



MedPlant latest news – July 2014

Summer is here and it is time for the 2nd MedPlant newsletter with info about MedPlant participation in the UNESCO conference on Botanists in the 21st century, an update on the new MedPlant post.doc with Jüerg Gertsch and some of the ongoing exciting MedPlant activities.

The registration for the 3rd Supervisory Board Meeting, Project Review Days, 8-10 September and 1st Summer school in Morocco 11-19 September 2014 is almost concluded and the planning is well under way and it will be exiting to see how all the projects are now taking shape. The meeting will also be a great opportunity for exchanging ideas and getting to know each other even better. More details on the program will follow in the beginning August.

Gary Martin, Julie Hawkins and Nina Rønsted will be hosting a MedPlant workshop entitled "Medicinal Plant Research – where next" at the UNESCO conference Botanists in the 21st Century in Paris 22-25 September which will include student presentations by 5 students from the Reading and Copenhagen MedPlant teams, posters and participation in the workshop. Any MedPlant Fellows interested in joining this workshop with a poster or the conference in general are more than welcome and should register through the UNESCO website. www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/events-2014/botanists-of-the-21-century/ The program for the workshop is still preliminary but more info can be obtained from the Copenhagen or Reading teams.

Dr. Willmar Schwabe has now officially been transferred from full to associated partner and the ER2 position has consequently been transferred to Jüerg Gertsch lab, University of Bern. The ER2 position was reposted and has now been filled by Dr. Sujay Guha. Sujay is coming from a position as post.doc at the University of Maryland, following his PhD from Clemson University, South Carolina, and he has considerable experience with *C. elegans*. We welcome Sujay to MedPlant and look forward to meet him in Morocco.

The individual career plans have been submitted to the coordinator and the Fellows have been doing a great job outlining their research and career plans taking advantage of the project management course in connection with the kick-off meeting. Individual feedback will be sent to the Fellows this week.

Most of the fellows' have presented themselves and their projects on www.medplant.eu, which is a MedPlant milestone. It would be great to have both Partners and Associated Partners do the same, as per email sent out today - 11 July.

MedPlant students Marco Kreuzer, Irene Teixidor, Paul Wennekes, University of Reading, and Meadhbh Costigan, University of Zürich, have presented their

projects at the "Botanical Ontologies" conference in Oxford 16-17 May 2014
www.botanicalontologies.wordpress.com/

MedPlant student Astrid Henz, Uppsala University, presented her project at the "Finn Sandberg Symposium" in Uppsala 14 April 2014.

MedPlant student Irene Teixidor, University of Reading, has presented an oral communication in the VII Jornades d'Etnobotànica en Llengua Catalana (VII Ethnobotany Symposium in Catalan Language) in Llívia, Catalonia, 4-6 July 2014. She has published an article about MedPlant in Catalan on a Catalan local magazine 'Els Cingles'.

MedPlant student Karen Martinez, University of Copenhagen, has successfully collected over 100 different samples of Thapsia, roots and seeds in Morocco, Spain and Italy.

MedPlant was featured on the PHYTOPHARM 2014 congress in St. Petersburg 3-4 July where Anders Backlund presented a talk entitled "Practical applications of ChemGPS-NP in (semi) natural products research."

MedPlant student Maonian Xu, University of Iceland, has finished his stay in the Icelandic Institute of Natural History in Akureyri, Iceland, about lichen sample collection and lichen ITS sequence amplification by PCR.

Irene Teixidor and Marco Kreuzer, University of Reading, will make their first field trip to Nepal from 1 August until 5 September to meet local communities, experts and scholars plan and plan future collaborations, and to sample species in Central and Eastern Nepal with researchers from Edinburgh University.

In June Andrea Salm and Jürg Gertsch visited the Kaa-Iya national park and Isoso in the Bolivian Chaco in search for Triatoma vectors for the Chagas disease and started their ethnopharmacological study among the Guarani and Ayoreo communities

Have a great summer!

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