

UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN



Newsletter



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## MedPlant latest news - December 2015

### 2 more years!

After the midterm meeting in Reading, the MedPlant Periodic Report was submitted end of November to the EU including Form C's from all partners and an extensive report from the coordinator. Two years have already passed, but luckily the best is yet to come as the fellows are entering into the final phase of their projects with results and conclusions.

The scientific aim of MedPlant is to develop new approaches and technologies for selection and sustainable use of biodiversity resources for lead discovery and to develop new plant derived leads. Already ten scientific publications and one book chapter are published, three publications have been submitted to international peer-reviewed journals, and several more are in progress.

### New Medplant fellow in Zürich

Unfortunately Meadhbh Costigan is no longer in the MedPlant network, as she has resigned from the position by October 2015. Therefore we have a new fellow in Zürich after new year for the remaining time and we would like to welcome Sugir Selliah coming from a position as associated researcher in Hugo de Boers group in Oslo and with a background in molecular systematics from Montreal.

### Next year - 2 year report for ESR fellows – an EU deliverable

The ESRs must write a 2nd year report within 30 days after 24 months of their project. The report must describe scientific achievements, participation at network wide training activities and national and international conferences along with dissemination by publications. A template will be provided by the coordinator in the new year.

### A change of scene

Henrik Toft Simonsen is leaving University of Copenhagen for the Danish Technical University of Denmark (DTU). Therefore Karen Martinez, ERS3, will switch department from PLEN to SNM and Nina Rønsted becomes formal main supervisor. Henrik will continue as co-supervisor for Karen, who will also spend some of her time at DTU.

### MedPlant Manual on-line

The methods manual Conducting and Communicating Ethnobotanical Research - a legacy of MedPlant - can be found at <http://medplant.eu/training/>. A big thanks to Gary Martin, Raj Puri, Emily Caruso and their collaborators for pulling everything together and

making it happen.

### **Online Supervisory Board meeting in January**

The next Supervisory Board meeting will be on-line on January 18 with attendance from PI's. More info will follow.

### **New gallery function at medplant.eu**

If you have photos from fieldtrips, lab work, secondments, events, outreach and so on, it is now possible to have the photos uploaded at the web-site. Just send them to Mette along with a headline and a few lines of information.

### **Cagliari Summer School September 2016**

P1 and P3 are starting the process of planning the 7th Supervisory Board meeting and 3rd Summer School and will get back with more info in the new year.

### **Several new MedPlant publications have been accepted** - see them at

<http://medplant.eu/ressources/publications/>

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

Astrid Henz, ERS1, is at secondment with AstraZeneca, working with Thierry & Rosa for two months diving into cheminformatics and computational chemistry.

Rosa Buonfiglio, ER1, has published a paper (including also Anders Backlund, Astrid Henz and Thierry Kogej among the co-authors), which can be a real key reference for future work in the field of chemographics - [p://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.jcim.5b00375](http://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.jcim.5b00375)

Anders Backlund, Jürg Gertch and Astrid Henz with represented MedPlant at 63rd GA 2015 in Budapest with over 700 participants (<http://ga2015.hu>). Anders Backlund had a plenary lecture entitiled "*Charting biological activity in chemical property space using ChemGPS-NP*" including as co-authors Anders Backlund, Rosa Buonfiglio, Astrid Henz, Elisabet Vikeved, Kuei-Hung Lai and Thierry Kogej and received some great response.

Anders Backlund has given a popular science outreach talk in the series "Vår tid på jorden" in Malmö 2015.10.05 on "*Biologisk och kemisk diversitet – grunden för läkemedel från naturen*", recognizing MedPlant.

Vincent Manzanilla, ERS13 has published the read listing assessment of Anacyclus pyrethrum. (The wizwiz plant) Rankou, H., Ouhammou, A., Taleb, M., Manzanilla, V. & Martin, G. 2015. Anacyclus pyrethrum. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2015: e.T202924A53798702. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/202924/0>

Vincent Manzanilla, ERS13, and Anneleen Kool has hosted a public event at the Natural History Museum of Oslo: *Medicine, food and magic in Marrakech* <https://www.nhm.uio.no/besok-oss/arrangementer/2015/medisin-mat-og-magi-i-marrakech.html?k=1>

Marco Kreuzer, ESR11, is in Oslo to run lab work experiment on Next Generation Sequencing.

Irene Teixidor, ERS6, has an outreach article published in the next issue of the magazine Landscape, from the foundation Terralingua which works for biocultural conservation.

Symposium Leiden April 14-15 2016 – still open talk spots!

"*Learning from Nature, learning from our Ancestors; from tradition to evidence based medicines*" <http://science.leidenuniv.nl/index.php/events/learning-form-nature-learning-from-ancestors/>

### **Merry christmas and a happy new year!**

*This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no. 606895.*

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