

## Editorial

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### Congress Abstract

Dear Colleagues!

The 63<sup>rd</sup> International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA2015) has been organized in Budapest. Budapest, the capital of Hungary and a European metropolis, is an economic, financial and cultural centre, which is beautifully situated on both sides of the Danube River and has a history dating back over 2000 years. Budapest with its vibrant cultural life provided opportunity for the participants to become acquainted with the monuments of the historical past of the city and discover its present with contemporary museums, spas and restaurants. The congress venue Budapest Congress Center was an ideal place to host this size of scientific events, and a perfect setting for an enjoyable and fruitful meeting.

The aim of the congress was to serve as a forum for discussions on trends, and the latest results, and to exchange ideas relating to phytochemistry, phytochemical analysis, phytopharmacology, ethnopharmacology and clinical studies of medicinal plant products. In the course of this congress international reputable experts and specialists have delivered plenary lectures and presented the state of the art and most significant scientific progresses in natural product science, relating to the main scientific topics of the congress. 9 invited speakers and 75 short lectures focused on the following main topics:

- From natural products toward potential drug leads
- Natural products in CNS-related diseases
- Medicinal plants in the treatment of chronic diseases
- Pharmacokinetics of phytochemicals
- Clinical and observational studies with herbal products
- Quality assessment of medicinal plants, phytomedicines and herbal dietary supplements
- New opportunities for biotechnology and cell biology
- Ethnobotany and ethnopharmacology
- Herbal dietary supplements
- Medicinal plants and natural products in animal healthcare and veterinary medicine

485 posters were presented in two poster sessions, scheduled within central time frames during the congress. The poster discussions brought together scientists from different disciplines and stimulated the exchange of experiences and knowledge. This conference provided an appropriate environment for intense networking between academia and industry, as numerous companies involved with phytotherapy, food products, cosmetics and natural product analysis participated in the congress. Further, "Africa Research Network Meeting" took place for the second time in the program, aiming to promote the development of scientific activities of African countries. In addition the congress gave place for the networking meeting on Animal Healthcare and Veterinary Medicine.

According to the tradition of GA congresses workshops were included in the program. The Regulatory Affairs of Herbal Medicinal Products Workshop was dedicated with especial interest to the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products (THMP) from Non-European Countries in Europe and vice versa. The 9<sup>th</sup> Young Researchers Workshop was devoted to the contributions of outstanding graduate and post-doc researchers. In addition, a one-day Pre-Congress Symposium was settled in the program highlighting "Advanced Analytical Technologies as Applied to Natural Products Research", organised by Mark O'Neil-Johnson. This meeting was an excellent opportunity to hear cutting edge science from industry leaders who provided complete overview of all the latest analytical equipment available to perform a successful phytochemical work.

Such a wonderful congress would not be possible without the help of sponsors and exhibitors who have

helped achieve an all-time record for meeting support. The great assistance of BoD members of GA, and the scientific organizing committee is highly appreciated. Academic colleagues, post-docs and PhD students of Hungarian universities, and the Diamond Congress Company are also acknowledged. Appreciation is of course given to all presenters and authors for sharing their original work and ideas about natural products, and who actively contributed to the high standard of this abstract volume.

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