

First virtual meeting between companies and the IMGNPP (IUPHAR Mediterranean Group on Natural Products Pharmacology) Committee, 19th November 2020, 2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Agenda:

italian Society of Pharmacology (SIF) President (Giorgio Racagni)	Introduction and IMGNPP presentazion
Companies	Each Company presentation (maximum 3 minutes)
IMGNPP coordinator (Gioacchino Calapai)	IMGNPP Mission
Antonio Angelo Izzo	SIF working group Pharmacognosy, Phytotherapy and Nutraceuticals presentation
Carla Ghelardini	Planned activities
Ester Pagano	IMGNPP Newsletter and website presentation
Companies	Proposals
SIF President	Any other business - conclusions

Participants: Italian Society of Pharmacology President, Prof. Giorgio Racagni, IMGNPP Coordinator, Prof. Gioacchino Calapai (University of Messina), SIF Member co-opted in the IUPHAR Executive Committee, Prof. Emilio Clementi (University of Milan), Prof. Mario Dell'Agli (University of Milan) , Dr. Lorenzo Di Cesare Mannelli (University of Florence), Prof. Carla Ghelardini (University of Florence), Prof. Angelo Antonio Izzo (University of Naples Federico II), Dr. Ester Pagano (University of Naples Federico II), Dr. Enrico Sangiovanni (University of Milan), Prof. Francesco Visioli (University of Padua) and Dr. Carmen Mannucci (University of Messina).

SIF Organizing Secretariat: Dr. Ida Ceserani and Dr. Adele Tangolo are also present.

Representatives of the following companies are present:

Dr. Emiliano Giovagnoni and Dr. Jacopo Lucci of Aboca

Dr. Paola Benatti of Alfasigma

Dr. Pina Amarelli of Amarelli

Dr. Arianna Vanelli of Biopharma

Dr. Luca Cornioli of Biokyma

Dr. Andrea Bonina of Bionap

Dr. Antonio Vatrella of Biosalus

Dr. Cristiano Meggiato of Biosline

Dr. Anna Zuppini of Cabassi & Giuriati

Prof. Antonio D'Avolio of Coqua
Dr. Raffaella Rizzi of Demethra Biotech
Dr. Violetta Insolia and Dr. Giovanni Nicotra of Epo
Dr. Flavia La Forgia of Farmalabor
Dr. Luisa Canilli and Dr. Ivan Montaldo of Ganassini
Dr. Malva Moncalvo of Helan
Dr. Giovanna Petrangolini and Dr. Antonella Riva of Indena
Dr. Jose M. Panilla and Dr. Jose Carlos Quintera of Natac Group
Dr. Silvia Oberti and Laura Rubini of Naturando
Dr. Bagnulo Antonino of Neilos
Dr. Arianna Vanelli of Nutrilinea
Dr. Lucia Scarpa of Prodeco
Dr. Ilaria Carnevali and Dr. Floriana Raso of Schwabe Pharma Italia
Dr. Massimo Barba of Veridia Holding

The President thanked the presents for intervening. He informed that the purpose of SIF is to promote pharmacological studies and their applications. SIF has set up several working groups including one on the topics "Pharmacognosy, phytotherapy and nutraceuticals". Two years ago, in Kyoto, at the World Congress of Pharmacology (WCP2018. World Congress on Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, July 1-6 2018), organized by IUPHAR, in which he participated with the then SIF President, Prof. Alessandro Mugelli, and with Prof. Emilio Clementi, he made contact with the President of the IUPHAR Natural Products Section, Valérie Schini-Kerth and proposed to set up a Group on Natural Products of the Mediterranean Area including all European countries, North Africa and Asia Minor facing the Mediterranean. The countries of this area have specific products, important for drug discovery, nutraceuticals, food supplements, plant extracts... All these products should be valued on the basis of evidence-based medicine, their effectiveness should be documented. Italy has submitted to IUPHAR the request to coordinate the initiative. Contacts have been made with researchers from the nations bordering the Mediterranean and several researchers from different countries confirmed their participation. The Memorandum of Agreement between SIF and IUPHAR was signed on 22nd July 2020.

SIF has organized a meeting for the next week with these representatives and has invited also the President of the IUPHAR Natural Products Section, Valérie Schini-Kerth. SIF wrote a letter to Prime Minister Conte to try to involve the institutions. It is certainly not the best time to make contacts, in

fact the Prime Minister office announced that the letter would be taken into consideration as soon as the health situation has improved. SIF will also ask other countries to raise awareness among institutions. It will also ask to communicate the existence of the IMGNPP group to the companies' representatives in their countries. The President informed that, as soon as the situation will permit it, he would like to organize a press conference to present the group.

The President invited the presents to briefly introduce their company.

The following companies made a brief presentation: Aboca, Alfasigma, Amarelli, Biopharma, Biokyma, Bionap, Biosalus, Biosline, Cabassi & Giuriati, Coqua, Demethra Biotech, Epo, Farmalabor, Ganassini, Helan, Indena, Natac Group, Naturando, Neilos, Prodeco, Schwabe Pharma Italia, Veridia Holding.

The President invited the Group Coordinator, Gioacchino Calapai, to speak. Calapai presented the group's objectives. IMGNPP aims to promote the pharmacological scientific research of natural health products, supplements, cosmeceuticals, and to create a network that includes professional health researchers from different scientific backgrounds, therefore not only pharmacologists, but also phytochemicals, agronomists, biochemists, biologists. In addition, it will try to co-opt the members of the institutions, at national and international level, to collaborate with other scientific communities and associations... There are many regulatory issues, such as the labelling of food supplements, the difficulty of getting plant medicines off the ground...

The multidisciplinary group of the different countries will be able to participate in national and international calls.

Angelo Izzo informed that he is the coordinator of SIF Working Group "Pharmacognosy, Phytotherapy and Nutraceuticals", established in 2012. He is assisted by a coordination committee. The group promotes research on products of natural origin, seeks to harmonize academic and corporate research, contributes to knowledge on the efficacy and safety of natural products. At the next Society Congress (digital edition, March 9-13, 2021) 4 sessions on natural products will be organized. Sector knowledge must also be shared with the unskilled population. It is necessary a rational use of preparations based on medicinal plants. SIF working group has written a book dedicated to students and professionals in the sector entitled: "Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy" published by PICCIN (<https://www.piccin.it/it/farmacognosia/2490-farmacognosia-e-fitoterapia-9788829930586.html>). Society members are informed about the sector literature through the online

newsletter "SIF Farmaci in evidenza"

Carla Ghelardini greeted all the participants. She believes it is important to collaborate and create a context for research and innovation in the field of pharmacology of natural products of the Mediterranean area. Research projects could be prepared in collaboration between universities and companies in the Mediterranean area, set up a newsletter in which companies can find visibility, insert focuses on topics of interest in the newsletter, prepare FAQs to give information, write some review on current issues in SIF scientific journal, PharmAdvances, organize conferences and press conferences. Next year there will be a conference dedicated to this activity in Sicily or Campania. It is important to have interlocutors at political level, the Ministry of Agriculture, Economy, Health, Foreign Affairs... The group could become an advisory body. It would be important to collaborate with patient and consumer associations and with other scientific societies.

Ester Pagano presented the IMGNPP official website and newsletter proposal. On the website there would be the group's mission, information on researchers and member companies, a section for newsletters, a section for documents and one for activities. The website would be accessible from SIF website and from the IUPHAR website. The newsletter would have a dual meaning, to promote research in the sector and to offer valid scientific support. In the newsletter proposal, the main information of the chosen work is highlighted and the critical comment of a researcher is inserted. Clinical, randomized and observational studies might be included. Corporate research could be emphasized. The newsletter and the website would be in Italian and English. The group is ready to receive ideas on topics of interest.

The President considered the Newsletter very important. It would be possible to insert topics to discuss, in order to arrive at an opinion papers. He asked the presents to send proposals on the basis of what was presented both on scientific and regulatory aspects. Another meeting would be organized in the month of January.

He would like to create some supporting partners with diversified fees depending on the size of the companies, € 1,000, 2,500, and 5,000. The fees should allow to raise funds in order to start the IMGNPP activities. The partners will receive passwords to consult the newsletters on the IMGNPP site.

SIF President thanked all those present.