



# PSNA News

Phytochemical Society of North America  
Sociedad Fitoquímica de América del Norte  
Société Phytochimique de L'Amérique du Nord

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Fall 2019

## President's Message



Dear PSNA members,

Greetings from Jonesboro! It was so nice to see familiar faces and many new ones at the 58th PSNA annual meeting in Johnson City, TN. I would like to thank Profs. Celia McIntosh and Dharendra Kumar (East Tennessee State University), the co-chairs of the event for putting a great meeting together. As usual, the oral presentations were excellent and the quality of the posters made the job of the judges quite hard. Thank you to all the volunteers from East Tennessee State University for your support at the meeting.

I would like to thank Dr. Deyu Xie (North Carolina State University) for his excellent leadership as PSNA President during the 2018- 2019 period. Thank you also to all the members of the Executive and Advisory Committees for their hard work on maintaining and expanding PSNA during the past year. Particular thanks go to Dr. Mark Berhow (USDA) for his dedication in editing and publishing our newsletter, to Dr. Mark Lange (Washington State University) for revamping our website, to Dr. Dharendra Kumar for his excellent efforts in managing the PSNA finances, and to Dr. Reinhard Jetter (University of Vancouver) for his continuous service as editor of *Phytochemistry Reviews*.

A great highlight from the 2019 meeting was witnessing the Life Membership Award presented to Prof. Fred Stevens (Oregon State University). With his characteristic wit he gave us an inspiring message and reminded us of the importance of helping each other, investing in each other, and collaborating. This year was no exception to the quality of young investigators nominated for the Neish Award. The 2019 win-

ners include Dr. Ruthie Angelovici (University of Missouri Columbia), Dr. Patrick Horn (East Carolina University), and Dr. Dylan Kosma (University of Nevada Reno). My favorite duty as new PSNA President was announcing the winners of the Poster Presentations and Travel Awards at the banquet. Your energy and smiles were infectious and inspiring. You represent PSNA at your university/industry and our society's future. I invite you to keep being engaged members of the PSNA community.

Congratulation to Dr. Dorothea Tholl (Virginia Tech), our new President-Elect! Thank you for your leadership and willingness to serve. I look forward to working with you on behalf of the PSNA.

There are two exciting developments to announce. The first one is the rebirth of the Young Members Committee. It is great to see the enthusiasm, ideas, and leadership that this group is bringing. This great team includes Dr. Armando Alcázar-Magaña (Oregon State University), Dr. Lucas Busta (University of Nebraska Lincoln), Dr. Monica

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2020 Meeting in Kelowna, BC Canada

The web PDF version can be downloaded from the website: [www.pсна-online.org](http://www.pсна-online.org).



WWW.PSNA-ONLINE.ORG



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Past PSNA Presidents

## The Phytochemical Society of North America

The Phytochemical Society of North America (PSNA) is a nonprofit scientific organization whose membership is open to anyone with an interest in phytochemistry and the role of plant substances in related fields. Annual membership dues are U.S. \$60 for regular members and \$30 for student members. Annual meetings featuring symposium topics of current interest and contributed papers by conference participants are held throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. PSNA meetings provide participants with exposure to the cutting-edge research of prominent international scientists, but are still small enough to offer informality and intimacy that are conducive to the exchange of ideas. This newsletter is circulated to members to keep them informed of upcoming meetings and developments within the society, and to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas. If you would like additional information about the PSNA, or if you have material that you would like included in the newsletter, please contact the PSNA Secretary or visit our website at [www.pсна-online.org](http://www.pсна-online.org). Annual dues and changes of address should be sent to the PSNA Treasurer. Also check the PSNA website for regular updates.

*The PSNA is an all volunteer organization which depends on its membership to run the organization.* We appreciate the time and effort these volunteers are putting in to keep the organization up and running. As a member, please consider volunteering to serve on one of these committees. The PSNA can always use more help!

#### PSNA EXECUTIVES

##### President

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Borghi (Max Planck), Aaron Birchfield (East Tennessee University), and Cody Bekkering (UC Davis) advised by Dr. Lloyd Sumner (University of Missouri Columbia). I look forward to supporting the initiatives young PSNA members are interested in pursuing. The second announcement has to do with a new travel award sponsored by The Plant Journal and PSNA. This award focuses on post-doctoral researchers that are in the transition to an independent career. Details of the requirements, deadlines, and other important information regarding this award will be widely disseminated via our website, Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn accounts.

As you know, the 59th PSNA annual meeting will take place from June 21-24, 2020 at the campus of the University of British Columbia in Kelowna, BC, Canada. We thank Dr. Soheil Mahmoud for taking the leadership of the organizing committee! A website for registration, abstract submission, and information on travel details and accommodations will be released soon. Please save the date to join us at this annual event in beautiful Canada!

I would like to express my appreciation for all of you, the PSNA members. Your engagement makes this wonderful society possible. The annual meeting is our key gathering to come together, exchange research ideas, mentor students, and build a bright future together. We need your continued engagement and support. Please consider nominating candidates for the Neish Award and send that information to Dr. Björn Hamberger, Chairman of the Awards Committee.

In closing, I would like to invite all PSNA members to provide new ideas and suggestion to energize our

group and make it better. You can send comments or suggestions to [alorence@astate.edu](mailto:alorence@astate.edu). I commit to do my best to serve the PSNA.

Best regards,

Argelia Lorence (Arkansas State University)  
PSNA President 2019-2020

## Job Listings

<http://www.pсна-online.org/jobs.html>

Four Year research position for a masters student for PhD study at The Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena, Germany. Apply to to Dr. Sybille Unsicker ([phdgrassland@ice.mpg.de](mailto:phdgrassland@ice.mpg.de)). The application deadline is November 17th 2019. Posted October 4, 2019.

Two tenure-track faculty positions in the Department of Biochemistry, which is a joint academic division within the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR) and the School of Medicine (SOM) The University of Missouri (MU). To apply, visit <https://biochem.missouri.edu/open-positions/>, posted October 1, 2019

Postdoctoral Position: Plant Metabolomics & Plant-Mite Interaction, Department of Biology, University of Western Ontario, London, ONT Canada. Cover letter, CV, and three references to Prof. Mark Bernards ([bernards@uwo.ca](mailto:bernards@uwo.ca)) and Vava Grbic ([vgrbic@uwo.ca](mailto:vgrbic@uwo.ca)). Posted September 30, 2019

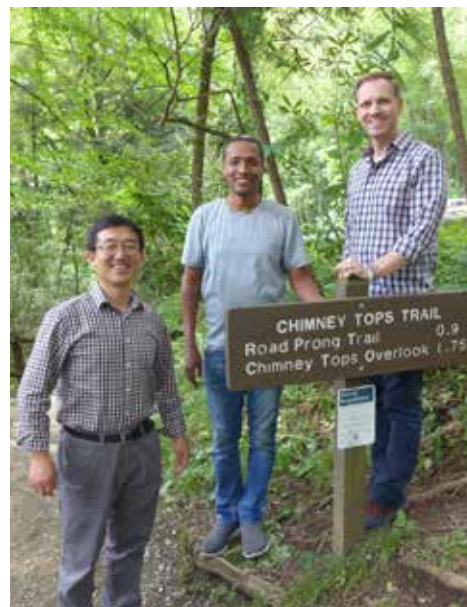
Postdoctoral position in plant biochemistry, biosensors monitoring environmental responses, Doherty Lab, North Carolina State University. Inquiries [cjdohert@ncsu.edu](mailto:cjdohert@ncsu.edu) Send application to <https://jobs.ncsu.edu/postings/122589> Posted August 30, 2019

Assistant or Associate Professor of Plant Synthetic Biology, School of Integrative Plant Science, Plant Biology Section, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Cornell University. Inquiries: Search Chair Assoc. Prof. Adrienne Roeder ([ahr75@cornell.edu](mailto:ahr75@cornell.edu)) or Search Coordinator Karin Jantz ([kpg2@cornell.edu](mailto:kpg2@cornell.edu)). Posted August 15, 2019.

Postdoctoral Position on Plant Metabolism, Maeda Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Send application to [maeda2@wisc.edu](mailto:maeda2@wisc.edu) posted Aug 8, 2019

Laboratory Manager for a state of the art mass spectrometry-based facility to support tissue imaging, proteomics, lipidomics and metabolomics research. For more information contact David Gang ([gangd@wsu.edu](mailto:gangd@wsu.edu), 509-335-0550) Posted August 7, 2019

For more details visit the PSNA webpage at <http://www.pсна-online.org/jobs.html>



## 58th Annual Meeting of the Phytochemical Society of North America July 20-24 Johnson City, Tennessee



Meeting Organizers Cecelia McIntosh and Dhirendra Kumar

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Phytochemical Society of North America was held at the Carnegie Hotel in Johnson City, Tennessee from July 20-24, 2019.

Attendance was strong with the 110 attendees filling the meeting space. The symposium topics crossed a broad range of phytochemistry research including: Natural Product Metabolism: Pathway Discovery and Regulation; Natural Product Enzymology: Bridging the Gap between Bioinformatics and Biochemical Function; Secondary Metabolites of Bryophytes, Ferns, and Lycophytes: Enormous Diversity from Primitive Plants; Advances in Phytochemical Tools and Applications; Chemical Ecology: Interactions of Plants with Other Organisms; Signaling in Development, Stress, and Defense; Translational Phytochemistry: Commercialization of Discoveries; Natural Products in Agriculture: Harnessing the Potential of Secondary Metabolites to Improve Crop Function; Natural Products in Medicine: Drug Development and Discovery; and the Neish New Investigator Award Symposium.



Speaker and contributing photographer Prof. Yoshinori Asakawa



Young Members Committee Chair Armando Alcázar Magaña and President-Elect Dorothea Tholl



The Young Members held a luncheon to discuss “Improving Writing Skills – How to Get a Scientific Paper Accepted for Publication”.

Special thanks to donors that provided support for receptions, coffee breaks, lunch, and banquet! These included: Chromadex, Shimadzu, Current Plant Biology, The Plant Journal, BASF, and strong support from many units at East Tennessee State University; Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Research and Sponsored Programs, College of Arts and Sciences Quillen College of Medicine, Gatton College of Pharmacy, Department of Biological Sciences, Department of Health Sciences, Department of Chemistry, and the Office of the Vice President of Health Affairs. Their strong support meant that we could increase the number of travel awards given up to 17! We also experimented with early decision for travel awards so as to give awardee’s time to make travel arrangements and seek matching funding. This initiative was a big success and will be continued.

Thanks to organizers Dharendra Kumar and Cecilia McIntosh and their scientific committee members: Mark Bernards, Mark Berhow, Dorothea Tholl, Ed Cahoon, Feng Chen, Argelia Lorence, Laurence Davin, Sangeeta Dhaubhadel, Bjoern Hamberger, Daniel Owens, Li Tian, Victoria Palau, Deyu Xie, and Philipp Zerbe.











**ARTHUR NEISH NEW  
INVESTIGATOR SYMPOSIUM**



Ruthie Angelovici  
Division of Biological Sciences  
University of Missouri Columbia,  
MO, USA

Ruthie Angelovici received her B.S. in Plant Science from the Tel Aviv University at Israel in 2001. She then joined Gad Galili's lab at the Weizmann institute at Israel where she received her PhD in plant science in 2009 researching the transcriptomic and metabolic networks, regulating Arabidopsis seed maturation and germination. From there she worked as a postdoc in the lab of Dean DellaPenna at Michigan State University researching the genetic architecture of seeds' free amino acids natural variation. In 2015 she has received a Postdoctoral Independent Career Potential Award from Michigan State University. Later that year she joined the faculty in University of Missouri, Columbia as an assistant professor in the Division of Biological science establishing her lab investigating the environmental and genetic regulation of amino acids in plant seeds.

**UNCOVERING THE METABOLIC AND GENETIC REGULATION OF FREE AND BOUND AMINO ACIDS IN SEEDS**

Amino acids play an important role in seed development maturation and desiccation. There are two functional pools of amino acids in seeds: the free, and the protein-bound amino acids. The free amino acids (FAA)

comprise 5% of the total seed amino acids in seeds and provide building blocks for proteins, as well as precursors for many biological processes that are essential for seed development, maturation, desiccation and germination. The bound amino acids (PBAA) comprise 95% of the the total amino acids (TAA), from which ~60% is deposited in seed storage proteins (SSPs). Despite our vast understanding of the metabolic pathways of amino acids, we have very little understanding of the regulation of these traits, or the interplay between them - especially in seeds. Our research aims to enhance our fundamental understanding of the FAAs and PBAAs regulation and control under standard and stress conditions, as well as uncovering their genetic basis using quantitative and reverse genetic approaches. Our studies reveal that FAAs are plastic, and potentially adaptable and their levels are, at least in part, controlled by secondary metabolisms. In contrast, PBAAs are very robust traits, and their relative composition is rigorously maintained by balanced proteomic re-programing when stress is imposed. Our data strongly suggests a distinct metabolic and genetic regulation of FAA and PBAA. Comprehensive understanding of the regulation and mode of action of this metabolic system is crucial for efficient amino acids' biofortification in seeds.



Dylan Kosma  
Department of Biochemistry and  
Molecular Biology, University of  
Nevada,  
Reno, USA, 89557

Growing up surrounded by the Shawnee National Forest and the fertile soils of the Mississippi River Delta, Dylan Kosma developed a passion for plant biology at an early age. Dylan received a B.A. and M.S. in Plant Biology from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2002 and 2005, respectively. During that time his research encompassed bryophyte desiccation tolerance and different aspects of phytoremediation including plant cyanide metabolism. In 2009, Dylan received a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Purdue University where, under the supervision of Matthew Jenks, his research was centered on the functional role of plant cuticles in drought stress tolerance, fruit maturation, and insect resistance. Dylan conducted his post-doctoral research in the lab of





John Ohlrogge and Mike Pollard at Michigan State University where he began to study the biochemistry and transcriptional regulation of suberin biosynthesis. In 2015, Dylan joined the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology faculty at the University of Nevada Reno where he continues to study the transcriptional regulation of suberin in plant defense responses.

#### PLANT BANDAGES: IDENTIFICATION of TRANSCRIPTIONAL REGULATORS OF THE PLANT WOUND HEALING PROCESS

Suberin is a heteropolymer of aliphatics and phenylpropanoids whose presence is nearly universal in the plant kingdom. It is found in specific cell types including endodermis, periderm, and seed coats. It is a major component of the “skin” or periderm of potato tubers. It is also produced in response to environmental stresses like wounding. In the US, up to 33% of the potato crop is lost during storage equating to more than

\$1 billion in crop losses each year. A large proportion of those losses can be attributed to improper wound suberin formation. Until now, little has been known about the transcriptional regulation of suberin deposition. We recently discovered and described the first transcription factor known to regulate suberin deposition, At-MYB41. Here we describe aspects of the transcriptional regulation of wound suberin deposition including the discovery of transcription factors that regulate wound suberin deposition in potato and Arabidopsis as well as their potential connection to abscisic acid (ABA) and jasmonic acid (JA) signaling pathways. This research is funded by NSF.



Patrick J. Horn Assistant Professor  
Department of Biology East Carolina University  
Greenville, North Carolina, USA

Patrick Horn received his B.S. in Biochemistry from The University of Texas at Austin in 2008. He then joined Kent Chapman’s lab at the University of North Texas where he received a Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 2013 researching enabling technologies to analyze plant lipids. From there he worked as a postdoc in the labs of John Ohlrogge and Christoph Benning at Michigan State University researching areas of lipid droplet biosynthesis and unusual fatty acid production. In 2018, the International Plant Lipid Symposium presented him with the Paul K. Stumpf award recognizing an outstanding early-career plant lipid researcher. Later that year, he joined the faculty at East Carolina University as an assistant professor in the Department of Biology establishing his own research lab investigating plant lipids.

#### PEROXIREDOXIN Q ACTIVATES AN UNUSUAL FATTY ACID DESATURASE THROUGH REDOX REGULATION IN ARABIDOPSIS THALIANA

Thylakoid membrane lipids comprised of glycolipids and the phospholipid phosphatidylglycerol (PG) are essential for proper plant growth and development, functioning of the photosynthetic apparatus, and responding to dynamic environments. Unlike other lipid classes, chloro-

plast PG contains a substantial proportion of the unusual trans fatty acid 16:1 $\Delta$ 3trans (16:1t). Given the near universal presence of 16:1t in chloroplasts across the plant kingdom, we pursued a deeper investigation into the biosynthesis, turnover, and biochemical functions of chloroplast PG and 16:1t. We determined that in Arabidopsis thaliana, 16:1t biosynthesis requires both FATTY ACID DESATURASE4 (FAD4) and a thylakoid-associated redox protein, PEROXIREDOXIN Q (PRXQ), to produce normal levels of 16:1t. Co-expression of FAD4 and PRXQ in yeast resulted in the production of new, unusual  $\Delta$ 3 fatty acids suggesting a stimulation of FAD4 activity. Given that other chloroplast-located peroxiredoxins were not associated with unusual fatty acid production in Arabidopsis or yeast this FAD4-PRXQ relationship appears very specific. Assaying FAD4 and PRXQ transgenics in yeast and Arabidopsis revealed (1) a potential redox mechanism for FAD4 stimulation, (2) essential acidic residues for FAD4’s catalytic activity, (3) an essential C-terminal domain required for FAD4’s activity and stability, and (4) an association of FAD4 activity with copper-mediated biochemical pathways.

“This was my first time attending a PSNA meeting. It was an extremely comfortable and supportive environment for researchers at all levels from undergraduates to professors. There was a wide array of topics and perspectives that provided a lively conversation that is a great reflection of quality of attendees and organizers. ETSU, Carnegie Hotel and Johnson, City was a very nice and intimate venue for this meeting. I will definitely attend another PSNA meeting in the future.”



### PSNA Loewis Travel Award Winners 2019

Armando Alcazar, Oregon State University, oral presentation “Characterization of Botanical Extracts by Integration of Mass Spectral Fingerprinting with Precursor Ion Quantification: Application to Extracts of *Centella asiatica*.”

Rebecca Barone, University of Hawaii, poster, “Quantification of Phytochemicals in Hawaiian Medicinal Plants”.

Monica Borghi, Max Plank Institute, oral presentation “Metabolomics of Flower Anthesis”

Lucas Busta, University of Nebraska, oral presentation “The diversity, Activity, Biosynthesis, and Evolution of Bioactive Polyacetylenes in *Daucus carota*”.

Talita Freire, Washington State University, poster presentation “Chemophenetics of Mezilaurus Clade (Lauraceae)”.

Arielle Johnson, Cornell University, poster presentation “Creation of a Pipeline to Analyze Intraspecific Variation in Common Milkweed Latex Chemistry”.

Rika Judd, North Carolina State University, oral presentation “Artemisinin is Synthesized in Hidden Places: A New Hope for the Anti-malarial Medicine”.

Carmen Lea, University of Victoria, poster presentation “Purification and Biological Activity of a Diarylheptanoid Compound Found in Leaves and Bark of *Alnus rubra* (Red Alder)”.

Mingzhou Li, North Carolina State University, poster presentation “Different Induced 4-Coumarate:CoA Ligases Regulate Phenylpropanoids Metabolism Branch into Lignin and Flavonoids Pathways in Tea Plant”

Donna Liebelt, North Carolina State University, poster presentation “The Hidden Impacts of Climate Change: Effects of Altered Thermal Patterns on Phytochemical Profiles”.

Qingyan Meng, Washington State University, oral presentation “Probing Dirigent Protein Biochemical Mechanisms in Diverse Metabolic Pathways”.

Joey Ooka, University of Hawaii, poster presentation “The Search for Novel Herbicidal Natural Products in Strawberry Guava”.

Nicole Parsley, North Carolina State University, poster presentation “Novel Bioactive Peptides in *Viola inconspicua*”.

Josh Polito, Washington State University, poster presentation “Biochemical Evaluation of a Unique Pair of Ferredoxin and Ferridoxin NADP+ Reductase Isoforms in Non-photosynthetic Glandular Trichomes”.

Radhakrishnan Sri Vedavyasa Sri, University of Mississippi, poster presentation “Phytochemical and Biological Evaluation of Some Nigerian Plants”.

Miguel Rebollo-Hernanz, University of Illinois, Urbana, poster presentation “Relationship of the Phytochemical Composition of Extracts from Coffee and Cocoa By-products and Their *In Vitro* Potential Against Inflammation, Oxidative Stress, Adipogenesis, and Diabetes”.

Shengbo Yao, Anhui Agricultural University, oral presentation “Discovery and Characterization of Tannase Genes in Plants”.

Gordon Younkin, Cornell University, poster presentation “Exploring Phytochemical Diversity in Inga (Fabaceae) Using MSMS-based Molecular Networking”.





### **Best Presentations, Undergraduate**

Sarah Fox,  
East Tennessee State University

“I do research in Dr. Cecilia McIntosh’s lab on a mutant grapefruit glucosyltransferase for an Honors thesis. I enjoyed having the opportunity to present at the 2019 PSNA meeting and was honored to receive an award. This experience has proved to be valuable to me as I pursue a career in Osteopathic Medicine.”

Baylea Davenport,  
East Tennessee State University

“I am a senior undergraduate at East Tennessee State University. I began research as a freshman wanting to absorb all the science knowledge I could. I could understand the concepts I was learning in class, but I wanted to understand how these things were actually being utilized in the lab. I joined Dr. Dharendra Kumar’s lab and finally began connecting the pieces of what I was learning in class. Because of this, I’m hoping to share my knowledge and love of science through genetic counseling to help educate and help those with genetic conditions. Presenting my research and helping work the PSNA conference this year opened my eyes to the community created by this organization, and I learned so many things I never would have elsewhere.”

### **Best Presentations, M.S.**

Rebecca Barone,  
University of Hawaii

Carmen Lea, University of Victoria

“First of all, I would like to thank the Phytochemical Society of North America (PSNA) for generously granting me with a Best Post Presentation award! As a first time PSNA conference attendee, I was unsure what to expect. I left the meeting having met many lifelong professional connections and feeling excited about my future as a research scientist. Throughout my education, I have studied the environmental sciences in order to pursue a career that will help to lessen the negative impacts our growing population has on the environment. Pressures in agriculture to produce more food on less land, as well as the range expansion and population increase of many invasive pests, has resulted in the increased use many chemical insecticides, and herbicides that persist in the environment and have highly toxic, off-target effects. My poster presentation outlined the bioactivity of a natural product purified from red alder (*Alnus rubra*) as a potential natural pesticide. I hope that my research will one day help to replace many of the toxic pesticides that persist in the environment with natural, biodegradable alternatives. I look forward to updating the PSNA

with the results of my research at meetings in future years. See you next year in Kelowna!”

### **Best Presentation, Ph.D.**

Gordon Younkin, Boyce Thompson Institute

### **Best Presentation, Postdoc**

Lucas Busta, University of Nebraska at Lincoln

“Though I have been interested in plants since I was a child, my interest in a career as a phytochemist began at the 2013 PSNA meeting in Corvallis, inspired by the interesting research presentations and the friendly community of scientists in attendance. Though each PSNA meeting is different, I find that each is an incredibly helpful opportunity to advance my career and learn something new about phytochemistry and those that study it. Currently, my research uses informatics to unite analytical chemistry with emerging high-throughput DNA sequencing technologies to understand the biosynthesis of plant chemicals. My career goals are to use this approach to develop and apply new knowledge about chemical biology to sustaining and improving human life and to understand the genetic basis for chemical diversity itself.”









Jan Frederick “Fred” Stevens Life Member Award

As stated in PSNA Bylaws, Article I:

“The designation Life Member is an award or recognition bestowed by the Society on members who have made significant contributions to the activities and advancement of the Society..... All Life Members shall be presented with a suitably inscribed scroll in recognition of the distinction. “

Fred Stevens has been a member of PSNA since 1998. While he attended some meetings as he could while he was in Europe, he joined the faculty at Oregon State University in 2006 and has attended all PSNA meetings since 2007. He has been a member of the Scientific Organizing Committee for several PSNA meetings and was chief organizer of the 2013 annual meeting that was held in Corvallis. He served as Vice President in 2012-13, President in 2013-14, and Past-President in 2014-15. In that capacity, he worked with other presidents in the establishment and implementation of the PSNA/Elsevier Young Investigator Award and negotiated extra funds to support recipient travel to the PSNA conference. He has served as reviewer of applications for this award and for nominations for Neish awards. He

served on the editorial board for the last couple of years of the Society’s Recent Advances in Phytochemistry series and helped with transition of RAP to PSNA having “co-ownership” of the Journal Phytochemistry Reviews - negotiating a deal with the publisher (Springer) and the PSE regarding the PSNA journal issue, editorship and royalty distribution to the PSNA. He is currently serving as a member of the PSNA Advisory Committee. Fred was a recipient of an Elsevier/Phytochemistry Certificate of Excellence in Reviewing in recognition of “an outstanding contribution to the quality of the journal”. These are just some of the many contributions Fred has made to PSNA over the years. One thing that this list of contributions hints at is Fred’s commitment to this excellent all-volunteer society, now celebrating its 58th anniversary. Fred is one of the first to step up when an issue is identified to contribute either advice or action as needed. On behalf of the Society, it is an honor for me to present this PSNA Life Member Award to Fred Stevens!

#### **Future Meeting Committee**

Dorothea Tholl (Chair),  
Sangeeta Dhaubhadel (Vice Chair),  
Philipp Zerbe (member),  
Denisse Atenea de Loera Carrera (member)

#### **Membership Committee**

Dhirenda Kumar (Chair),  
Daniel Owens (member)

#### **Young Members Committee**

Lloyd Sumner (Chair),  
Armando Alcazar (Co-Chair OSU),  
Cody Bekkering (member, UC-D),  
Lucas Busta (member, UN-L)

#### **Awards & Recognition Committee**

Björn Hamberger (Chair),  
Argelia Lorence (member),  
Deyu Xie (member)

#### **Website Updates and Newsletter**

Mark Berhow  
(berhowma@comcast.net)  
Mark Lange (lange-m@wsu.edu)

## **PSNA Newsletters Back Issue Catalog**

Recently Dr. John Romeo, a Past PSNA President and a Life Time Member of the PSNA, sent his collection of back issues of the *PSNA Newsletter* dating back to 1976 to the current editor. These have now been scanned to PDF digital format and have recently been posted on the PSNA website. This expands our collection of back issues that had only gone back to 2000 or so.

This is a unique collection that catalogs the events and proceedings of the PSNA meetings as well as providing some interesting articles on the state of phytochemical research over the years. If you get a chance go to the PSNA website and click the publications link, download some of the newsletter sets and enjoy!



## PSNA Young Members' Committee Workshop

Panel discussion "Improving Writing Skills – How to Get a Scientific Paper Accepted for Publication"

Panelists: Reinhard Jetter, Fred Stevens, Toni Kutchan, Norman Lewis  
By Armando Alcázar Magaña (Post-doctoral Research Associate, Oregon State University)

At the 2019 meeting of the PSNA, the Young Members' Committee organized, what we consider, an exceptional workshop. The topic, publication acceptance, is especially important for us as young scientists. As we all know, the skills required to write a manuscript are not entirely the same as those required to get that same manuscript published. This workshop provided insight into the publishing process, types of journals that may be most appropriate for phytochemical research, and the peer-review process. The speakers highlighted the most common mistakes and main reasons why a paper is rejected. The workshop also provided ideas to attract readers and citations to your manuscript and publishing ethics.

I believe this was one of the most useful workshops I ever attended, and as co-organizer of this panel, I was quite anxious and hoping that everything worked well. I realize, now, that nothing can possibly go wrong in a writing skills panel with these four giants in the field of scientific writing: Reinhard Jetter, Fred Stevens, Toni Kutchan and Norman Lewis. Our panelists enlightened us with priceless, useful, and personal experience in the how-to of writing skills around the following issues: Common beginner mistakes, open-access versus subscription-based journals, data manipulation (publication ethics), keeping experimental



records for years after publication among others. Particularly, I believe that if we understand and follow the advice provided, we will have fewer headaches as our careers develop. I will always remember how they explained why it is better to not reply immediately after a manuscript rejection. I can summarize by saying we shouldn't say something that we will regret later, so let yourself feel the emotions that go along with rejections and then once you are calm and collected reply.

Another reason for the success of this panel is that PSNA attendees are the best listeners! In our welcoming meetings, all attendees are able to connect since there are no simultaneous talks or sessions, such as in huge conferences. We all can connect ideas from previous speakers.

Another factor that makes this a successful workshop, in addition to the tireless work of the PSNA meeting

organizers, are the energetic members of our Young Members' Committee. We, the YMC, are fortunate to have enthusiastic and dynamic members: Monica Borghi from the Max Planck Institute, Aaron Birchfield from East Tennessee State University, Cody Bekkering from UC Davis and Lucas Busta from University of Nebraska Lincoln.

In my personal opinion, the PSNA annual meeting is an exceptional conference for young researchers working on plant natural products to engage, network and enjoy. It provides many opportunities to interact with leaders in the field, brings together scientists with considerably diverse expertise, and always provides a community-oriented atmosphere that encourages connection. So, I hope to see you and many other young members attending the 2020 Annual Meeting in Kelowna, BC, Canada.



**PSNA  
2020**

**KELOWNA  
CANADA  
06/21-24**

**PHYTOCHEMICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA  
SOCIÉTÉ PHYTOCHIMIQUE DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU NORD  
SOCIEDAD FITOQUÍMICA DE AMÉRICA DEL NORTE**

**UBC Okanagan Campus, Kelowna, BC  
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