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## MedPlant latest news - January 2015

**The MedPlant network is in its second year with the Midterm meeting coming up in August in Reading. It is also time for the individual 1 year report from the fellows end of March.**

### **Online Supervisory Board meeting in February**

The next Supervisory Board meeting will be done on-line on February 23 with attendance from PI's. More info will follow.

### **1 year report from fellows – a MedPlant deliverable**

In March it will be time for the fellows to do the 1 year report. The coordinator will send out template mid-February and the report is to be handed in **31 March 2015**.

### **Midterm meeting 2-11 August**

The midterm meeting is one of the most important meetings in the network, as it is time to do a status and evaluate the first period of MedPlant. Are we on track and fulfilling our aims and obligations. The workgroup (Copenhagen, Reading and Uppsala) is in the process of planning the meeting, which will be one day for the Midterm meeting itself with participation of the EU - followed by 1 ½ days of project reviews and ½ day for supervisory board meeting. There will also be a one day course on dissemination and a 3 day course on bioinformatics. Supervisors are expected to be at the dissemination course, and participation of co supervisors and associated partners are appreciated if relevant.

### **The website - we need input from you!**

At MedPlant.eu we have added outreach and dissemination under Resources, where I will continue to expand the list with input from you! So please let me know when you have any news – especially outreach activities are welcome – both past and future. Especially since outreach activities are an important part of the training program.

### **Remember to check out the MedPlant Summerschool video**

This inspiring introduction to the Summerschool is available here:  
<http://medplant.eu/ressources/outreach/>

### **Updates from Fellows and Partners**

Karen Martinez, ESR3, has extracted 1,778,066 DKK worth of Thapsigargin from 100mg of seeds of *Thapsia garganica* in November at the Department of Drug Design and Pharmacology. All she needs for the standard compounds for the whole duration of the project and a couple more phds...

Madeleine Ernst, ESR5, has presented the current status of her project at the EvoGenomics section meeting. By combining data from literature, she and her collaborators were able to build a tree of 560 *Euphorbia* species (ndhF), including

over 60% of the useful species described in her database. The analysis on the phylogenetic signal is ongoing.

Vincent Manzanilla, ESR13, is following a two week intensive and workshop in Genomics in Czech republic.

Meadhbh Costigan, ESR9, passed her first PhD review committee meeting in November and will be beginning her fieldwork in the Nepal/Bhutan region at the end of February to return the end of July. During that time she will be interviewing people about incenses, including why people use incense (use categories), what plants are used as incenses (plant diversity), and how people think about these plants (emic classification systems).

Irene Teixidor, ESR6, has changed the fieldwork site to Morocco where she is being supervised by Gary Martin and Raj Puri and working in collaboration with the GDF. She has started fieldwork in Marrakech and is planning to spend time in a community.

PI Annelien Kool, Oslo, visited the Rønsted group on December 4th as censor on an MSc theses defense.

PI Anders Backlund, Uppsala, visited the Rønsted group in Copenhagen for the group's annual project review day January 23 providing valuable input and exchange of ideas on all the groups projects. One output was a new planned collaboration between Madeleine Ernst, ESR5, and Astrid Henz, ESR1.

Coordinator Nina Rønsted presented MedPlant objectives, experiences and management plans at the start-up meeting for the new BIG4 ITN network coordinated by entomologist Alexey Solodovnikov, NHM Denmark, UCPH.

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