

Minutes of the FIRST VIRTUAL MEETING of IMGNPP
NOVEMBER 26th from 12.00, 2020, p.m. to 14.00 p.m.

Agenda

1. **Giorgio Racagni, SIF President:** Introduction
2. **Gioacchino Calapai, IMGNPP Coordinator:** IMGNPP Mission
3. **Participants' brief presentation (only 1 speaker is allowed for each country for organizing reasons, maximum 3 minutes)**
4. **Emilio Clementi:** Other activities
5. **Valérie B. Schini-Kerth, IUPHAR Natural Products Section Chair,**
 - An update regarding initiatives of collaborative research projects/networks between scientists from countries of the Mediterranean area.
 - The link of the research activities of the IMGNPP with the respective Pharmacological Societies of the different countries
6. **Enrico Sangiovanni,** IMGNPP Newsletter and website presentation
7. **Any other matter**

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

The following IMGNPP members were present:

Country	Name, Surname
Albania	Vilma Papajani
	Aliko Valbona
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mohamed Ragab Abdel Gawwad
Cyprus	Kemal Hüsnü Can Baser
Croatia	Lidija Bach-Rojecky
France	Valérie B. Schini-Kerth
Greece	Konstantia Graikou
	Makris Doimitris
	Nektarios Aligiannis
Israel	Tovit Rosenzweig
Lebanon	Antoine Saab
Malta	Everaldo Attard
Morocco	Noureddine El Aouad
Portugal	Natália Martins
United Kingdom	Cherry Wainwright,
Spain	Rocío De La Puerta
	Olga Palomino
Turkey	Kemal Hüsnü Can Baser

	Ilkay Erdogan Orhan
	Didem Şöhretoğlu

Giorgio Racagni opened the meeting at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed all the participants. He informed about the objectives of the group and discussed of the possible activities. He also talked about starting a collaboration with the IUPHAR Natural Products Section.

Gioacchino Calapai presented the Group and its aims: to promote research of natural products; to generate a network that includes not only pharmacologists but also phytochemists, agronomists, biochemists; to collaborate with other scientific communities.

Giorgio Racagni asked to one participant for each country a brief presentation focused on the motivation to join the group.

Albania – Vilma Papajani presented herself, Valbona Aliko and Klodiola Dharmo. Main interests: Extraction, chemical analysis and assessment of biological activity of bioactive compounds from Medicinal and Aromatic Plants; Chemical characterization of essential oils and evaluation of their antimicrobial activity; Pharmacological activity of drugs and natural products... Interest in joining the group: to share information, to collaborate with research groups, within IMGNPP joint projects, workshops, meetings, student exchanges, publishing; to get expertise on pharmacological studies; to create databases of MAPs.

Bosnia – Mohamed AbdelGawed. Research interest in DNA-repair mechanism in plants, intercom analysis of photoreactivation. Motivation to join: to extend knowledge on medicinal plants; education for young scientists; looking for scientific collaborations; work with experts on drug design by using bioinformatic tools;

Cyprus and Turkey - Kemal Husnu Can Baser presented himself and the other participants from Turkey, Ilkay Erdogan Orhan and Didem Şöhretoğlu. They are all professors of pharmacognosy and interested in natural products. They decided to join IMPGNPP because of their work on botanical, chemical and pharmacological aspects of plants growing on Mediterranean area. Their interest is to verify differences in activities due to phytogeographic and chemotypical variations of plant taxa distributed in the Mediterranean basin.

Croatia – Lidija Bach-Rojecky. Research field: Neuropharmacology. No much experience with natural products but collaboration in research activities in this field. Her motivation was to extend her scientific fields, to share knowledge and to collaborate.

Israel – Rosenzweig Tovit. Research interest: Natural products for the treatment of T2D and MetS. Interest in group: The study of Natural Products Pharmacology is of high importance in view of the global efforts to develop novel drugs for the treatment of various diseases. Interdisciplinary approaches are vital to enable successful R&D process in this field. An international effort must be done to promote the research, by releasing impediments that slow down progression.

Lebanon – Antoine Saab. He presented some data about Phytochemical analysis and anti SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 effects of terpenes and Medicinal plant-derived essential and Vegetable oils native from Lebanon.

Greece – Nektarios Aligiannis. He presented the Greek Group: Ioanna Chinou, Nektarios Aligiannis and Konstantia Graikou are all pharmacists and researchers on Natural products chemistry. They wanted to give their contribute to the Group.

Malta – Everaldo Attard. Activities: studies on natural products. Research interest: pharmacological activity of plant extracts at the University of Malta in collaboration with foreign universities (Bologna, Milan, Porto, Quebec, Udine); valorization of local agricultural products through several national and interregional

projects. He thinks there are lacks in these areas, such as the harmonization of the regulatory aspects etc... Research is fundamental and also the collaboration with universities and through wider platforms.

Morocco – Noureddine El Aouad. Laboratory on engineering, agri-food and aquaculture. Working on conservation, protection and valorisation of natural resources. Interest in group: collaboration between institute and institutions; valorisation of local products.

Portugal – Natália Martins. Professor of Faculty of Medicine and Researcher. Main interest related research of bioactive compounds for human health. Interest in group: to promote research, develop and deepen knowledge of natural products not only in academia but also in industry.

Spain – Olga Palomino presented herself and her colleagues: Rosa Giner, member of the scientific committee for Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency. Research areas: evaluation of anti-inflammatory products of natural origin. Rocio de la Puerta, researcher on extraction and identification of bioactive compounds from natural sources and in numerous competitive projects evaluating pharmacological properties of vegetal extracts. Maria Pilar Gomez-Serranillo, director of the research group on natural products in University Complutense of Madrid. Olga Palomino is an expert of the working group on Herbal Monographs at Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC).

UK – Cherry Wainwright. She participated as representative of IUPHAR Natural Products Section and as member of British Pharmacology Society (BPS) that is interested in the studies on natural products and wanted to collaborate with the Mediterranean Group. She is vice president of BPS, which is organizing WCP2022 in Scotland.

Giorgio Racagni thanked all participants, he was very impressed from the scientific and rigorous research.

He invited to speak Valérie Schini-Kerth, Chair of the IUPHAR Natural Products Section.

Valérie Schini-Kerth said the Section is extremely interested in the Mediterranean Group. The Section would like to work with the group. The section started from China with the aim to put together people who work on natural products, to build a network between scientists and a link with industries. Education and research are important aspects and the Sections wants to collaborate.

Giorgio Racagni informed that he is not the only responsible for the constitution of the group. Calapai, Dell'Agli, Ghelardini, Clementi and Izzo and young scientists collaborated in the creation of the group. It is important to have young collaborators and to have exchanges with other countries. He agreed with Schini-Kerth about the link with industries and informed that the Italian components of IMGNPP organized last week, on November 19th, a meeting with 45 Italian companies and a Spanish one interested in the Mediterranean Group. He asked all the presents to be ambassadors of the group in their countries, to involve other colleagues, especially young pharmacologists, companies and institutions. He remarked also the importance of evidence-based researches.

Emilio Clementi said that Pharmacological Research, an Elsevier journal, is open to submission of meaningful reviews on natural pharmacology. The topic has to be agreed with Valerie and Cherry within the IUPHAR NP section.

Giorgio Racagni asked to Enrico Sangiovanni, one of the young collaborators, to present IMPGNPP logo, newsletter and website.

Enrico Sangiovanni explained that the logo represents the mission of the Group, a leaf to symbolize natural products and a dark sea, to represent the mysteries of the Mediterranean Sea. The hidden light is the symbol of science, which through nature wants to enlighten the resources of our vast territory. He showed a preview of the Mediterranean Group website, actually under construction. Five sections have been planned: the Group, with the list of academic members and companies; Natural Products, where the characteristic natural

products of the Mediterranean area and their biological activities would be collected; Activities, with past and future events; Places; and Contacts. There would also be a “work with us” box for scientist who want to join the group in the future. The website will be linked to both SIF and IUPHAR websites. The Group Newsletter is another important tool, which could be published on the website. The newsletter aims to update scientists and to provide information to companies for the development of high-quality products. The Newsletter will host contributes that would be structured in the following way: a brief title, the list of the original authors, details and data of the article and, in the last part, a summary of the main results, the author’s conclusion, and a commentary.

Giorgio Racagni thanked him and informed this is just an example. He asked the participants for any comments or questions. The Newsletter and the website could be also a way to share information among us.

All the participants agreed with that.

Gioacchino Calapai said the Group is also an opportunity to help governments to identify key points in order to correct European and individual countries laws.

Noureddine El Aouad thought it could be very useful to publish on the website the contacts and research field of all the participants in order to facilitate contacts between people.

Kemal Hüsnu Can BAŞER agreed with Noureddine’s proposal, a database of the researchers could make it easier to find the researchers to work with.

Mohamed Ragab Abdel Gawwad asked when the next meeting would be and what is the work to do.

Racagni invited again all the participants to make contacts with other colleagues and institutions of their country and to send information to SIF secretariat in order to collect and share information. The next meeting will be on February 2021. In October 2021, he would like to organize, in Italy, a workshop, inviting Italian government and European commission members as well as politicians from the Mediterranean countries.

He thanked everyone and ended the meeting at 2:10 p.m.