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PHYTOCHEMICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

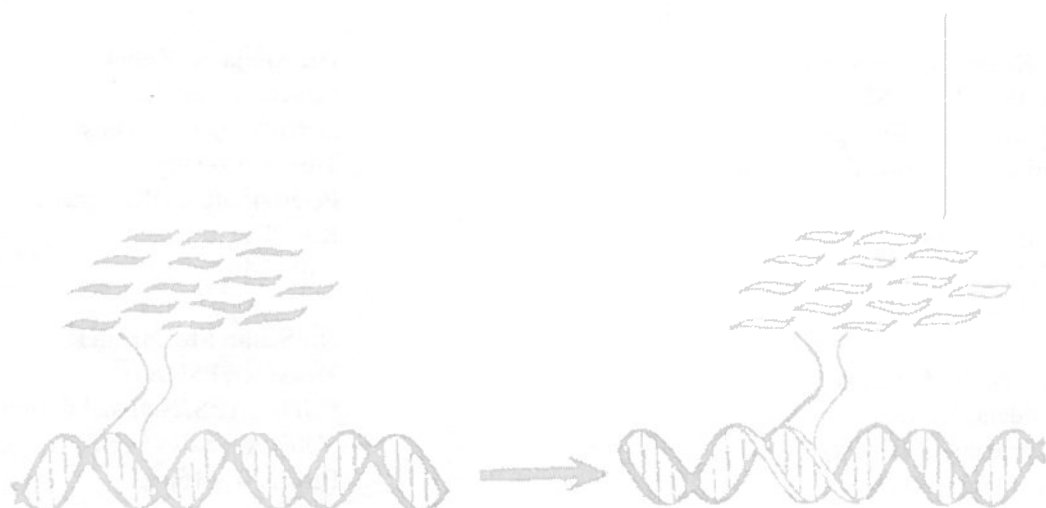
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Newsletter



• Volume 37, Number 1 • October 1997 •

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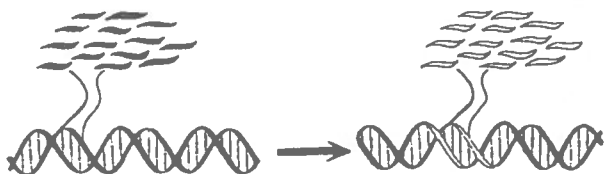
PSNA Advisory Committee

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Dr. David Seigler (1996)
Dr. Brian Ellis (1997)

Dr. Murray Isman (1998)
Dr. James Saunders (1999)

PSNA Newsletter

Editor: **Dr. Alicja M. Zobel**
Associate Editor: **Dr. Stewart A. Brown**



The Phytochemical Society of North America is a nonprofit scientific organization whose membership (currently over 400) is open to anyone with an interest in Phytochemistry, the role of plant substances, and related fields. Annual membership dues are U.S. \$20.00 for regular members and \$10.00 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. A newsletter is circulated to members several times a year to keep them informed of upcoming meetings and developments within the society.

If you would like additional information about the PSNA or if you have material to be included in the newsletter, please contact to the Society Secretary. Annual dues and changes in addresses should be sent to the Society Treasurer.

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From the Editor

The April date of our annual meeting this year with the Phytochemical Society of Europe has led to some difficulties, since it was months in advance of the usual time for our annual meeting. Your executive therefore decided that mailing of the ballots for the election of the Society's officers, which is usually in early summer, would have to be postponed this year, and that they would be included in the fall issue of the *Newsletter*. You will find them at the end of this issue. Please exercise your franchise and return your ballot before the deadline indicated, November 30.

You should all have received ballots this past summer from our treasurer for voting on proposed changes to our Society's bylaws, which are reprinted here on page 2, together with the results of the voting.

With the election of a new executive the duties of the secretary, which include the publication of this *Newsletter*, will pass from my hands, and the next issue will have a new editor and a new locale of publication. We believe that the *Newsletter* has always served a valuable purpose, and my associate editor, Stewart Brown, and I have welcomed and enjoyed the opportunity to serve

the membership in our editorial capacities. We hope that to some degree we have continued the process of improving its quality and scope that has been an ongoing process from the very outset under Helen Stafford's editorship, and which was ably pursued by James Wallace, Constance Nozzolillo, James Saunders, George Wagner and Helen Habermann. We wish the new editor every success. ■

The Editor

The 1997 Joint Meeting of the PSNA and the Phytochemical

As attendance of PSNA members at this meeting was limited, a general business meeting could not be held this year. The PSNA Executive Committee met with the Advisory Council April 22, and the election of officers was discussed. To facilitate the efficient operation of the Society the following changes to the bylaws and constitution were recommended, and are shown here in **bold type**:

Bylaws

Article II Duties of Elected Officers, Section 4. Secretary.The Secretary shall be responsible for publication and distribution to the membership of newsletters (add) **and maintaining the PSNA web page.**

Constitution

Article VI Election of Officers, Section 1. Election of officers shall be by a simple majority of returned election ballots distributed to the membership by the Secretary (delete) **at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting of the Society.** Nominations by the membership for Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer will be sent to the immediate Past President; (delete) **for this purpose, a deadline and nomination ballot form shall be published in the Newsletter at least four months prior to the Annual Meeting.** A nominating committee consisting of the immediate Past President as Chairperson and two members appointed by the President shall prepare a slate for Vice-President (delete) **that will consist of the two names most nominated by**

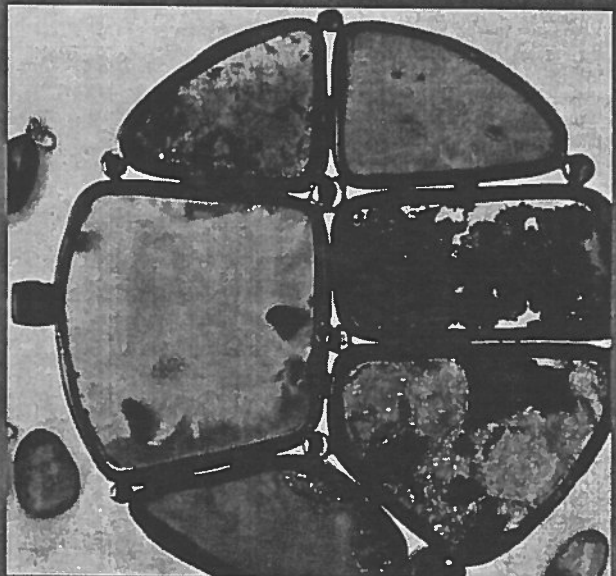
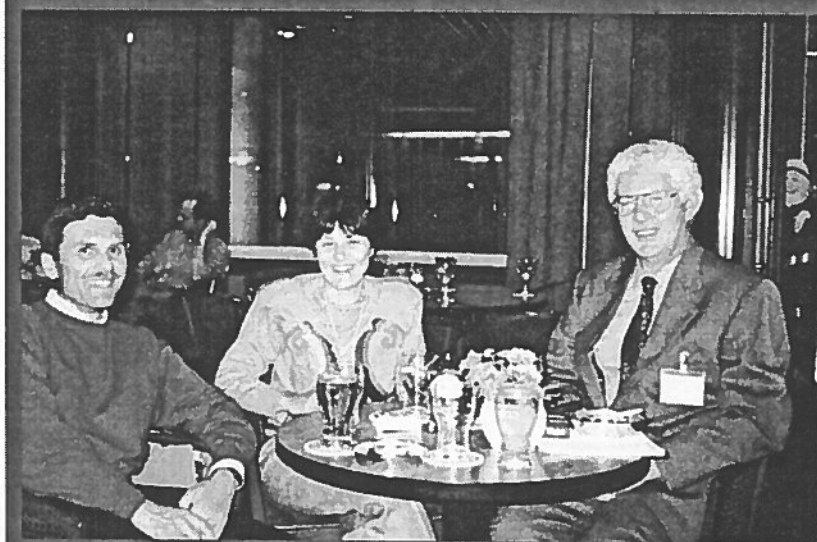
the membership-at-large, willing to run, plus one name selected by the nominating committee if they desire; a minimum of two names for Vice-President shall be presented for voting.

Because of the early meeting in Leiden this year, no election of officers has yet been held. To have an election NOW required a change in our constitution. Since having distinguished scientists compete for offices seemed detrimental to morale in a small society, the above constitutional changes were proposed.

Past President Klaus Fischer, who oversaw this vote, has asked that you be notified in this issue that the changes were approved by the membership in this mail vote, and are now in effect.

A small selection of photographs from the meeting is reproduced on the facing page. To make up a complete page, your editor has included a photograph of some unusual jewelry featuring a fossilized secondary plant product, amber, regretting only that it can't be reproduced here in its striking original color!

Society of Europe in April in Leiden, The Netherlands



PHYTOCHEMICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Report of the Treasurer

PHYTOCHEMICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA
Interim Financial Report (01 January 1997 - 01 October 1997)

RECEIPTS

Membership dues	\$3965.00
Plenum Publishing – royalties, page charges on RAP	4658.91
Interest on Checking Account	102.72
Rental of Mailing lists	200.00
1996 meeting refund	3012.67
Total Receipts	\$11939.30

EXPENDITURES

Executive Committee Expenses

- Treasurer (ballots, dues notices)	279.98
- Editor, RAP	1000.00
Travel – Executive Committee	1500.00
Foreign check service charges	8.00
Checking account service charges	24.75
Speaker travel 1996 meeting	1400.00
Total Expenditures	\$5242.73

Assets

Checking Account	\$14,926.14
Savings (CDs)	32,617.50
Total	\$ 47,543.64

Respectfully submitted,

Susan P. McCormick, Treasurer

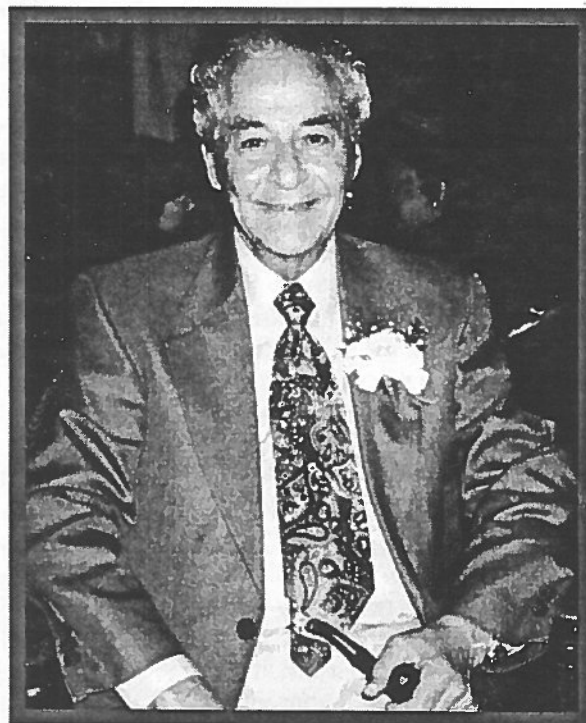
Susan McCormick

Ragai Ibrahim Honoured With Life Membership

The Phytochemical Society of North America has made Prof. Ragai K. Ibrahim of Concordia University its newest life member.

Ragai, a native of Egypt, received his MSc at Alexandria and his PhD under Neil Towers at McGill. His reputation in the field of plant secondary metabolism is well established, and in 1994 an issue of *Phytochemistry* was dedicated to him, with most of the articles being written by former students and collaborators. Ragai has been active in the Canadian and American Societies of Plant Physiology, and has made many valuable contributions to the PSNA, of which he was President in 1983-84.

Members of the Society offer him our congratulations, and best wishes in his retirement.



Student Awards

The following 20 students, whose names are shown with their institutional affiliations, and who attended and presented a poster at this year's PSNA/PSE symposium last April, received three years' free student membership in the PSNA:

Ms. S. Aymes
INRA de Jouy-en-Josas

Mr. M. Bah
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Mr. R. Gomez-Vasquez
University of Bath

Mr. D. Hallard
Leiden University

Mr. Y. Han
University of Bath

Mr. V. Kerber
Leiden University

Ms. W. Klever
Institut für Landwirtschaftliche Botanik
Bonn

Mr. P. Laflamme
Université de Montréal

Ms. G. Lutz-Kutschera
Institut für Organische Chemie
Wien

Ms. S. Marles
University of Saskatchewan

Ms. Andayani Budi Muljono
Leiden University

Mr. B. Nicolet
University of Neuchatel

Mr. R. Raemakers
University of Durham

Ms. M. Regvar
University of Ljubljana

Ms. S. Richard
Centre de Recherche en Biologie
Forestiere
Québec

Ms. M. Ristic
University of Belgrade

Ms. C. Schopfer
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität

Mr. S. Tamogami
Ibaraki University

Mr. F. Vazquez-Flota
Université de Montréal

Ms. M. Verberne
Leiden University

Upcoming Meetings

Phytochemical Society of North America

The 1998 meeting, being organized by Profs. N.G. Lewis and G.H.N. Towers, will be held at Washington State University on July 26-31, with the focus being *Phytochemicals in Human Health Protection and Nutrition, and in Plant Defense*. In addition to a variety of invited speakers, the conference will solicit various abstracts for both oral and poster presentations, as well as host a graduate student/postdoctoral Best Paper Award. Arrangements have been made to provide bus transportation from the polyphenol Conference in Bend, Oregon (see below) to WSU on July 25. The deadline for abstracts will be next March 1. Full details, and forms for registration and abstract submission, will appear in the next issue of the *Newsletter*. In the meantime any inquiries should be addressed to The Program Committee, 1998 PSNA Meeting, Institute of Biological Chemistry, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-6340, U.S.A. (Telephone 509 335-3412, FAX 335-7643, E-mail lewis@wsu.edu)

Other Meetings of Interest

Workshop on the Biochemistry of Plant Phytate and Phytases
Copenhagen, Denmark, 1997 October 25-28. This is the first meeting on this subject, which endeavors to bring together representatives from all areas of plant phytase research, in nine years. The scientific program will include presentations on chemistry of myo-inositol phosphates in plants, biosyntheses of phytate, biochemistry of plant phytases, physiology, agronomic importance of phytase, and new relevant techniques. Contact Soren K. Rasmussen, Riso National Laboratory Mil-301, Box 49, DK- 4000 Roskilde, Denmark (FAX 45 46 32 33 83, Email soren.rasmussen@risoe.dk)

Antitumour Products in Higher Plants
Paris, France, 1998 January. Organized by the Phytochemical Society of Europe. Topics are biosynthesis and activity of anticancer compounds extracted from higher plants. Paper deadline 1997 July. Contact Prof. F. Tillequin, CNRS URA 1310, Faculté de Pharmacie, Université René Descartes, Paris V, rue de l'Observatoire, 75270 Paris Cédex 06. (Telephone 33 1 43 29 12 08, FAX 40 46 96 58)

Plant Cell Biology (a Keystone Symposium on Molecular Biology)
Taos, New Mexico, 1998 January 13-19. Symposia and workshops, and poster sessions on protein trafficking; cytoskeleton and cell wall; cell-cell interactions; cellular machinery influencing the cell cycle, cell division, photomorphogenesis, development and cell death; signaling pathways; metabolic compartmentalization. Deadline for abstract submission has passed. Contact Keystone Symposia at Drawer 1630, Silverthorne, CO 80498, U.S.A. (Telephone 800 253-0685 or 970 262-1230; FAX 970 262-1525; Email keystone@symposia.com; web site <http://www.colorado.net/symposia>)

Biosynthesis of Isoquinoline, Indole and Related Alkaloids
Istanbul, Turkey, 1998 April. Organized by the Phytochemical Society of Europe. Topics are biosynthesis of indole and isoquinoline alkaloids, pharmaceutical properties, biotransformations. Paper deadline 1998 January. Contact Prof. G. Sariyar, Faculty of Pharmacy, Istanbul University, 34452 Beyazit, Istanbul. (Telephone 90 212 526 0737, FAX 519 0812)

Progress in Phytochemistry
Kerkrade, The Netherlands, 1998 May 10-13. This symposium is to provide a forum from which young scientists can make an oral or poster presentation of their research, meet other young scien-

tists working in a range of areas of phytochemistry, and discuss their own research with a group of distinguished research leaders. Paper deadline 1998 March. Contact Prof. A.W. Alfermann, Institut für Entwicklungs- und Molekularbiologie der Pflanzen, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Universitätstrasse 1, Geb. 26-13, D-40225 Düsseldorf, Germany. (Telephone 49-211-811-4603, FAX 811-3035)

7th Conference on the Application of Chromatographic Methods in Phytochemical & Biomedical Analysis
Lublin, Poland, 1998 June 18-20. Main themes will include all chromatographic techniques and hyphenated methods applied in phytochemical analysis, sample preparation and isolation of biologically active substances. Deadline for abstract submission 1998 April 15. Contact Prof. Kazimierz Glowniak, Department of Pharmacognosy, University Medical Academy, ul. Peowiakow 12, 20-007 Lublin, Poland. (Telephone 48 81 532 33 14, FAX 532 59 03)

Taxoids: Sources, and Biological, Chemical and Pharmacological Aspects
Warsaw, Poland, 1998 June 24-25. The main scientific themes will include all techniques applied in *Taxus* and taxoid investigations: chemical, biological and biotechnological methods. Deadline for abstract submission 1998 February 28. Contact Dr. Mirosława Furmanowa, Department of Biology and Pharmaceutical Botany, Faculty of Pharmacy, Medical Academy, Banacha 1, 02-097 Warsaw. (Telephone 48 22 23 59 84; FAX 25 73 00)

VII International Congress of Ecology
 Florence, Italy, 1998 July 19-25. New
 Tasks for Ecologists After Rio 1992. The
 following general themes are offered:
 perspectives in global ecology, ecologi-
 cal theory and modelling, landscape ecol-
 ogy, environmental chemistry and
 ecotoxicology, ecological management of
 natural resources, and sustainable land
 use, problems and perspectives in
 Mediterranean-type ecosystems, key
 issues in microbial ecology and in aquat-
 ic ecosystems, ecological engineering,
 diversity concepts at different scales,
 integrating ecology into economic and
 social development, patterns and interac-
 tions in population and communities, and
 progress in ecological education.
 Deadline for abstract submission 1997
 October 31. Contact Almo Farina,
 Secretariat VII International Congress of
 Ecology, c/o Lunigiana Museum of
 Natural History, Fortezza della Brunella,
 54011 Aulla, Italy; web site
<http://www.tamnet.it/INTECOL.98>)

**Third Tannin Conference. Plant
 polyphenols: Chemistry and Biology**
 Bend, Oregon, 1998 July 20-25. The
 objective is to promote collaboration
 between chemists and biologists to
 improve understanding of the biological
 significance and to expand possibilities
 for use of plant polyphenols. Topics to be
 addressed are advances in chemistry and
 biochemistry, anti-oxidant properties,
 conformation and complexation, anti-
 microbial properties, polyphenols and
 heart disease, polyphenols and cancer,
 renewable sources of industrial chemi-
 cals, and ecological significance.
 Deadline for abstract submission 1998
 January 15. Contact Dr. R.W.
 Hemingway, Southern Research Station,
 USDA Forest Service, Pineville, LA
 71360, U.S.A. (FAX 318 473-7246 or
 442-2547; Email [dhemingway@popa
 lex1.linknet.net](mailto:dhemingway@popa

 lex1.linknet.net))

**19th International Conference on
 Polyphenols**
 Lille, France, 1998 September 1-4. The
 conference is being organized for the
 Groupe Polyphénols. Topics will be
 polyphenols in human health, chemical

and biochemical synthesis of polyphe-
 nols, polyphenols in food and consumer
 preference, polyphenols and stress resis-
 tance of plants, polyphenols as raw mate-
 rial for elaborated products, and
 polyphenols in the biosphere. Contact
 Dr. Christian Rolando, Université des
 Sciences et Technologies de Lille, UFR
 de Chimie, Batiment C3, 59655
 Villeneuve d'Ascq Cedex, France. (FAX
 33 1 43 37 00 51; Email [polyphen@un
 iv-lille1.fr](mailto:polyphen@un

 iv-lille1.fr))

Biologically Active Polysaccharides
 Oslo, Norway, 1998 September 13-16.
 Topics will include the role of polysaccha-
 rides in plants, pharmacology, etc. Paper
 deadline 1998 May. Contact Prof. B.S.
 Paulsen, Farmasoytisk, avd c, Postboks
 1068-Blindern, 0316 Oslo. (Telephone 47
 2285 6572, FAX 2285 4402)

10th International Rapeseed Congress
 Canberra, Australia, 1999 September 26-
 29 (held quadrennially). Theme: New
 Horizons for an Old Crop. Contact Bryce
 Bell, Box 94, Wilberforce 2756, NSW,
 Australia. (Telephone 61 45 75 2008,
 FAX 75 2003). ■

BALLOTS FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE PSNA, 1997

(vote for a nominee or cast a write-in vote)

- | | |
|---|--|
| PRESIDENT-ELECT | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan McCormick | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Stipanovic |
| SECRETARY | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dennis Clark | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| TREASURER | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cecilia McIntosh | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please seal this ballot in a plain envelope and mail to:
 Prof. N.H. Fischer, Past president, PSNA, Department of Chemistry,
 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803- 1804, U.S.A.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF BALLOTS IS NOVEMBER 30.

To maintain voting anonymity, sealed ballots will be sent for opening and counting to a scrutineer appointed by the Past President from the membership of the PSNA.

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Election of Society Officers for 1997-98

Biographical Sketches of the Candidates

President-elect



Susan McCormick

Susan McCormick received her B.S. in chemistry and biology from Illinois State University in Normal in 1977. She earned her PhD in 1982 at the University of Texas in Austin, where her thesis research was on *Passiflora* flavonoids. After a postdoctoral position at the University of British Columbia she joined the USDA in New Orleans as

plant physiology research associate working on aflatoxin biosynthesis and control. She is currently a research chemist at the USDA/ARS National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria, Illinois, working on potato phytoalexins and the biosynthesis of trichothecene mycotoxins. She has been a member of the PSNA since 1980 and has served as treasurer since 1992.

Robert D. Stipanovic

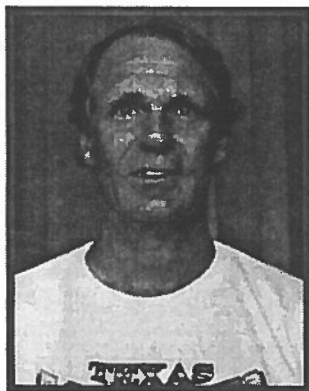


Robert D. Stipanovic is Research Leader of the Cotton Pathology Research Unit, SCRL, ARS, USDA at College Station, Texas. He received his BS degree from Loyola University in New Orleans and his PhD from Rice University in Houston, Texas, under Richard B. Turner. He did postdoctoral work with William S. Johnson at Stanford University in California, and has been a visiting scientist at the Agriculture Canada Research Centre, London, Ontario, where he worked with Dr. Albert Stoessl.

Dr. Stipanovic's research is focused on host-plant resistance and biological control of plant pathogens. Areas of interest include the structure elucidation and synthesis of naturally occurring compounds of plant and microbial origin, and studies on the biosynthesis of these compounds and their biological activity. He uses this information to enhance plant resistance to pathogens and insects by altering sesquiterpene biosynthesis to suppress the production of less potent defense compounds, and to incorporate genes from related genera that alter the normal sesquiterpene pathway and produce more effective defense compounds. He has authored or coauthored over 120 papers, reviews and book chapters and has one patent.

Bob is a long-term member of the PSNA, the American Chemical Society and the Royal Society of Chemistry (London). He is currently on the executive board of the U.S. Cotton Disease Council.

Secretary



W. Dennis Clark

W. Dennis Clark earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences at Sacramento State College, specializing in plant taxonomy and ecology, and his PhD in botany at the University of Texas in Austin, specializing in phytochemistry. Dr. Clark has been on the faculty of Botany

(recently changed to Plant Biology) at Arizona State University since 1976. He has also been a Research Fellow at the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the National Science Foundation, and has held research appointments as Visiting Professor at the Institut für Pharmazeutische Biologie, Universität Heidelberg, Germany, and at the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, University of California, Riverside. His publications include articles on flavonoids, plant taxonomy and molecular phylogenetics. His main interests revolve around flavonoids — especially their functions in plants and their roles in herbal medicines — and the molecular evolution of genes that control their biosynthesis. Dr. Clark has been an educator for the past 25 years. During that time he has coauthored a best-selling college-level textbook on botany and taught courses in general botany, medical botany, plant chemistry, plant evolution, and the pharmacology of natural drugs.

Treasurer

Cecilia A. McIntosh



Celia received a BA in Biology (cum laude) from the University of South Florida in 1977 and an MA in Botany in 1981. She then worked for Richard Mansell as a research associate before returning for her PhD in 1986. She received a PhD in Biology from USF in 1990 (with Richard Mansell) working on "Biosynthesis of naringin in *Citrus paradisi*: Isolation, purification and properties of a flavanone-specific 7-O-glucosyltransferase and characterization of other glucosyltransferase activities in grapefruit seedlings." She then held a position as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Idaho Department of Bacteriology and Biochemistry (with David Oliver) studying the biochemistry and molecular biology of mitochondrial metabolite transporters and matrix proteins. Celia is currently an assistant professor at East Tennessee State University's Department of Biological Sciences and an adjunct assistant professor at ETSU's Quillen College of Medicine Department of Biochemistry. She has published 13 journal articles, has two more articles in press, has coauthored three book chapters/invited reviews, and has been an active member of the PSNA since the early 1980s. Her current research interests include characterization of enzymes and metabolic pathway regulation, specifically focusing on two areas: 1) regulation of TCA cycle isocitrate dehydrogenase, and 2) regulation of flavonoid biosynthesis, focusing on the flavanone branch point.

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