

Announcement

## *The Phytochemical Society of Europe*

<http://www.phytochemicalsociety.org>

The Phytochemical Society of Europe (PSE) was founded in 1957. Its aim is to promote the understanding of plant constituents in respect of their chemistry, function, biosynthesis, and effects on the physiology and pathology of living organisms. A further objective is the application of such knowledge in agriculture and industry.



### Successful meetings in 2006 and 2007

The last PSE meeting of 2006 **“Glucosinolate biology, chemistry and biochemistry, and its application to human health and agriculture”** took place from 10 to 14 September 2006 in Jena (Germany). Specialists in this important field of plant natural products discussed the recent findings in our knowledge of glucosinolates.

The PSE celebrated its **50th anniversary** with a meeting in Cambridge **“Highlights in the evolution of phytochemistry”** from 11 to 14 April 2007. Many renowned speakers praised the achievements in phytochemistry of the last 50 years. PSE Silver Medals were awarded to three meritorious PSE members, Wilhelm Alfermann, Kurt Hostettmann and Robert Velpoorte.

The 2007 **Young Scientist’s Meeting “Future trends in phytochemistry”** was successfully organized by Franca Tomé in the Palazzo Feltrinelli at Lake Garda in Gargnano (Italy) from 6 to 9 June. About 90 mostly younger scientists presented their research and enjoyed the romantic environment.

**“Plants for human health in the post-genome era”** was the topic of a PSE meeting that took place from 26 to 29 August 2007 in the Rantapuisto Congress Centre in Helsinki (Finland). Kirs-Marja Oksman-Caldentey and her team assembled a magnificent group of invited speakers that informed the 180 participants about the current status of plant biotechnology.

A number of Travel Grants were presented to young scientists actively participating in one of these conferences.

The PSE thanks all the organisers for their excellent work.

### Forthcoming meetings in 2008

**26–29 March 2008:** PSE Young Scientists’ Meeting: **“Future trends in phytochemistry: compounds—enzymes—genes”**, Bad Herrenalb (Germany).

Younger scientists (Diploma/Master students, PhD students, PostDocs) are especially invited to present their

research results in lectures and posters, and to discuss them with colleagues and with senior scientists. The topic **“Compounds—Enzymes—Genes”** aims to illustrate the breadth of phytochemistry from the isolation and identification of new natural compounds through elucidating their biosynthetic pathways, identifying the enzymes involved in their biosyntheses and cloning the corresponding genes, to studies of their evolutionary origin and regulation. More information: [www.phytochemicalsociety.org](http://www.phytochemicalsociety.org)

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**2–6 July 2008: “Plant–microbial interaction”**, Krakow (Poland).

The following topics will be discussed in the congress: Allelopathy/Invasive Organisms; Fungal and Bacterial Pathogens; Viruses, Subviruses and Phytoplasmas in Relation to Plants; Fungal and Bacterial Mutualism (Mycorrhizas, Rhizobia); Plant–Protozoan Interactions; Stress in Plant–Microbial Interactions; Mechanisms of Interactions; Methods of Interaction Studies.

More information: <http://www.eko.uj.edu.pl/mycorrhiza/pmi/>

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**3–8 August 2008:** 7th Joint Meeting of AFERP, ASP, GA, PSE & SIF **“Natural products”**, Athens (Greece).

The following nine topics will be emphasized during the congress: 1. Drug discovery from natural sources; 2. New sources of bioactive natural products: from biodiversity to chemodiversity; 3. Cell cycle regulation and natural products; 4. Biosynthesis and biomimetic synthesis of natural products; 5. Natural products with agrochemical and veterinary interest; 6. Bioavailability and quality of herbal drugs; 7. Health improvement through dietary phytochemicals; 8. Modern approaches to traditional medicines; 9. New trends in extraction and separation processes.

More information: [www.jointmeeting.2008athens.gr](http://www.jointmeeting.2008athens.gr)

Contact: [afea.jointmeeting@2008athens.gr](mailto:afea.jointmeeting@2008athens.gr)

**23–26 September 2008: “Natural products in cancer therapy”, Naples (Italy)**

More information: <http://www.phytochemicalsociety.org>

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**The Phytochemical Society of Europe**

In order to advance phytochemical research, the PSE undertakes a number of activities:

- Organisation of several scientific meetings each year and publication of the proceedings in the peer-reviewed journal “Phytochemistry Reviews”.
- The PSE – Apivita Prize is awarded annually to an outstanding young phytochemist.
- The Jeffrey Harbome Award is given to young scientists giving outstanding oral and/or poster presentations at PSE Young Scientists’ Meetings.
- PSE provides Travel Bursaries for young scientists to present their research at PSE meetings.

**Benefits of PSE membership**

Membership of the PSE is worldwide and open to anyone with an interest in plant natural products and related fields. Members benefit from:

- Reduced registration fees for PSE meetings
- Regular mailing and/or e-mailing of information
- Up-to-date information on the PSE website
- Reduced subscription rates for “Phytochemistry” and “Phytochemistry Reviews”, and some books.

**New PSE journal**

Phytochemistry Letters is a new scientific journal published by Elsevier in collaboration with the PSE. Phytochemistry Letters will focus on the rapid publication of high-impact preliminary research covering all areas of natural product science, and will be published quarterly, starting in 2008.

**Contact with the PSE**

For details of membership, consult the PSE homepage at <http://www.phytochemicalsociety.org> or send an e-mail to the Membership Secretary Simon Gibbons at [pse@ulsop.ac.uk](mailto:pse@ulsop.ac.uk).

**PLEASE!**

**All PSE members wishing to receive regular information on PSE events must send their valid e-mail address to Simon Gibbons at [pse@ulsop.ac.uk](mailto:pse@ulsop.ac.uk)! A postal mailing will only be made once a year.**