

Message from the President



Dear members,

on February 2017 you have received an e-mail to contribute in a critical discussion about the future development of our society. We would like to organise a meeting open to all the GA members to discuss main topics will be vision about future activities, research fields to be supported by our society, embedment of industrial partners, principles in voting rules, and how non-European members can get more influence. For those members who cannot come, we offer Internet access via skype. I hope many of you will participate, your suggestions and ideas are highly appreciated!

I would like to invite all of you to the upcoming and 65th annual congress of GA will be held in Basel, organized by Prof. Hamburger and Prof. Butterweck and their co-workers. Detailed information is available from our homepage, please read also the announcement of the congress in this newsletter, and consult the congress website for further details on this important event! I hope that many old and new members meet again at this very attractive event.

On Sunday three pre-congress events will take place, the Young Researchers Workshop, the Regulatory Affairs Workshop and a Symposium on Veterinary Phytotherapy. The scientific program is very stimulating and includes plenary lectures by distinguished senior scientists, short lectures, posters. GA will donate travel grants to PhD students and post-Docs and this year, numerous awards, the Egon Stahl-Award in Silver and in Gold, Bionorica Phytoneering Award, and Dr. Willmar Schwabe Research Scholarship for Young Scientists.

A further prize will be donated during the congress, the Thieme Award 2017 for the "Most Innovative Planta Medica Original Paper".

This year, during the member meeting in Basel we will elect the Executive Council and Advisory Board of GA for the period 2018–2019. I hope that especially some young members will be willing to candidate and to serve GA with motivation and new ideas, please consider your candidature for younger BoD member. I invite you all to participate in the Members Meeting and elections!

The congress will end with a congress dinner held in one of the historic locations of the city, and two ex-

cursions to major scenic sites of Switzerland are scheduled. I deeply express my gratitude to all those have been involved with the organization and I look forward to seeing you in Basel!

Moreover, this year GA has contributed to the organisation of other meetings, a workshop on the Nagoya protocol organised in Florence (Italy) under the auspices of GA, and Phytopharm 2017 jointly with 10th Anniversary of the TCM Research Center Graz (2–5 July 2017, Graz, Austria). You can find the corresponding information in this Newsletter or on our web site (www.ga-online.org).

I would like to remind all members the GA has a foundation, "Plants for Health", aiming to promote research and scientific knowledge in the field of natural products, medicinal plants and phytotherapy, especially of outstanding young scientists. I hugely invite all of you to make donations to support these activities, details are at the website www.plants-forhealth.org.

The President's message represents an opportunity to thank the dedicated members who have offered their time and expertise to ensure that our business is done. I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of those who have served (and continue to serve) GA in many skills.

I thank Prof. Hensel for his dedication to the keep our Newsletter attractive and valuable. I express gratitude to the Editor in chief of *Planta Medica*, Prof. Butterweck and all the team for the extraordinary work and I invite all members to consider this scientific journal for the publication of their valuable studies and to enquire for the low rate online access. I cordially invite all of you also to submit your contributions to the *Planta Medica International Open*, the open access companion journal to *Planta Medica*, focused on the rapid publication of important new results in all fields of medicinal plant and natural product research. I am grateful the Editor in chief Prof. Pieters, and the editors for their precious support.

My hearty congratulations and special wishes to our honorary member Prof. Gerhard Franz who celebrated on March 26th 2017 his 80th birth. Lastly, I deepest regret to inform you that suddenly and much too early Prof. Dr. Sandra Apers passed away on 5th February 2017. She was an active member of our society, chair of the "Young Researchers Workshop", member of the Board of Directors and Egon Stahl in silver awardee in 2013. She was a very enthusiastic colleague and dear and special friend. An obituary is reported in this newsletter. I will never forget her warmth, kindness, and gentle spirit.

Prof. Dr. Ewald Sprecher, Professor emeritus of Pharmacognosy in Hamburg, passed away on February 4, 2017. Moreover, on 28 March 2017 Professor Dr. med. Dr. h.c. mult. Fritz H. Kemper passed away, shortly after of his ninetieth birthday. He was a visionary leader of many field of medicine and give an enormous impact in the development of phytotherapy. Prof. Sprecher and Prof. Kemper obituaries are reported in this newsletter.

I am looking forward to meet you in Basel!

Sincerely,

Anna Rita Bilia, GA President

NEWSLETTER

Announcement of the 2nd Research Award of the Foundation Plants for Health

GA has recently established the Foundation „Plants for Health“ aiming at supporting highly motivated and talented research groups. We want to provide start-up funds, which help to develop projects leading to promising developments in the area of medicinal plant and natural product research including the search for innovative lead compounds, exciting product ideas and novel pharmacological, clinical and other approaches in medicinal plant and natural product research.

As the foundation successfully has started to receive donations and additional endowments from different sources, also in 2017 a little monetary support can be granted to researchers from our (still limited) revenues. In order to be eligible you must be a member of GA at the time of the application and for the entire duration of the project.

The foundation offers a research subsidy of up to 2000 € for the initiation of a high quality research project.

The grant is intended to support visits of collaborative labs for performing experiments or learning innovative techniques. It is expected that results are presented at the GA meeting 2018.

Applications with an informative description of the project (1 page), a short CV of the researchers involved (half a page each), and the type of collaboration proposed should be forwarded to the chair of the foundation, Prof. Dr. R. Bauer (E-mail: rudolf.bauer@uni-graz.at) by Sep 30th 2017.

Notification of the awarded researcher team will be announced on October 15th 2017.

We are looking forward to many exciting proposals, which will promote interdisciplinary and innovative research on medicinal plants and natural products.

The Foundation's Board

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer
(Graz, Austria)

Prof. Dr. Michael Heinrich
(London, U.K.)


Prof. Dr. Andreas Hensel
(Münster, Germany)

Dr. Bernd Röther
(Neumarkt, Germany)

<http://www.plantsforhealth.org/>

The Society informs

Notes to all GA Members



Editorial remark

All contributions for the GA-Newsletter are welcome.

Deadline for submission is fixed to November 20th 2017.

Please send all contributions by e-mail:
Prof. Dr. A. Hensel
 University of Münster,
 Institute for Pharmaceutical
 Biology and Phytochemistry,
 Corrensstrasse 46,
 D-48149 Münster, Germany
ahensel@uni-muenster.de



Deceased members

(to our knowledge)

Prof. Dr. Sandra Apers, Antwerp, Belgium, passed away February 5th 2017. Member of GA since 1998 and member of GA Board of Directors.

Klaus Dürbeck, Raubling, Germany, passed away in December 2016. GA member since 1990.

Prof. Dr. Hans Jurenitsch, Vienna, Austria, passed away on April 15th 2017. GA member since 1976.

Prof. Dr. Ewald Sprecher, Hamburg, Germany, passed away on February 4th 2017, GA member since 1953, Honorary Member of GA since 1995.

The Society will keep commemoration and offers its sincere condolence.

Notes from the Society

Some Data from the Membership Data Base

New GA members

Since November 2016 the following 112 members have joined our Society.

Hanan **Aati**, Saudi-Arabia; Shaif **Abakah**, Germany; Wonder **Abotsi**, Ghana; John **Addotey**, Germany; Olayemi **Adeniyi**, Great Britain; Maryam **Akaberi**, Iran; Gül-sah Selin **Akyüz**, Turkey; Muaaz **Alajlani**, Syria; Abdulelah **Alfattani**, Switzerland; Mostafa **Alilou**, Austria; Elikplim **Ampofo**, Ghana; Elena **Ancheeva**, Germany; Godwin **Anywar**, Uganda; Ju Yeon **Ban**, South Korea; Marian **Bittner**, Germany; Severin **Bühmann**, Switzerland; Marta **Collu**, Italy; Babak **Daneshfard**, Iran; Kafui Jeanne **Dekawole**, Togo; Serhat **Demir**, Turkey; Miwa **Dounoue-Kubo**, Switzerland; Jacobus N. **Eloff**, South Africa; Lorenzo **Fiengo**, Italy; Rene **Gerstbauer**, Austria; Christina **Gkouva**, Great Britain; Nikola **Grcic**, Portugal; Daniel Miroslaw **Grochowski**, Poland; Laurence **Guilloteau**, France; Shandu **Gumede**, Zimbabwe; Gusmaini **Gusmaini**, Indonesia; Benjamin Kingsley **Harley**, Ghana; Henrik **Harms**, Germany; Soleiman **Helaly**, Egypt; Gustavo Alejandro **Hernández Fuentes**, Mexico; Jan **Hosek**, Czech Republic; Marvelous **Igbayo**, Nigeria; Aleksandra **Ilic**, Serbia; Mumin Yigit **Inan**, Turkey; Nor

Liyana **Ja'afar**, Malaysia; Banaz **Jalil**, Great Britain; Youssef **Jallouli**, France; Yukyoung **Jeon**, South Korea; Elena Jimenez Negro, Germany; Mina **Kalan-tarzadeh**, Great Britain; Senthil Kumar **Kanthasamy Jayabal**, Taiwan; Phisit **Khemawoot**, Thailand; Ceyda Sibel **Kilic**, Turkey; Sasha **Kovacs**, USA; Nadine **Kretschmer**, Austria; Supaluk **Krittana**, Thailand; Victor **Kumbol**, Ghana; Lucy **Lahrita**, Indonesia; Abdulelah **Latif**, Italy; Ka Soon **Lee**, South Korea; Pei Cee **Lim**, Malaysia; Vanja **Ljolic Bilic**, Croatia; Alexandre **Maciuk**, France; Abdelhalim **Mahmoud**, Sudan; Priscilla **Mante**, Ghana; Joana **Marcalo**, Portugal; Adam **Matkowski**, Poland; Hicham **Mechqoq**, Morocco; Mingkwan **Na Takuathung**, Thailand; Ashwell **Ndhala**, South Africa; Ijeoma Jane **Nnadozie**, Nigeria; Kota **Noda**, Japan; Hera **Nurhayati**, Indonesia; Tri Rini **Nuringtyas**, Indonesia; Enyinda **Odoh**, Nigeria; Samuel **Okhale**, Nigeria; Bukola Oyebanji, Nigeria; Laura **Patino**, Panama; Laura **Peeters**, Belgium; Léonie **Pellissiers**, Swasiland; Vieri **Piazzini**, Italy; Luca **Pompermaier**, Austria; Michael **Preston**, USA; Dagmar **Pretsch**, Austria; Ancuta Cristina **Raclariu**, Norway; Bettina **Rainer**, Austria; Azhar **Rasul**, Pakistan;

Ragupathi Raja Kannan **Rengasamy**, China; Patrícia **Rijo**, Portugal; Dominik **Rotrekl**, Czech Republic; Petra **Salamúnová**, Czech Republic; Birte **Scharf**, Germany; Francesca **Scotti**, Great Britain; Mayadah **Shehadeh**, Jordan; Helen **Sheridan**, Ireland; Filip **Sibul**, Serbia; Karel **Smejkal**, Czech Republic; Isabel **Soede**, Austria; Teerayut **Sriyatep**, Thailand; Peter **Staub**, Italy; Nova **Syafni**, Switzerland; T. **Sengottuvel**, India; Marzieh **Tabefam**, Iran; Meriem **Taghouti**, Portugal; Komlatsè **Togbenou**, Togo; Dragan **Trogrlic**, Bosnia-Herzegovina; Thilivhali **Emmanuel** Tshikalange, South Africa; Wireto **Tuntiwechapikul**, Thailand; Corinna **Urmann**, Germany; Pia **Vollmer**, Germany; Heikki **Vuorela**, Finland; Helle **Wangensteen**, Norway; Shu-Yuan **Wang-Tschen**, Switzerland; Nurshieren **Yahaya**, Malaysia; Omolara **Yakubu**, Nigeria; Jimmy **Yuk**, Germany; Elena **Zioga**, Greece; Moritz **Zürn**, Hungary.

GA warmly welcomes all new members and hopes that the Society may serve them as an international platform for many scientific and personal contacts.

Dr. Birgit Benedek, GA Secretary

40 years of GA membership

Based on a decision of the ExC, members who have reached 40 years of GA membership shall be rewarded for their loyalty and fidelity to the Society with a waiver of membership fees.

In 2017 the following four members have reached 40 years of GA membership: Prof. Wolfgang **Barz**, Germany; Prof. Michael **Wink**, Germany; Prof. Beat **Meier**, Switzerland; Dr. Gerold Tittel, Germany.

GA thanks and congratulates those long-standing members!

Dr. Birgit Benedek, GA Secretary

Members Meeting 2017

During the 65th Annual Meeting of our Society which will take place in Basel, Switzerland, from 3 to 7 Sept. 2017, a regular Members' Meeting will be held. It is scheduled for Tuesday, 5th Sept. 2017, 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.
Location: Congress Center Basel, room Osaka/Samarkand; Messeplatz 21, 4058 Basel, Switzerland.

This announcement in the Newsletter has to be considered as the official invitation to the Members' Meeting (in accordance with the GA bylaws), as this Newsletter is sent out to all members of our Society.

Preliminary Agenda

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the Members' Meeting held in Copenhagen on 25 July 2016 (published in GA Newsletter 2-2016)
3. Annual reports
 - 3.1 Report of the President
 - 3.2 Reports of the Vice-Presidents
 - 3.3 Report of the Secretary
 - 3.4 Report of the Treasurer
 - 3.5 Report of the Auditors
 - 3.5 Discharge of the Executive Council
4. Report of the Editor-in-Chief of *Planta Medica*

5. Report of the Working Groups
6. Report Foundation "Plants for Health"
7. Election of the Board of Directors
 - 7.1 Election of the President
 - 7.2 Election of the two Vice-Presidents
 - 7.3 Election of the Secretary
 - 7.4 Election of the Treasurer
 - 7.5 Election of the members of the Advisory Board
8. Future congresses, symposia and workshops
9. Miscellaneous

On behalf of the Executive Council
Prof. Anna Rita Bilia, GA President



Obituary

In memoriam Prof. Dr. Sandra Apers (1972–2017)

On 5th February 2017 our colleague Sandra Apers passed away, after a struggle of 7 months against cancer. Sandra was born on 19. August 1972. She studied pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Antwerp, where she graduated in 1995, and obtained a PhD in 2000. After a research career at the National Fund for Scientific Research (Belgium), she became lecturer at the University of Antwerp in 2006, senior lecturer in 2010, and professor in 2014. She was a member of the Belgian Pharmacopoeia Commission (Pharmacognosy) since 2008; member, vice-president and president of expert panel Med1 (Pharmaceutical Sciences) of the Fund for Scientific Research (Belgium) (2008–2015); and expert of European Pharmacopoeia Commission 13A (Pharmacognosy) since 2010. At the University of Antwerp she was vice-president (2012–2013) and president (2013–2016) of the Educational Board of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Under Sandra's guidance, the Laboratory of Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Analysis of the University of Antwerp was recognised by the Belgian Ministry of Public Health for the analysis and quality control of drugs, by the Council of Europe as official control laboratory for drugs and herbal medicinal products, and has obtained the quality label ISO 17025. The laboratory has built up an extensive expertise in the analysis of a large variety of natural products. In 2013 Sandra Apers received the Egon Stahl Award in Silver. She was author or co-author of 174 research papers.

Sandra leaves a husband and three children who are 8, 5 and 3 years old.

From the many reactions we received after the announcement of her death, these are just a few quotes:

"She was a very nice colleague, an excellent researcher and at the same time a modest person."

"She was such a nice colleague and a warm and generous person."



"Sandra was an excellent scientist and I highly respected her skills as an analyst. She was also an extremely nice lady I'll surely miss."

Indeed we all will miss Sandra very much.

Obituary

In memoriam Prof. Dr. med. Dr. h.c. mult. Fritz H. Kemper (1927–2017)

With deepest regret all friends and colleagues in the field of phytotherapy received the message that one of the founding fathers of ESCOP, Professor Dr. med. Dr. h.c. mult. Fritz H. Kemper passed away on March 28th, 2017 shortly after his ninety-th birthday in February.

Fritz Kemper studied medicine in Cologne and Bonn and received his degree in 1950. He continued his scientific career in Frankfurt and Muenster. After his habilitation he was appointed as professor at the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, where he held the chair of pharmacology and toxicology since 1969.

Since the beginning of his professional career, with an exceptional visionary view, he initiated scientific research and policy development in many different health aspects in Germany and Europe. He impressively was involved in the implementation of many trendsetting ideas concerning environmental and consumer protection: He raised the problem of lead contamination by hunting munition, the transfer of components from synthetics into the food chain and played a fundamental role in the establishment of the Umweltprobenbank (the scientific organisation for environmen-

tal and natural protection in Germany). And all of that at a time, were there was hardly any awareness on these matters. He also significantly influenced these developments in the European framework at a very early stage.

Besides all these scientific and political engagements, from his beginning as a pharmacologist and toxicologist, one of his major focus were medicinal plants. This part in his research and commitment took most of his time during the last decades.

Due to his enthusiasm and excellent networking he was able to liaise with stakeholders in other European countries supporting the idea of a harmonized framework for herbal medicinal products in Europe. Their joint efforts and authority resulted in the foundation of ESCOP, the European Scientific Cooperative on Phytotherapy, in 1989.

Prof. Kemper directed ESCOP as the chairman of the board through decades of success and was the dominant figure in establishing ESCOP's high reputation as authority in the field of phytotherapy not only in Europe but worldwide. Additionally, he had a critical look on every ESCOP



monograph which he evaluated in his function as supervising editor. Based on his enormous knowledge, his verve and his talent to motivate people, he gathered many enthusiasts around him, who en-

joyed and still enjoy the voluntary work for ESCOP. It was a great honour and pleasure to work with him.

In 2010 phytotherapy in Europe and ESCOP had to accept that a distinguished scientist and warmhearted friend shifted into the role of a mentor in the background and an observer in his new position as Honorary Chair of ESCOP.

Prof. Kemper's work has laid a basis for addressing the challenges which phy-

totherapy has to face in the New Millennium and we all are indebted to the amount of work he carried.

All of us who were fortunate enough to know Prof. Kemper and work with him, owe him the highest respect for so many years of continuous work and efforts dedicated to the development and acceptance of phytotherapy in Europe. We will miss him, his influence and dedication as well as his charm and humour. And we will always be proud to have accompanied him

a part of his way and to briefly and to have shared his space. Remembering his sovereign voice, we have lost the loudest speaker in phytotherapy and the world will never be the same without him.

With greatest respect
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Liselotte Krenn and
Dr. Barbara Steinhoff

Obituary

In memoriam Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Ewald Sprecher (1922–2017)

Prof. Dr. Ewald Sprecher, Professor emeritus of Pharmacognosy in Hamburg, passed away on February 4, 2017 at the age of 94 years after a full life actively dedicated to science, literature and traveling throughout the world. In 2008 he moved from Hamburg to Neustadt/Weinstraße and lived there very contentedly, together with his wife Helga in a retirement home near his son's family. Until his death he maintained his contacts to his friends and colleagues in Hamburg and other European countries, including regular attendance of the Annual Meetings of the GA. Unfortunately, in the last few years this was no longer possible because of his deteriorating eyesight.

Ewald Sprecher studied pharmacy at the Technical University of Karlsruhe in Germany (1950–1953); after he had worked in the pharmaceutical industry for a short time, he decided instead to pursue a scientific career. The first step was Dr. rer. nat. in 1956, the second the "Habilitation" in 1960, both at the Botanical Institute at the University of Karlsruhe. There he worked as an Assistant from 1955 to 1964. From 1964 on he was Associate Professor of Botany and Pharmacognosy until 1969, when he was appointed Professor of Pharmacognosy at the University of Hamburg. There, until 1988, he wisely influenced the development of the Pharmacognosy of Hamburg and transformed it into an Institute of Pharmaceutical Biology with an excellent reputation.

His highly respected research dealt with the biogenesis, accumulation and function of primary and secondary metabolites in plants and fungi. *Ceratocystis coerulescens* with its special smell was one of his

first objects, and he succeeded in identifying a great number of terpenes in this and further fungi. Biotechnological questions became more and more important for him, and consequently he explored the biotransformation of terpenes in many ascomycetes, basidiomycetes and yeasts. Another matter he concerned himself with was the standardization of medicinal plants by working as an expert in pharmacopoeial committees. He was the author and co-author of some 100 papers and two books concerning classical pharmacognosy and microbiology respectively.

Ewald Sprecher's devoted engagement to science was honoured with a number of awards, including the honorary membership of the GA in 1995. The GA was his forum for more than 50 years, after having participated in the Founding Meeting of the GA in 1953; from that time on he was a very constructive and creative GA-member giving quite a few lectures at GA-Congresses. In 1983 he was elected a member of the Advisory Board (again 1994/1995), in 1986 he organized the 34th Annual Congress in Hamburg. From 1984 to 1987 he served as the Vice-President (again 1990–1993) and as the President from 1988 to 1989. During his presidency he initiated the Permanent Committees which worked successfully for many years.

In 2003 on the occasion of the GA's 50th anniversary, which was celebrated in Bad Camberg, the location of the Foundation of the GA in 1953, Ewald Sprecher gave a lecture with a retrospective look at the many achievements of the GA. Together with Wolfgang Caesar he edited the book on the history of the GA "Society for Medicinal Plant Research – Gesellschaft für



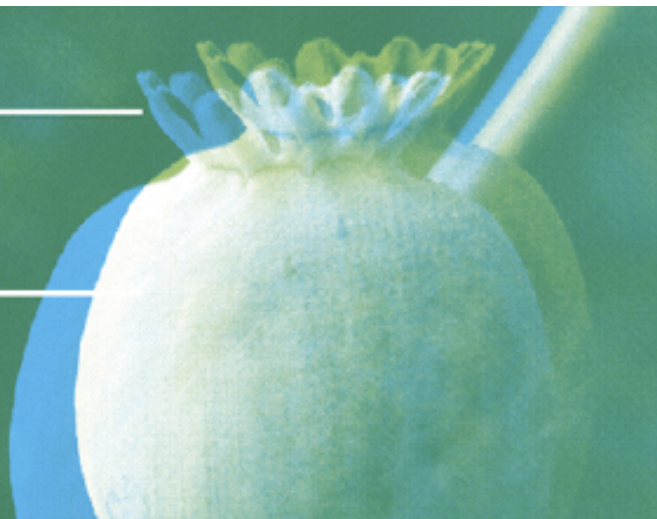
Arzneipflanzenforschung 50 Years 1953–2003 – A Jubilee Edition", WVG Stuttgart, 2003 (ISBN 3-8047-2028-5). This was only one of his many impressive activities during his retirement. Although mentally alert, he lived a secluded life in the last months and passed away after suffering from a cerebral haemorrhage. Ewald Sprecher was a remarkable personality, cheerful, successful, unassuming, humane, a perfect teacher and colleague. We will never forget him.

Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Stahl-Biskup
Hamburg, Germany

65th Annual Meeting of the

Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research

Basel, Switzerland,
3rd – 7th September 2017



The 65th Annual Meeting and International Congress of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA) will be held from 3 to 7 September 2017 in Basel, Switzerland. 17 years after the 48th Annual Meeting of GA, organized at that time by Prof. Otto Sticher at the ETH Zurich, GA returns to Switzerland for an Annual Meeting.

This time we gather in Basel which, despite its almost “small-town” feeling, is in fact a global center of pharmaceutical R&D. Pharma giants like Novartis and Roche have their headquarters and significant R&D and production facilities here. Dynamically growing pharma companies like Actelion, and numerous successful small to mid-size companies in the life science field are located in the Basel area. Basel has also a long cultural and intellectual tradition. It harbors Switzerland’s oldest University, and several internationally renowned museums.

The congress venue is the Basel Congress Center which is ideally suited to harbor an congress of this size. The Congress Center

is located in central Basel and can be easily reached by public transport or by walking. On Sunday 3 September a Veterinary Phytotherapy Satellite Symposium will be held. The Young Researchers and Regulatory Affairs Workshops also take place on Sunday. They offer platforms for exchange between the young generation of scientists, and between regulatory authorities, industry, and academic scientists. In the late afternoon the traditional Get-together party will be held.

The opening of the congress and the Award Ceremony are scheduled for Monday morning. During the three following days plenary lectures, award lectures, short lectures organized in three concurrent sessions, and poster presentations will take place. As organizers, we have attempted to structure the program in a way as to give sufficient time for short lectures and poster sessions, and also room for discussions in between. We have received well over 500 abstracts. The Scientific Committee has made a selection of abstracts for the short lecture sessions.

The Members Meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 September, from 18.00 to 20.00.

The congress will end with the conference dinner on Wednesday evening at the historic Safran Zunft in the old town of Basel. For accompanying persons we propose a social program during the congress, and for all interested participants we organize post-congress excursions on Thursday to the Lake of Lucerne area and to a chocolate manufacturer in the Fribourg/Gruyère area.

The overview of the program, further details, and updates are provided on the congress website at <http://www.ga2017.ch> Registration is still open, so please register immediately if you plan attending!

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, I look forward to welcome you in Basel!

Prof. Matthias Hamburger
Chair of Organizing Committee

GA-networking group on medicinal plants and natural products in animal healthcare and veterinary medicine will meet again in Budapest



The GA-networking group on medicinal plants and natural products for animal healthcare will meet during the Joint Natural Products Conference in Copenhagen. The respective scientific session will held on Wednesday 27.07.2016 from 10.45–12.00. The following talks are scheduled:

Michael A Huffman (Japan): „Animal self-medication: ethnoveterinary medicine without human cultural bias?”

3 short lectures “Empiricism meets science – recent developments in ethnoveterinary research”

Maria Groot (The Netherlands): “The urgent need for new approaches – medicinal plants as answers to challenges of recent veterinary medicine in the Netherlands”

Taffese Mesfin (Ethiopia): “Use of medicinal plants and natural products as part of indigenous veterinary practices of South Omo Agro-Pastoral Communities in Ethiopia”

Natesan Punniamurthi (India): “A decade of clinical research and applications of ethnoveterinary knowledge in India – the pragmatic way of facilitating medicinal plants to replace synthetics in animal health and production”

Following the talks a „over-lunch-time-network-meeting“ is scheduled to discuss further activities. Please send us a short message if you would like to contribute ideas so that we can set up an agenda.

The animal health networking dinner will be held on Wednesday evening.

Looking forward to meeting you all in August in Copenhagen,

Anette van der Aa and
Michael Walkenhors

Report meeting

The Nagoya Protocol: access and benefit-sharing of nature’s genetic resources

The Nagoya Protocol is an International Agreement on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilisation to maintain the convention of biological diversity. The meeting was aiming to illustrate the future scenario to potential subjects involved in research and development of genetic resources. In 2014 the Regulation (EU) No. 511/2014 has established measures of compliance for users Union under the Protocol, by opening a new scenario for multiple subjects involved in research and development. The Protocol represents a historic achievement because it constitutes a possible link between the policies for the conservation of biodiversity and those for the fight against poverty. In fact, it guarantees to countries that have a rich biodiversity benefit-sharing arising from the use of resources, it encourages them to preserve this priceless treasure.

The workshop was organised at the Rectorate of Florence University, on 27th February 2017 by the Italian Society of Phytochemistry and Sciences of Medicinal, Food and Fragrant Plants (SIF) under the auspices of GA, PSE, University of Florence, the prestigious Accademia dei Georgofili and five scientific Italian societies sharing interest in plants sciences research. The event had no registration fee thanks to the sponsorship of diverse companies involved in the research and market of plants and their preparations with medicinal and health interest. More than 150 participants from academy, governmental institutions and industries took part to the event. Experts and governmental authorities clarified the concepts of this protocol and the differences with other international protocols such as CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also

known as the Washington Convention) and International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations). Furthermore, two academics and an industrial expert presented their projects related to Nagoya protocol. A lively and stimulating open discussion between speakers and audience regarding current and future developments of the field has followed the lectures. The workshop was successfully and it could be promoted in other countries to training researchers working in basic and applied research of natural products. For those interested, it is possible to receive the meeting proceedings by e-mail, please request to ar.bilia@unifi.it.

Anna Rita Bilia
Chair of the Workshop

Qihuang International Prize 2016 of China Association of Chinese Medicine for Prof. Dr. Gerhard Franz and Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer

The Award has been established in order to further stipulate the initiative and innovativeness of professionals both abroad and at home in the field of scientific research in Chinese medicine, promote the academic progress and scientific and technological innovation of Chinese medicine and advance the development of Chinese medicine overseas.

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Franz and Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer have been awarded because of their great contributions and achievements in the field of scientific research and development in Chinese medicine.

Prof. em. Dr. Gerhard Franz is the former Director of the Institute of the University of Regensburg (Germany).

In his academic career he has been active at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) and Regensburg and as guest professor at the Universities of Grenoble (France), Basel (Switzerland) and Harbin (China). He is actually member of the German Pharmacopoeia Commission, the European Pharmacopoeia Commission, Chairman of the Pharmacognosy Group of the German Pharmacopoeia, former Chairman of the Phytochemistry Expert Group 13B and of the TCM Working Party of the European Pharmacopoeia. He served as President of the International Society of Medical Plant and Natural Product Research (GA) and as Editor and Co-Editor of a series of high ranking international journals.

Prof. em. Dr. G. Franz initiated the elaboration and implementation of quality monographs on TCM herbal drugs for the EU in the framework of the European Pharmacopoeia. During this activity, which started in the year 2005, more than 60 TCM monographs were accepted by the European Pharmacopoeia Commission. He initiated and guided similar activities for the German Pharmacopoeia, the results of which were taken over in part by the European Pharmacopoeia. These activities in the field of TCM-Globalization were recognized by the Honorary Membership of the GP TCM RA, the Annual Award of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine and finally the above documented Award of the Chinese Association of Chinese Medicine.

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer, Head of the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences of University of Graz (Austria), has been GA president from 2002–2007. He is dealing with Chinese medicine since 1991 when he became member of the Scientific Advisory



Prof. Dr. Gerhard Franz and Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer have been awarded with the Qihuang International Prize of China Association of Chinese Medicine in 2016. The ceremony took place during the annual meeting of CACM in Lianyungang, Jiangsu Province, on April 14th, 2017. The prize was handed over by Ma Jianzhong, Deputy Director of State Administration of TCM China.

Board of the first German TCM Hospital in Bad Kötzing, Germany. Since then he has dealt extensively with the quality control of Chinese herbal drugs, and, together with Prof. Wagner from University of Munich, he published the series “Chinese Drug Monographs and Analysis”, which is now edited in a book with four volumes “Chromatographic fingerprint analysis of herbal medicines – thin-layer and high-performance liquid chromatography of Chinese drugs”. Currently Professor Bauer chairs the Working Group on TCM herbs of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission. In 2007 he initiated the TCM Research Center Graz, which is an inter-university center together with Prof. Litscher from Graz Medical University. He is coordinator of the TCM Research Cluster Austria, which is performing research joint research projects in the field of TCM together with the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences since 10 years, funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy and the Austrian Ministry of Health.

Since 2008 Prof. Bauer is organizing the Sino-Austrian Summer School for Chinese Herbal Medicine which brings 25 pharmacy students from Austria to China every year. In 2012, he became the founding President of the Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association, which has emerged from an EU FP7 project dedicated to the development and application of best-practice methods in TCM research. Currently he is President of the International Society of Ethnopharmacology.

In several projects funded by the Austrian Science Fund, he has explored the active ingredients of Chinese herbs and helped to increase the scientific understanding of TCM. He is a guest professor at six universities in China, and has received several awards, like the Egon-Stahl-Award in Silver of the Society for Medicinal Plant Research, the International Award of the Belgian Society of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the Norman R. Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award of the American Botanical Council.

80th Birthday of Prof. em. Dr. Gerhard Franz

On March 26th 2017, Gerhard Franz, emeritus professor for and former chair of the Pharmaceutical Biology at the University of Regensburg, celebrated his 80th birthday. This provides an appropriate occasion to review the multifaceted life of the Honorary Member of the GA.

Gerhard Franz, born in Dresden and grown up in Bad Homburg and Karlsruhe, studied pharmacy at the Technical University of Karlsruhe (1959–1962) and made his PhD study in plant biochemistry as DAAD fellow at the University of Fribourg (1962–1965). Supported by the Fonds National Switzerland, he spent two Post doc years at the Department of Biochemistry, University of California, Berkeley, followed by work as Chef de Travaux at the Department of Biology, University of Fribourg from 1967 until 1970. At that time, he made important discoveries concerning the biosynthesis of cellulose and other oligo- and polysaccharides resulting in his habilitation in 1970. From 1970 until 1976 he had a position as Assistant Professor at the University of Fribourg, interrupted by a stay as Invited Professor at the University of Basel (1973–1975). His research focussed on plant polysaccharides ranging from biosynthesis, metabolism over chemotaxonomy up to physiological and application aspects.

An important milestone in the life of the 80-year-old was the appointment to the Chair of Pharmaceutical Biology at the newly established Department of Pharmacy of the University of Regensburg 40 years ago. The cosmopolitan accepted the challenge and moved with his wife Marlies and his three children to Regensburg, where is still working as Professor emeritus since 2005.

Although Professor Franz is known for his expertise in carbohydrates and the biosynthesis and composition of plant cell wall, his research in Regensburg included also many other topics in the area of pharmaceutical biology. These include identification and investigations on the biosynthesis of secondary plant metabolites (e.g. aloine, glycyrrhizinic acid, cardenolides, coumarins, triperpenod glycosides), immunomodulating, anti-tumor and anti-angiogenic activities of natural and modified polysaccharides and other natural compound, further the chemical and pharmacological characterization of components of medicinal plants, investigations on the quality and stability of herbal drugs and herbal preparations and, finally, analytical investigations of TCM herbal drugs for the last 12 years.

This scientific work is documented in more than 270 publications and about 60 PhD theses under his supervision.

However, the activities of Professor Franz in research and academia (e.g. as dean of the Faculty Chemistry and Pharmacy,

member of the Senate of the University and as expert in Academic evaluation commissions for numerous Pharmaceutical Sciences/Faculties) represent only one part of his career. Another part is characterised by his outstanding commitment in the work concerning regulatory aspects of herbal drugs and herbal medicinal products for almost thirty years.

This is best reflected by the list of his activities in official committees:

- Chairman of the Expert Group “Pharmazeutische Biologie” of the German Pharmacopoeia (DAB) (1988 – today)
- Member of the German Pharmacopoeia Commission (DAB) of the BfArM, Bonn (1990 – today)
- Member of the “Wissenschaftlicher Beirat” of the BfArM, Bonn (1992–2002)
- Member of the Commission E of the BfArM, Bonn (AMG § 25 Abs. 6/7) (1993–2004)
- Member of the Commission of the “Deutscher Arzneimittel Codex” DAC (1995 – today)
- Chairman of the Group of Experts 13B of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission, EDQM, Strasbourg (1996–2005)
- Chairman of the TCM Working Party of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission, EDQM, Strasbourg (2005–2016)
- Observer at the EMEA (London) for the European Pharmacopoeia (Phytochemistry) (2002–2004)
- Member of the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards HKCMMS (2008 – today)

Under the guidance of Professor Franz, a tremendous number of quality monographs on herbal drugs and herbal drug preparations have been implemented in the German Pharmacopoeia and later in the European Pharmacopoeia and are continuously improved according to the state of knowledge. Such monographs are very important for all parties involved in the production and quality control of herbal medicinal products (HMP). Moreover, since an appropriate quality is essential for the safety and efficacy of a HMP, all this work finally contributes to the improvement of phytotherapy.

In 2005, the year of his official retirement (!) and after the maximum time as chair of the Group 13B, he became the Chair of the newly created TCM working party, which was established to elaborate monographs on TCM herbal drugs. Although this pioneer task turned out to be very challenging, 12 years of hard work resulted in 60 TCM monographs implemented in the Ph Eur P 9.0.. In addition, six TCM monographs have been elaborated (including work in his lab) and implemented for the DAB, which were partly transferred to Ph Eur Monographs.

The scientific efforts and achievements of the TCM working party have attracted in-



ternational attention. During the last decade, Professor Franz was invited to give plenary lectures at many conferences in China and many other countries all over the world to report about problems, results and consequences of TCM for the European patient. In 2012, he was Visiting Professor at the University of Harbin (China). Several institutions in China became interested in that work and Professor Franz was able to catalyze a fruitful collaboration with the Chinese State Administration of TCM (SATCM) resulting in an official Memorandum of Understanding signed between EDQM and the Chinese Natural Key Laboratory. A further step in the fruitful collaboration China/Europe was the nomination of Prof. D. Guo following a proposal of the German National Authorities. Accordingly, the engagement of Professor Franz in the field of TCM has also a political dimension.

Another consequence of his TCM work is an increase of his editorial activities. For many years, he is already supervising Editor ESCOP and co-editor of *Planta Medica*, *Pharmazie*, *Scientia Pharmaceutica* and *Phytothérapie*. In the last three years, he assumed editorial tasks for the *Journal of Chinese Pharmaceutical Sciences*, the *Journal on Traditional and Kampo Medicine (Japan)*, the *Chinese Medicine (Macau)* and the *World Journal of Traditional Chinese Medicine*.

Overall, the scientific activities of Professor Franz are characterized by distinct facets including basic research in plant science and carbohydrates, classical and application-oriented research in pharmacognosy as well as analytical works for Pharmacopoeias. Based on his experience related to the German Pharmacopoeia, he acted as “driving force” at the EDQM so that the PhEur meanwhile contains more than 350 monographs on herbal drugs and herbal

preparations including the 70 mentioned TCM monographs.

His oeuvre has already been appreciated by many scientific honours and awards, i.e. the first Egon Stahl Award in Silver (1985), the Cancer Medal (Japan Cancer Society) (1988), the Sebastian Kneipp-Award (1994), the Hermann Thoms Award of the Deutsche Pharmazeutische Gesellschaft (2003) and the Silver Medal of the "Académie Française de Pharmacie" (2014). In 1998, he received the Order of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz) of the Federal Republic of Germany, which demonstrates the importance of his work for public health. Further, he is Corresponding Member the "Royal Medicinal Society" (Belgium) (1990), of the "Académie Française de Pharmacie" (1998) and Honorary Advisor of the Department of Health, Executive Yuan, Taiwan (2001). In 2014, he was appointed as Honorary President of the World Federation of Chinese Medicine So-

cieties (WFCMS) and obtained the Honorary Membership of the "Good Practice in Traditional Chinese Medicine Research Association" GP-TCM RA. Finally, he received the Annual Award of the "World Federation of Chinese Medicine Societies" in 2015.

Concerning the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA), Professor Franz is already an active member since 1970 and meanwhile one of the Honorary Members. He organized two Annual Conferences of the GA at the University of Regensburg, namely in 1985 with the attendance of Prof. Dr. mult. Egon Stahl and in 1997 with participants from already 26 nations. For many years, he was a member of the Board of Directors and from 1994 until 1998 President of GA.

However, the life of Gerhard Franz, a master of organisation and time management, is not limited to pharmaceutical activities.

For example, in parallel with pharmacy, he additionally studied arts at the Academy of Arts in Karlsruhe (1959–1962). His oil, watercolour and pastel paintings of landscapes and flowers were shown in numerous exhibitions and the oeuvre of the triumvirate "uni pro arte" with his colleagues Prof. Hermann Leber and Prof. Jörg Träger became known beyond the German borders. Nowadays, his seven grandchildren are his eager pupils in easel painting. With all his activities, achievements and family life, Professor Franz has set an example to his students and co-workers.

On behalf of the GA I am pleased to congratulate Professor Franz on the occasion of his 80th birthday and wish him many more years of health, happiness and creative power.

Prof. Dr. Susanne Alban
Kiel

Recent thesis (2016/17) on Medicinal Plant Research



(Notices of Ph.D.- and M.Sc./diploma thesis to the editor are welcome any time!)

Ph.D. thesis (2016) Impaired NK-cell mediated regulation of T-cell activity in Multiple Sclerosis is reconstituted by therapeutic IL-2 receptor modulation. By: Andreas Schulte-Mecklenbeck. Promotor: Prof. Dr. H. Wiendl and Prof. Dr. A. Hensel, University of Münster, Germany.

PhD. thesis (2017) Bioactive natural products: targeted identification of antivirals and hERG blockers. By: Christina E. Mair; Promotor: Prof. J. M. Rollinger, University of Vienna, Austria.

Ph.D. thesis (2017) Identification, isolation and functional characterization of prenyltransferases in *Cannabis sativa* L.. By: Kathleen Pamplaniyil; Promotor: Prof. O. Kayser, TU Dortmund University, Germany.

Ph.D. thesis (2016) Estudos Farmacológico e Fitoquímico, Planejamento Estatístico de Mistura e Avaliação Antibacteriana de rizomas de *Limonium brasiliense* (Baicuru); By: Andreassa Blainski Pinha; Promotor: Prof. Dr. Joao Carlos Palazzo de Mello, Universidade Estadual de Maringá, Brazil.

Ph.D. Thesis (2017) Phytochemical and pharmacological studies of leaves of *Epipremnum pinnatum* with a special focus on the inhibition of COX-2 and IL-8 expression. By: Mag. San-Po PAN; Promotors: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer and Univ.-Prof. Dr. Valery Bochkov, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Graz, Austria.

Master Thesis (2016) Nanosystems for dermatological application of essential oil of *Artemisia annua* by Sofia Zago. Promotor: Prof. Anna Rita Bilia, Department of Chemistry, University of Florence, Italy.

Master Thesis (2016) Development and optimisation of lipid nanocarriers of *Sesuvium repens* by Awada Khaled. Promotor: Prof. Anna Rita Bilia, Department of Chemistry, University of Florence, Italy.

Master Thesis (2017) Nanocarriers for topical administration of berberin by Giulia Vanti. Promotor: Prof. Anna Rita Bilia, Department of Chemistry, University of Florence, Italy.

Diploma thesis (2016) Mycochemical investigations of the fruit bodies of the bracket fungus *Gloeophyllum odoratum* E0045. By: Nina Lukovic; Supervisor: Prof. J. M. Rollinger, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2016) Analytical monitoring of gut-biotransformed triterpenoids. By: Nadina Faur; Supervisor: Prof. J. M. Rollinger, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2017) Triterpenes from *Gloeophyllum odoratum* as potential steroidsulfatase (STS) inhibitors. By: Natalie Prenner; Supervisors: Prof. J. M. Rollinger, Dr. U. Grienke, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2017) Comparison of preparative techniques for the separation of triterpenoid saponins. By: Agata Smolag; Supervisor: Prof. J. M. Rollinger, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma thesis (2017) In silico assisted search for new GPBAR1 modulators. By: Benjamin Kirchweiger; Supervisors: Prof. J. M. Rollinger, Dr. U. Grienke, Dr. Jadel M. Kratz, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2017) Untersuchung von Saponinen aus *Solanum gilo* Raddi. By: Christina Reder; Promotor: Prof. L. Krenn, Department of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2017) Vergleich der Kultivierungsbedingungen auf die Inhaltsstoffe von *Actinobolus hymeniacidonis*. By: Vanessa Krainz; Promotor: Prof. L. Krenn, Department of Pharmacognosy, University of Vienna, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2016) Investigations of defined fungal spore concentrations in aerosol by means of impaction and sedimentation. By: Carola FRITZ; Supervisor: Ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2016) Investigations of impaction and sedimentation of defined bacterial concentrations in aerosol. By: Christina HASLER; Supervisor: Ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2017) Synthesis of a small library of naringenin derivatives. By: Nora Marie JELLENZ; Supervisor: Ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Franz Bucar, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2017) Investigation of the Antidiabetic Effect of Bauhinia malabarica Leaves. By: Florentina STÜCKLER; Supervisor: Ao.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Adelheid Brantner, University of Graz, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Austria.

Diploma Thesis (2017) In vitro studies of the effects of Jaborosa bergii extracts on the amyloid cascade. By: Sonja MARKOR; Supervisor: Dr. Eva-Maria Pferschy-Wenzig, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Graz, Austria.

Editorial remark

All contributions for the GA-Newsletter are welcome. Deadline for submission for the next edition is fixed to November 20th 2017. Please send all contributions to: **Prof. Dr. A. Hensel**, University of Münster, Institute for Pharmaceutical Biology and Phytochemistry, Corrensstrasse 48, D-48149 Münster, Germany; ahensel@uni-muenster.de