



The Inauguration of the Nigerian Society of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics

Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics has been in existence in Nigeria for about four decades with the pioneering efforts of the late Emeritus Professor Lateef Akinola Salako (1935 -2017). He started the Clinical Pharmacology Unit



*L.A. Salako, FRCP, FWACP, NMOM, CON
July 5th, 1935 – December 8th, 2017
MBBS(Hon), PhD (Sheffield), DSc (Sheffield),
DSc.Honoris Causa (Olabisi Onabanjo
University), Honorary Fellowship (UI), DSc.
Honoris Causa (Fountain University)*

in the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria as an offshoot of The Department of Pharmacology of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria in 1979 (http://uch-ibadan.org.ng/Clinical_Pharmacology). The need for training of physicians in the subspecialty of clinical pharmacology and therapeutics was recognized early in Nigeria and the discipline has been accepted and is examined as a subspecialty of Internal Medicine in the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria and, most recently, in the West Africa College of Physicians. To date, Nigeria has produced only about 30 clinical pharmacologists, despite the increasing needs for clinical pharmacologists in health care, research and medical education for the population of over 170 million people.

Two Nigerians, Dr. Olayinka Ogunleye, a Consultant Physician and Clinical Pharmacologist at the Lagos State University College of Medicine and its Teaching Hospital, and Dr. Joseph Fadare, a Consultant Physician and Clinical Pharmacologist at the Ekiti State University College of Medicine and its Teaching Hospital, were hosted at the Clinical Pharmacology Mentoring Centre in Stockholm, Sweden. They spent October 14th through 28th, 2017 in the Division of Clinical Pharmacology at the Karolinska Institutet and Karolinska University Hospital for mentoring and training by Professor Lars L. Gustafsson, who is the Co-Chair of the IUPHAR Subcommittee for Clinical Pharmacology in Developing Countries. Their curriculum included significant time with the Head of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology at Karolinska Institutet, Associate Professor Georgios Panagiotidis, and the Head of the Clinic at Karolinska University Hospital, Professor Marja-Liisa Dahl. The visit was the launch of the Clinical Pharmacology Mentoring Centre at Karolinska Institutet, which seeks to strengthen clinical pharmacology and therapeutics in developing countries. (<https://iuphar.org/clinical-division/mentoring-centers>). At the end of the visit, Olayinka and Joseph and their hosts identified, amongst a number of action plans, the critical need for clinical pharmacologists in Nigeria to collaborate towards achieving specific goals in strengthening the subspecialty in Nigeria and the rest of Africa.

While there have been some past attempts to bring together clinical

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pharmacologists in Nigeria, this renewed vision injected a sense of urgency to the efforts. The enthusiastic responses from colleagues led to a meeting of clinical pharmacologists in Nigeria on March 2nd, 2018 at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital in Ikeja, Lagos. Fourteen people attended along with a few other invited guests, including the Chief Medical Director, Professor David Oke, and medical students and residents in the Clinical Pharmacology unit of the host institution.

The occasion featured some reminiscence on the advent and development of clinical pharmacology in Nigeria and a moment of tribute for the pioneering roles of Professor Lateef Akinola Salako, who died on the December 8th, 2017. Professor Oladapo Walker (photograph at right), who has held various leadership positions at the World Health Organization (WHO) in the African region, delivered the keynote address. A senior clinical pharmacologist, Professor Walker is a former Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria and is currently a Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics at Babcock University in Ilishan-Remo, Nigeria.



Participants of the inaugural meeting

L → R: (front) Prof. Ambrose Isah, Prof. Oladapo Walker, Prof. David Oke, Prof. Catherine Falade, Prof. Ibrahim Abdul-Aguye, Dr. Olayinka Ogunleye; (middle) Dr. Abimbola Opadeyi, Dr. Adura Adedapo, Prof. John Obodo and Dr. Michael Obaro; (back) Dr. Okezie Enwere, Dr. Titus Okpara, Dr. Peter Akhideno, Dr. Joseph Fadare, Dr. Sunday Ogundele

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(continued)

He reflected on the history of clinical pharmacology globally and how drug discoveries continue to contribute to improved health care and disease control. Professor Walker berated researchers from developing countries for their lack of contributions to basic medical research. He advocated the need for Nigeria and the other developing countries to focus on drug discoveries and translational researches to address the emerging double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases in this region. He endorsed granting clinical pharmacologists the opportunity to guide healthcare policies related to the field. Lastly, Professor Walker highlighted the need for mentorship to help clinical pharmacologists take leading roles in education on medicines and its use as well as several potential opportunities in research.



The subsequent business meeting (photograph above) resulted in the participants agreeing to originate a society named the Nigerian Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (NSCPT). The group brainstormed goals and time-lines for promoting clinical pharmacology at local and national levels, such as education, clinical services, healthcare, government policies, regulatory and industrial affairs and research among others. The members broke into three working groups, namely Constitution Development, Curriculum Review, and Rebranding and Advocacy with specific terms of references defined for each group to work on then report back at the next meeting.

Members left the meeting in high spirit with commitments to sustain the drive towards strengthening clinical pharmacology and therapeutics in Nigeria. The next meeting will be hosted by colleagues in the Department of Clinical Pharmacology at the University College Hospital in Ibadan in June 2018. More details will be made available as the Nigerian Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics takes shape.

Olayinka O. Ogunleye[†]

Joseph O. Fadare[†]

Sunday O. Ogundele

[†]Members. IUPHAR Sub-committee for Clinical Pharmacology in Developing Countries



Report from the IUPHAR Liaison to the INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE

ICSU is an NGO with 142 national scientific members and 31 international scientific unions, of which IUPHAR is one. ICSU's mission is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. It is governed by an Executive Board while its secretariat ensures day-to-day planning and operations from the central office in Paris. Every two to three years, legislative matters are discussed and decided at the General Assemblies, the ICSU "parliament". As votes are based on the amounts of membership dues paid, the national members have about 90% of the voting weight compared with the scientific unions. ICSU has three Regional Offices: Pretoria, Africa, Kuala Lumpur for Asia and the Pacific Region, and San Salvador, El Salvador covering Latin America and the Caribbean. Every two years, ICSU also convenes delegate meetings for the scientific unions in Paris.

ICSU has many groups, called interdisciplinary bodies, that focus on particular topics of international scientific relevance. They report regularly during General Assemblies and scientific union delegate meetings. Altogether, progress made by these interdisciplinary bodies seems to be very good so I am optimistic about their outlook. Below is a list for pharmacologists who may have interdisciplinary interests and wish to learn more:

Committee on Data for Science and Technology (CODATA)

Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)

Future Earth

Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)

INASP (previously International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications)

Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR)

Scientific Committee on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science (IUCAF)

Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

Special Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)

Scientific Committee on Solar Terrestrial Physics (SCOSTEP)

Urban Health and Wellbeing

World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

World Data System (WDS)

<http://www.codata.org>

<https://cosparhq.cnes.fr>

<https://www.futureearth.org>

<http://www.gcos-science.org>

<http://goosoocean.org>

www.inasp.info

www.irdrinternational.org

<http://www.iucaf.org>

<http://www.scar.org>

www.scor-int.org

<http://www.yorku.ca/scostep>

www.urbanhealth.ac.cn

<http://www.wcrp-climate.org>

www.icsu-wds.org

On October 24, 2016, a joint Extraordinary General Assembly of the Councils of ICSU and the International Social Science Council (ISSC; www.worldsocialscience.org) was held to discuss the usefulness and modalities of merging the two organizations. I



At left, ISSC President, Alberto Martinelli, conferring with ICSU President, Gordon McBean

used on-line streaming to follow the

discussions in Oslo that day. Although IUPHAR agreed in principle with the proposed merger, some union members of ICSU expressed concerns about how this might affect the role of ICSU in international scientific relations. Ratification required approval by two-thirds of both councils' voting members. The final count in favor of the merger was 97.6% of ICSU members and 90.0% of ISSC members. The agreement to merge paved the way for the start of the legal implementation phase.

The most recent ICSU General Assembly place in Taipei, Taiwan on October 23 – 26, 2017. Much time and effort at the Taipei meeting were dedicated to the merger of ISSC and ICSU. Year-end financials were reported as of 2016 to be €5'748'908 in reserves for ICSU and €2'973'824 for ISSC. While nearly everyone agreed that it was a good idea to fuse these two scientific organizations, the procedural and constitutional matters consumed two days. Discussions, followed by a vote, resulted in the proposal to name the newly formed organisation the International Science Council (ISC).

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Report from the IUPHAR Liaison to the International Council for Science (ICSU) (continued)



At that business meeting, the recently modified ICSU grants program was described and the progress reports from two of the prior awardees were presented. Previously, ten grants of €30,000 each were offered annually, of which IUPHAR was been awarded two in the past. As of 2017, three grants for a duration of three years are offered every third year, each for a maximal budget of €300,000. Although IUPHAR submitted joint applications with the Unions of Toxicology and of Immunology, these were not ultimately funded. In addition to the large grants now offered by ICSU, there is a special program handled by the Regional Office in Africa. Of particular interest to several IUPHAR member societies is the initiative, *Leading Integrated Research for Agenda 2030 in Africa* (LIRA 2030). Started last year, nine groups have already

initiated projects in Africa and seems to make good progress. The finances for LIRA 2030 come from the Swedish International Development Agency, whose goal is to strengthen research capacity in Africa.

Members also voted (photograph at left) on the location of the next General Assembly. Fukuoka, the largest city in Kyushu, Japan and Paris bid to host it. There was a large majority in favor for the capital of France; so, the next one will take place in Paris in September 2018. Photos of the General Assembly can be viewed at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/icsu/sets/72157689700276436>.

Electronic General Assemblies by ICSU and ISSC were both subsequently held May 11 - 16, 2018. The ICSU and ISSC Councils approved the merger so the International Science Council will establish during 2018 a new unified council to serve as a global voice for science.

A past problem for ICSU has been a lack of feedback from its members to integrate into its current and future activities. As an example, IUPHAR was one of the eight, out of 31, international scientific unions to comment - positively - on the ICSU-ISSC merger. Only few of the national scientific members replied. Thus, communication with the members must be addressed by ISC if it is to be sustainable. Certainly, in these times where numerous governmental bodies do not consider scientific evidence as a basis for decisions, it is important for scientists to support organisations such as ISC in order to help create a united voice for the field.

I wish IUPHAR and ISC much success with their efforts for the years to come.

Urs Rüegg
ICSU/ISC-IUPHAR liaison
IUPHAR Treasurer 2006-2014



ICMAN IUPHAR Natural Products Aberdeen 2017

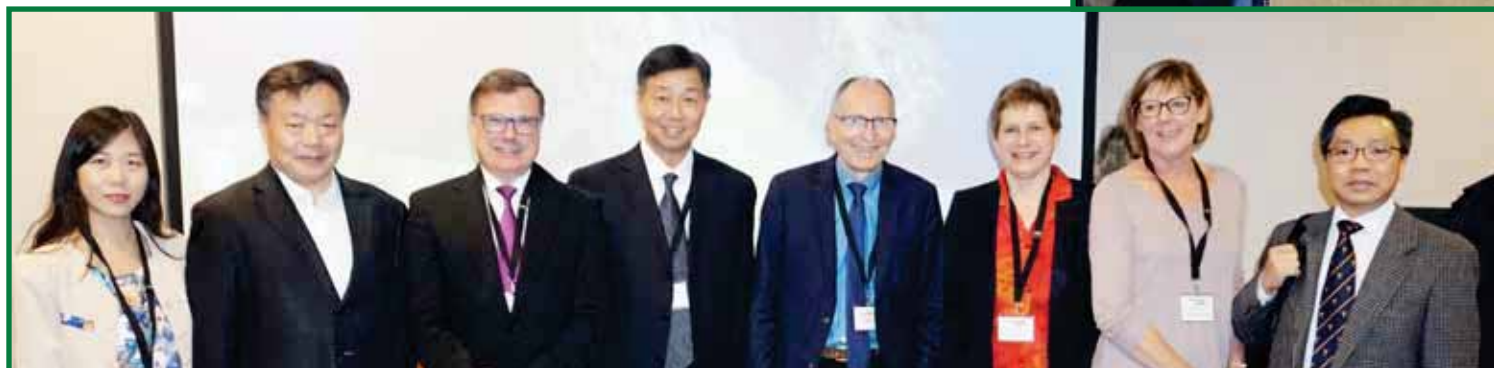
September 26 - 29, 2017

University of Aberdeen in Scotland, United Kingdom

The World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicine is the flagship meeting organized by the Pharmacology of Natural Products Section of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR). It has been hosted in Hangzhou, China (2009), Macau, China (2012), and Singapore (2015). Subsequent to discussions held during the very successful Singapore meeting, Prof. Yongxiang Zhang, IUPHAR Pharmacology of Natural Products (PNP) Section Chair, was pleased to announce that the fourth conference had been scheduled in Aberdeen as a joint meeting with the International Conference on the Mechanism of Action of Nutraceuticals (ICMAN). Prof. Cherry Wainwright, the ICMAN Chair, and Prof. Valérie Schini-Kerth, the PNP Section Vice-Chair, agreed to co-chair the joint conference. The conference theme “From Nutraceuticals to Pharmaceuticals, Common Challenges and Approaches” accurately reflected the collaboration of the two conferences.

During the opening ceremony on September 27th, Prof. Cherry Wainwright and Prof. Yongxiang Zhang (photograph at upper right) welcomed the international audience on behalf of ICMAN and the PNP Section, respectively. Prof. S.J. Enna, the IUPHAR President, and Prof. Michael Spedding (photograph at right), the IUPHAR Secretary-General, offered their congratulations to the meeting organizers on the quality and variety of the topics and speakers. The formal scientific program consisted of six themes:

1. Novel sources of nutraceuticals and natural product pharmaceuticals;
2. Bioavailability/pharmacokinetics of nutraceuticals and natural product pharmaceuticals;
3. Translating novel pathways and mechanisms of action into the clinical use of nutraceuticals and natural product pharmaceuticals;
4. Personalized nutrition and natural product medicine: therapeutic evidence and regulatory requirements?
5. Two different worlds?-addressing the convergence between nutraceuticals, TCM and western medicine;
6. Drug/nutrient/microbiome/lifestyle interactions.



The PNP Section representatives: L → R: Ying Zhao, Guanhua Du, Thomas Efferth, Yongxiang Zhang, Michael Spedding, Valérie Schini-Kerth, Cherry Wainwright, Wai Shiu Fred Wong

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Each theme included one keynote lecture and two themed plenary lectures, one invited by ICMAN and the other by IUPHAR. Forty-six speakers were selected from the submitted abstracts, providing opportunities for young researchers to interact with one another in ten separate sessions. An additional six workshops focused on experts discussing the prospects and strategies for developing nutraceuticals and pharmaceuticals based on natural products.



The PNP Section held a business meeting (photograph above) in conjunction with the conference. Profs. Yongxiang Zhang, Valérie Schini-Kerth and Wai Shiu Fred Wong led the discussions that included guests from the Chinese Pharmacological Society, Profs. Guanhua Du, Wenxia Zhou and Ning Jiang. It was proposed that the 5th World Conference on the Pharmacology of Natural and Traditional Medicine be held in 2019 in Hyderabad, India in conjunction with the annual meeting of Indian Pharmacological Society (IPS). The proposal was later confirmed by Profs. Dinesh Kumar



Giovanna Bermanno and Valérie Schini-Kerth chaired a symposium

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Jeremy Spencer



Raymond Anderson



Juntian Zhang



Rudolph Bauer



Guanhua Du



ICMAN IUPHAR Natural Products Aberdeen 2017

Bharatraj, the IPS President and Bhagirath Patel, the IPS General Secretary. Another important issue discussed was strategies to expand the Section. Considering the wide-ranging uses and research of traditional and natural medicines, it was agreed to enlarge the Section's Executive Committee with representatives from more regions and countries. The nomination of new members is open through the next Section business meeting scheduled Friday, July 6th at 11:00 a.m. during the



The participants were very engaged in the sessions

2018 World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology in Kyoto, Japan. Natural products and traditional medicine researchers are invited to email self-nominations with a current biosketch to NaturalProducts@IUPHAR.org.

Thanks to the efforts by Profs. Wainwright and Enna and Dr. Eliot Ohlstein, the IUPHAR Editorial Board Chair, the conference proceedings appeared as a special issue of Biochemical Pharmacology (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/biochemical-pharmacology/vol/139>). As mentioned in the special issue preface by Profs. Yongxiang Zhang, Michael Spedding, Cherry Wainwright, Valérie Schini-Kerth, and Giovanna Bermano, "The Aberdeen meeting brought together scientists engaged in drug discovery in general and those focused on identifying and characterizing pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals derived from natural sources. ... topics considered include ways to facilitate natural product drug discovery and to apply more rigorous scientific standards in evaluating these drug candidates to broaden their use and to enhance their efficacy and safety." We believe this conference represents the first step in a unique collaboration by pharmacologists and nutritionists on natural product research to foster modern drug discovery and development based on ancient resources and theories.

Ying Zhao
PNP Section Secretary

and

Wenxia Zhou
Chinese Pharmacological Society Deputy Secretary-General



A distinguished line up of speakers

L → R: Yongxiang Zhang, Rudolph Bauer, Thomas Efferth, S J Enna, Guanhua Du, Michael Spedding, Wenxia Zhou



The South African Annual Pharmacology Conference (SAPHARM-2017)
Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Free State
October 1st – 4th, 2017

The 2017 Annual Pharmacology Conference (SAPHARM-2017) of the South African Society for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (SASBCP) was hosted in Bloemfontein South Africa by the Department of Pharmacology and its Research Unit on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS). The conference covered a wide range of topical issues, thereby exposing participants to the latest developments in pharmacology and related fields, hence the theme, *Advances in Pharmacological Sciences*.

Participation

The conference attracted 148 participants, the majority of whom were from South African higher institutions of learning. There were 82 (55.4%) students, of whom 76 (92.7%) were from South Africa. Other participants represented mainly Nigeria (5) and India (7). The two pre-conference workshops were over-prescribed with 46 and 48 participants (planned for 25 each), of mainly postgraduate students. The organizers wish to thank the sponsors that enabled the strong participation of many young scientists. Of note, with such humble participation of four staff members from the Traditional Healers' Organisation, this conference marked a new beginning for a closer association of researchers and these traditional knowledge holders.

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Speakers paused with the exhibitors (in red) at the 'Traditional Healer's Organisation' stand.

The South African Annual Pharmacology Conference (continued)



All the sessions were held in the spacious and decorated Kine 5 hall.

Proceedings

The pre-conference workshops were supplemented with seminal presentations on traditional medicines. One was on *Quality Practices in Biomedical Research* by Prof. A. Walubo, Dr. G.M. Matsabisa and Prof. P. Mukherjee (from India); and the other was on *Analysis of therapeutic proteins by LC-MS/MS* by Profs. V. Maharaj, O. Heudi (from Switzerland) and F. Braga (from Brazil). Many issues presented in these workshops were components of the subsequent conference presentations, reflecting their relevance.

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Prof. Christo Muller giving the opening lecture on the SAMRC research agenda for the 21st Century.



Prof. Olivier Heudi during his lecture on 'methods for analyzing therapeutic proteins'.



Prof. F. Braga giving his lecture on regulation of herbal medicines in Brazil.



Prof. P. Mukherjee his lecture on regulation of traditional medicines in India.



Prof. Charles Mondo giving his lecture on advances in hypertension therapy.



Dr. G. Matsabisa giving his lecture on regulatory challenges for African traditional medicines.

The South African Annual Pharmacology Conference (continued)

The conference program entailed several plenary lectures that were punctuated by oral and poster presentations. The plenary sessions covered topics such as LC/MS-MS analysis of therapeutic proteins or biological medicines by Prof. O Heudi and Prof. H. Reuter; novel approaches to management of neuropsychiatric diseases by Prof. B. Harvey, Prof. V. Steenkamp and Dr. P. van Zyl; use of LC/MS-MS as an imaging tool by Prof. T. Govendor supported by his research group; advances in cardiovascular therapies with special reference to hypertension and anti-coagulation by Prof. C. Mondo (Uganda) and Prof. M. Makotoko; product development from African traditional medicines, a comparison with India and Brazil by Prof. F. Braga, Prof. P. Mukherjee and Dr. G. Matsabisa; anti-tuberculosis drug induced hepatotoxicity and new drug designs by Prof. C. Karen, Prof. A. Walubo and Prof. K. Syed; strategies for drug development and research, including traditional medicines by Dr. H. Chabalala, Prof. D. Oliver and Prof. B. Rosenkranz; and ARV therapy and pharmacovigilance in South Africa by Prof. G. Maartens and Mr. D. Mukesh.

The majority of the oral and poster presentations were on drug-discovery research from traditional medicines, specifically, testing for activity against diabetes mellitus, malaria, inflammation, oxidative states, cardiovascular disease, central nervous diseases, HIV and tuberculosis, indicating how researchers are addressing priority diseases in South Africa, and Africa at large.

Awards

The conference featured the young pharmacologist competition for the best podium (oral) and poster presentations in basic and clinical pharmacology, as well as the best publication and educator awards, along with the social media challenge. The winners were announced at the gala dinner that was attended by Prof. G.J. van Zyl, the dean, the faculty of health sciences and Dr. G. Taylor, the Director of Research, University of the Free State. The winner for the young pharmacologist competition for podium presentations in basic pharmacology was Jaco Fourie from the NorthWest University with a paper entitled '*Evaluation of Efavirenz on addictive-like behaviors and neurochemistry in rats*'. The first runner-up was Kim Sheva from University of Pretoria, followed by Crystal Erichsen from the NorthWest University. The winners for poster presentations were Lizahn Laing and Lloyd Tanner for Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, respectively. Both were from the University of Cape Town. The winners for the 2016 best publication award were Prof. Brian Harvey and Dr. Madeleine Uys for their article entitled '*The α_2C -adrenoceptor antagonist, ORM-10921, has antipsychotic-like effects in social isolation reared rats and bolsters the response to haloperidol (Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology & Biological Psychiatry 2016; 71: 108–116)*' and third places, respectively, were articles submitted by Prof. Robyn van Zyl and Prof. Christiaan Brink. Lastly, the 2016 Best Educator's Award went to Prof. V. Steenkamp from the University of Pretoria. Of note, Prof. Steenkamp succeeded Prof. Brink as the new president of the Society, thereby making history as the first female president of the Society. We are thankful to our local and international colleagues who offered their expertise as adjudicators and/or judges in each of these competitions. The gala dinner would not have been so exciting without the spectacular group of schoolchildren, 'the raising stars', who entertained the participants to a local traditional dance during which they exhibited a complex choreography.

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The South African Annual Pharmacology Conference (continued)



The 'raising stars' are a group of school children who performed traditional dances at the Gala dinner then joined some of the delegates for a photograph.

Sponsors

The organisers and SASBCP are grateful to the sponsors, particularly the South African Medical Council (SAMRC), which was also the first to respond to our request, for making this conference a success. The other prominent sponsors included the National Research Foundation (NRF), cover underwrote travel costs of an international speaker and Servier Laboratories for supporting workshop registration fees for twenty (20) young scientists. Other supporters were the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the national Department of Health (DoH) for sponsoring several local and international speakers, and students, as well as Boehringer Ingelheim for the educator award, and, of course, we thank all our exhibitors.

Prof. A. Walubo
Organizing Committee Chair

Please note that only opening and international speakers have been featured in photographs due to space limitations.





The 2nd Joint Meeting of the Chinese Pharmacological Society and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics

November 2-5, 2017 in Hangzhou, China

In order to further facilitate international communication and cooperation, the first joint meeting between the Chinese Pharmacological Society (CNPHARS) and the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET) was held in conjunction with Experimental Biology in San Diego, USA during 2014. It was chaired by Richard Neubig, who was President of ASPET at the time. As agreed by the partnering societies, the 2nd CNPHARS-ASPET joint meeting was held in Hangzhou, China on November 2-5, 2017. More than 220 delegates from China and the USA attended the event. Leaders and executive members from both groups participated in the proceedings. ASPET honored CNPHARS by sending several high-ranking leaders, including Profs. Edward Morgan (President-Elect), John Tesmer (Secretary-General), Margaret Gnegy (Secretary-General-Elect), and Charles France (Past Secretary-General).

The opening ceremony was held at Hangzhou Baima Lake Jianguo Hotel on the morning of November 3rd. Prof. Yonghe Zhang (CNPHARS Secretary-General - photo at right) hosted



the ceremony and Prof. Yongxiang Zhang (Meeting Co-Chair, CNPHARS President, - photo at left) welcomed the attendees and expressed his sincere gratitude to the Zhejiang University of Traditional Chinese

Medicine and the Zhejiang Pharmacological Society for co-hosting the joint meeting. Then he gave a brief overview of the progress in China for pharmacology and new drug research and development. Finally, he urged the participants to promote the communication and cooperation between China and USA in pharmacology and drug development. Prof. John D. Schuetz (Meeting Co-Chair, ASPET President - photo



2nd Joint Meeting of ASPET and CNPHARS (continued)



The group convened at Hangzhou Baima Lake Jianguo Hotel for the joint meeting.

at right) then offered the audience a brief description of the history and mission of ASPET. Dr. Jinhui Gu (Director of the Department of Science and Education Division of the National Health and Family Planning Commission of China - photo at right), warmly congratulated the meeting organizers, and highlighted the progress and achievements of the National Science and Technology Major Projects for Major New Drugs R&D. He was confident the joint meeting would provide a great communication platform for pharmacologists from China and USA to explore innovative approaches to developing new therapeutics in China. To meet that goal, the joint meeting featured two symposia entitled *Molecular Pharmacology and Drug Discovery* and *Traditional Medicines and Natural Products in Treating Disease*.

The Molecular Pharmacology and New Drug Discovery session was co-chaired by Prof. Guanhua Du (CNPHARS Past President) and Dr. David R. Sibley (ASPET Past President). The keynote address of “GPCRomics: tissue and cellular GPCR expression identifies new therapeutic targets” was delivered by Prof. Paul Insel from the University of California, San Diego. Afterward, six experts from China and the USA reported their recent findings related to drug development efforts based on G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs).

The Traditional Medicines and Natural Products on the Treatment of Diseases session was co-chaired by Prof. Jianguo Chen (CNPHARS Vice President and Huazhong University of Science & Technology Vice President) and Prof. Benedict Green (Research Pharmacologist with the United States Department of Agriculture). Prof. Yongxiang Zhang’s keynote lecture was entitled “Pharmacological study on traditional Chinese medicine and natural product in China”. He systematically introduced the pharmacological research and progresses of traditional Chinese medicine and natural products in China. Then six pharmacologists from China and USA presented recent progress in traditional Chinese medicine and natural products. The meeting participants found this session to be a particularly intriguing blend of eastern and western medicine.



2nd Joint Meeting of ASPET and CNPHARS (continued)



Symposia speakers: L → R: and top → bottom: Paul Insel, Yongxiang Zhang, Wei Wei, Mary-Ann Bjornsti, Xin Xie, Rick Neubig, Jinpeng Sun, John Tesmer, Benedict Green, Jiandong Jiang, Mary F. Paine, Zhenhua Jia, Nadja Cech, Guanhua Du.

2nd Joint Meeting of ASPET and CNPHARS (continued)

Young investigators, five from China and five from the USA, were invited to present their research on the morning of November 4th. Of this group, Amy Moritz (postdoctoral fellow of the National Institutes of Health), Shu Wiley (postdoctoral fellow of the University of California, San Diego) and Biyu Hou (doctoral candidate of the Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences) received Youth Excellent Report Awards (lower right photo). The joint meeting organizers also presented 12 young investigators with an Excellent Poster Award (lower left photo). More than 120 abstracts were published in the *Chinese Journal of Pharmacology and Toxicology* (issue 7, 2017). At the closing ceremony, Prof. Zhang, and Prof. Schuetz delivered concluding remarks on behalf of CNPHARS and ASPET, respectively.



The CNPHARS-Servier Prize for Young Investigator in Pharmacology (lower right photo) and the CNPHARS Young Pharmacologist Award (lower left photo) were presented to the winners during a ceremony co-hosted by Profs. Guanhua Du, Yonghe Zhang, and Wei Wei. Dr. Xiaoming Zhu (Macau University of Science and Technology), a 2017 recipient of the CNPHARS-Servier Prize for Young Investigator in Pharmacology, gave a speech on behalf of all the 2017 recipients. Dr. Jean-Luc Picker, Head of Scientific Relations at North Asia, Schweitzer, delivered a congratulatory speech on behalf of the French Academy of Servier. Prof. Yongxiang Zhang encouraged young pharmacologists to remain humble and pursue excellence with a sense of responsibility.



The strong academic atmosphere of this conference allowed the attendees to learn through the presentations and discussion some of the latest progress in the field of GPCR-related drug R&D as well as the pharmacological aspects of traditional Chinese medicine and natural medicine in China and abroad. The joint meeting fulfilled its purpose to promote academic communication and cooperation between Chinese and American scientists. The meeting organizers have already begun laying the plans for the 3rd CNPHARS-ASPET Joint Meeting to be held in Orlando, USA, in April 2019.

Yan Huang, Beijing Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology
Xiaorui Zhang, Beijing Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology
Ying Zhao, Chinese Pharmacological Society
Wenxia Zhou, Beijing Institute of Pharmacology and Toxicology



The ASPET and CNPHARS leadership