

Report to the Executive Committee of IUPHAR

August 29th, 2011

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I recently participated in an IUPHAR Officers, teleconference on August 26th, 2011. I was interviewed by the IUPHAR officers by telephone and reported the work of the Section on the Pharmacology of Natural Products. The main points and the concerning matters are as follows:

1. The establishment of the Section on the Pharmacology of Natural Products of IUPHAR was approved at the IUPHAR General Assembly held during the 15th World Congress of Pharmacology in July 2006 in Beijing. I assumed the chairmanship of the Section in December of 2008. In order to promote the activities of the Section, I made a working plan and, together with Professor Zhi-Bin Lin, we submitted 5 proposals to the Organizing Committee of the 16th World Congress of Pharmacology (WorldPharma2010) in Copenhagen.

2. In order to establish academic links among the scientists and to provide a scientific communication platform for those who engage in the study and teaching in this area in the world, we organized “The First World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines” from September 9th to 12th, 2009, in Hangzhou, China. More than 200 distinguished experts and scholars from a number of countries and regions worldwide were in attendance. The conference was so successful that CCTV-4 (international channel of CCTV) broadcast the conference as part of the evening news program. During the conference, we held a group meeting and discussed the working plan of the section. Later, the Executive Committee of the Section was organized.

3. With the active support and instruction of Professors Paul Vanhoutte, Mike Mulvany, Zhi-Bin Lin and Ricky Man, we successfully organized the

Focused Conference of “Natural Products: Past and future” for WorldPharma2010. There were 5 sessions of the Focused Conference and more than 30 scientists made oral presentations of their studies on Natural Products and Traditional Medicines. During the congress, we discussed the future activities of the section and plan to hold "The Second World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines".

4. The Vice Chair of IUPHAR Section on the Pharmacology of Natural Products, Professor Valérie Schini-Kerth (University of Strasbourg of France), will attend the 5th International Conference on Polyphenols and Health (ICPH), which will be held in Barcelona, Spain from October 17th to 20th, 2011. Polyphenols actually are widely recognized as functional components of foods, beverages and plants, showing a potential role in protecting human health from chronic diseases through multiple mechanisms of action. Their conference will include a large range of topics related with polyphenols and health, such as methodology, bioinformatics and metabolomics, biomarkers, polyphenols matrix effects, digestion, absorption and metabolism in the gastrointestinal system, relevant healthy effects on the cardiovascular, nervous, renal and respiratory systems, on the ageing process, the metabolic syndrome, role of polymorphisms and molecular biology, etc. I believe that we will receive beneficial information from their conference to help us plan the Second World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines. We also hope to establish academic exchange relationships with the ICPH organization.

5. I received the information email passed by Lynn on August 12. We were invited to attend the International Symposium on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants to be held at Antigua, Guatemala, November 20th – 23rd, 2011. The feature of the symposium is Mayan ethnobotany, ethnopharmacology and pharmatherapy. I am very interested in the symposium, however, I shall attend the meeting of IUPHAR Executive Committee to be held in Paris in October, so I could not attend it. I have passed the information to my colleagues and I hope that some of them could attend.

As the liaison of IUPHAR to the International Council for Medicinal and Aromatic Plant (ICMAP), I have established contact with Professor K. Husnu Can Baser, the President of ICMAP. I hope that I could attend at the 5th WOCMAP to be held in Brisbane, Australia, 2013. Professor Baser is also interested and pleased to co-organize a symposium on the pharmacological or clinical evaluation of medicinal and aromatic plants in next IUPHAR Congress. I would keep in touch with ICMAP and advance the collaboration.

6. We are planning to hold “The Second World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicines” in the second half year of 2012. Macao may be selected as the venue of the conference and the University of Macao could be the local organizer. We are discussing the plans and believe the details will be decided soon.

7. During the teleconference, the officers of IUPHAR suggested that the scientific field of the Section of Natural Products is wide and related to many other pharmacological and pharmaceutical branches, therefore, the section should establish wide academic exchange relationships with the other sub-organizations of IUPHAR, especially the Division of Clinical Pharmacology and the Sections of Education as well as the Drug Metabolism and Drug Transport. I think that the suggestions are very good and important for us. We will closely collaborate with these sections in our future work, and make our great efforts to enrich and promote the activities of the Section of Natural Product.