of the latest developments in ethnopharmacology.
- Includes a section devoted to ethnopharmacological contributions to modern therapeutics across a range of conditions.

- Contributions are from leading international experts in the field.
- Part of the ULLA Series in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

This timely book will prove invaluable for researchers and students across a range of subjects including ethnopharmacology, ethnobotany, medicinal plant research and natural products research.

Hardback, 464 pages, August 2015
ISBN: 978-1-118-93074-8
£70.00 | €87.50 | $110.00
Phytopharmacy: An Evidence-Based Guide to Herbal Medicinal Products

Sarah E. Edwards, Inês Da Costa Rocha, Michael Heinrich, Elizabeth M. Williamson

Healthcare professionals, including doctors, pharmacists and nurses, are often confronted with patients who use over-the-counter (OTC) herbal medicinal products and food supplements. While taking responsibility for one’s own health and treatment options is encouraged, many patients use these products based on limited (and sometimes inaccurate) information from non-scientific sources, such as the popular press and internet. There is a clear need to offer balanced, well-informed advice to patients, yet a number of studies have shown that, generally, conventionally trained health practitioners consider their knowledge about herbal medicinal products and supplements to be weak. This book is an attempt to fill this knowledge gap, and is intended for use by the busy pharmacist, nurse, or doctor, as well as the ‘expert patient’ and students of pharmacy and herbal medicine. It presents clear, practical and concise monographs on over a hundred popular herbal medicines and plant-based food supplements. Information provided in each monograph includes:
- Indications
- Summary and appraisal of clinical and pre-clinical evidence
- Potential interactions
- Contraindications
- Possible adverse effects

An overview of the current regulatory framework is also outlined, notably the EU Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive. This stipulates that only registered traditional herbal medicinal products (THRs), which have assured quality and safety, can now legally be sold OTC. Monographs are included of most of the major herbal ingredients found in THRs, and also some plant-based food supplements, which while not strictly medicines, may also have the potential to exert a physiological effect.

Authors: Sarah Edwards, Inês da Costa Rocha and Michael Heinrich all at UCL School of Pharmacy, UK and Elizabeth M Williamson, School of Pharmacy, University of Reading, UK.

USD $70.00 £39.95 €49.60

Recent thesis (2015) on Medicinal Plant Research
(Notices of Ph.D- and M.Sc./diploma thesis to the editor are welcome any time!)


Ph.D. thesis (2014) Advanced strategies for the study of bioactive plant constituents and co-culture induced fungal metabolites; By: Nadine Böhn; Promotor: Prof. Jean-Luc Wolfender; Université de Genève, Phytochemistry and Bioactive Natural Products, Switzerland.


Diploma thesis (2015) Investigation of selected essential oils of their antimicrobial properties. By Wegesser Melanie; Supervisors: Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. F. Bucar, University of Graz and Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. F. Reinhalter, Medical University of Graz, Austria.

Master thesis (M.Sc.) (2015) Tagetes patula, chromatographic methods, capillary electrophoresis, flavonoids, Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, dengue, Aedes aegypti. By: Leticia Maria Krzyzanik; Promotor: Prof. Dr. João Carlos Palazzo de Mello, Department of Pharmacy, State University of Maringá, Brazil.

Diploma thesis (2015) Investigations of extracts from European medicinal plants on their influence on intestinal motility in vitro. By Praper Blaz; Supervisors: Univ.-Prof. Dr. R. Bauer, University of Graz and Ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. U. Holzer, Medical University of Graz, Austria.