



Conference Reports

*Afr. J. Traditional,
Complementary and
Alternative Medicines*
www.africanethnomedicines.net

1. CSE'S 50TH MEETING AUSTIN, TEXAS. MAY 18 – 22, 2007



CSE Scholarship recipients delivering their lectures at the Hilton Hotel – Venue of the CSE 50th Meeting

The prestigious Council of Science Editors (CSE) 50th Meeting was held in Austin, Texas, USA during the month of May 2007. The meeting featured Plenary sessions, short courses including the CSE short course for journal Editors May 18 – 19, 2007 and some other parallel sessions of interest organized by the CSE from May 20 – 22, 2007. This course for Journal Editors which covers topics as publication of the results of Research: Peer Review and determination of journal content; The organization, composition and function of an editorial Board; Journal office operations: Supervising Evaluation and Beginning Production and using metrics to improve your journal were very interesting. More interesting are the break out and discussion sessions. Another interesting aspect of the meeting is Microsoft power point presentations by the five 2007 CSE scholarship recipients including my humble self and also the presentation of scholarship certificates to the scholarship recipients at a luncheon organized by the council of science editors. The title of my presentations is View From the Developing World: AJTCAM's Contribution In a Global Village. The power point presentation is provided below. More details can be found on the CSE website Workshops at: <http://www.councilscienceeditors.org/events/annualmeeting07/presentations.cfm>.

ATCAM's editor interacted with some of the exhibitors and participants. The interactions were on areas of improving the status of African Journal of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The journal took part in the CSE awareness program on poverty and development. This can be found on the journal website: <http://www.africanethnomedicines.net/ojs2/index.php/ajtcam/>

The other journal launched by African Ethnomedicines is African Journal of Infectious Diseases. This journal also took part in the CSE awareness program on poverty and development.

2. WESTERN AFRICA NETWORK NATURAL PRODUCTS RESEARCH SCIENTISTS (WANNPRES), 2ND SCIENTIFIC MEETING THE ELMINA BEACH RESORT, ELMINA, GHANA AUGUST 1- 4, 2006, Elmina, Ghana

The Western Africa Network of Natural Products Research Scientists (WANNPRES), formally established in 2002, has its major activity the organization of biennial Scientific Meetings to disseminate research results and to promote and coordinate the scientific activities of the network. This second scientific meeting is thus a fulfillment of a constitutional obligation. The theme for the meeting was Building Capacity for Research and Development in Natural Products. The sub-themes were:

1. Integrating Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge Systems;
2. Non-Communicable Diseases;
3. HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis; and,
4. Safety Issues in Natural Products

The overall aim of the meeting was to develop best strategies for the education and training needed to advance the development of natural products. The specific objectives were to:

1. Present and discuss results of original research relating to natural products, especially those used for the treatment or management of endemic and pandemic diseases of tropical origin;
2. Gather information from those working in the field and obtain a consensus on the critical core of scientists in any particular area of natural products research;
3. Identify the nature and areas of research where (more) education and training are needed;
4. Provide infrastructural requirements needed: from minimum basic equipment to the establishment of institutes; and,
5. Identify means of playing advocacy role for excellent working conditions.

The opening ceremony commenced at 10 am and was attended by Major (rtd) Courage Quarshiga, Minister for Health, Ghana, Dr. J. Saweka WHO Representative, Ghana Office (WR, Ghana) and Dr. Jean-Baptiste Nikiema, Representative of Dr. Ossy Kasilo, WHO/AFRO Brazaville.

The Keynote Lecture by Professor Jacobus Eloff of South Africa. In his presentation entitled *Capacity Building in Medicinal Plant Research: The process from the plant to the product*, he stressed the importance of the following:

- The researcher having a keen mind which is focused, enthusiasm and working very hard;
- A sound basis for the selection of the plant and methodologies to use in the research;
- Resources, other than that provided by the researcher;
- Team;
- Sources of major funding;
- The environment of the herbal medicine industry;
- Negotiation with industry from the very beginnings;
- "Lateral Thinking" or the openness of the mind of the researcher to other applications of the research results.

The full presentation is available at the WANNPRES website www.wannpres.org.

The afternoon of Day One was devoted to a symposium at which the following topics were presented and discussed:

- Importance of Analytical Chemistry in Natural Product Research; by Prof. Berhanu M. Abegaz, Department of Chemistry, University of Botswana and Network for Analytical and Bioassay Services (NABSA).
- From Raw Materials to Packaged Health Products: What do we need in Human and Material Resources? by Drissa Diallo, Department of Traditional Medicine, Mali, delivered by A. Maiga.
- Policy For Integrating Natural Products Into National Health Systems; by Mr. Peter Arhin, Director of Traditional and Alternate Medicine Directorate (TAMD), of the Ministry of Health, Ghana.
- Tertiary Level Education And Training For Herbal Medicine Practitioners Ghana's Experience; by Prof. Kwame Sarpong, Provost, College Of Health Sciences, Kwame Nkrumah University Of Science & Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana

Much of the discussion was focused on the last topic, which was a B.Sc. degree programme in Herbal Medicine at KNUST, probably because of the innovation that such a degree programme brings. The presentations are available at the WANNPRES website (www.wannpres.org)

After the discussions, participants broke into two groups for different activities. The activity for Group I was a Round Table Discussion of the keynote lecture and the symposium presentations, chaired by Professor

M. Duwiejua of the Faculty of Pharmacy of KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana. The second session was led by Professor Clement O. Adewunmi of the Drug Research & Production Unit, Faculty of Pharmacy of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria. His presentation was on the topic: *Common Problems Cited By Proposal Reviewers*. Each participant received a hard copy of the salient points of his presentation.

Proceedings of the second day commenced at 9:15 a.m. under the chairmanship of Professor C.O. Adewunmi, Professor Charles Wambebe of the International Biomedical Research in Africa, Abuja, Nigeria, delivered a special lecture on the topic: *From Plants To Medicine: R&D of Niprisan (NICOSAN)*. The presentation emphasized the importance of the following in R&D of plant medicines: A clear vision of what to do, A good strategic plan, Focus, commitment and passion during implementation, Aggressive resource mobilization, Human resources, Overcoming expected challenges, Collaboration with multi-disciplinary groups, Building partnership with the private sector - Public Private Partnership (PPP) and Prayers. The power-point presentation is available at the WANNPRES website www.wannpres.org

There were parallel oral presentations on day two and three. Participants were divided into two instead of the three groups originally planned for the parallel oral presentations. The presentations originally grouped under "Antimicrobials" were re-distributed to the remaining two on "Non-communicable Diseases" and "Analgesic/Anti-inflammatory Studies". During this first parallel session some of the presentations on Antimicrobials were made in the group dealing with Non-communicable diseases.

On day three, the presentations were in two groups i.e. Group I: Presentations on Non-communicable diseases- Diabetes mellitus, hypertension and others; Group II: Presentations on Analgesic/Anti-inflammatory Studies; Antimicrobials

WANNPRES Business Meeting started in the afternoon of Day Three. Business started with a report from Professor Marian Addy, the Executive Secretary. She reported on activities since 2004 emphasizing the following:

- The Secretariat stays in a country for 4 years and it must move to another country after that;
- Scientific meeting is an important constitutional provision and a WANNPRES activity. It must take place every two years, but its venue is not necessarily linked to the location of the Secretariat;
- WANNPRES needs a lot of time input and support from all members;
- WANNPRES has now a website: www.wannpres.org. Members were encouraged to visit the site for information and activities of the network.
- Funding difficulties made it impossible to have simultaneous translations at the 2nd scientific meeting, as happened during the 1st Scientific Meeting in Accra. She apologized to colleagues from francophone countries. Cost for 2004 was five thousand dollars (\$5000) and was borne by the Ministry in Ghana responsible for Regional Cooperation (ECOWAS).
- Need for preparation towards the future, especially with respect to mobilization of funds.
- The need for in-country activities and aggressive membership drive.

Report of round table discussions

The final day of the scientific meeting started with a plenary session to discuss the report of the Round Table Discussion and Outcomes. These had been captured in a report by Group I. The report was presented and suggestions and modifications made. The finalized report is presented below:

Research

- Members should guard against adoption of standards set from other environments. Such standards are usually not only inappropriate for our needs but also belittle our achievements. Results must always be measured with resources used. WANNPRES should encourage members to set realistic standards for assessing our progress so as not to underestimate or appreciate efforts of researchers in resource-limited environments.
- As the Minister of Health advised, we should guard against use of terminologies that alienate us from our traditional healers. Rather, we should harmonize the "language" we use in order to remove the apparent confusion in terminologies. An example is the use of such terms as complementary medicine and traditional medicine.
- Researchers should avoid use of terms such as "folklore medicine", "concoction" which some may consider as derogatory but use appropriate terms such as "reverse pharmacology" that are more suitable since natural products scientists usually start from products used in humans before detailed pharmacological studies in animals are conducted.
- Researchers were reminded to research into herbal products of commercial interest, either on the basis of knowledge obtained from traditional use or through mass screening of all plant materials in a particular locality. Whichever approach is adopted, research must always be targeted at solving a relevant local problem like malaria, sickle cell, pesticide control, or food security.

- In the search for materials of interest, scientist must develop *lateral thinking* and have a wider vision. Whilst pursuing an identified objective, the researcher should explore other potential value/uses of products even if unrelated to the original objective.
- Researchers should feed back to communities about outcomes of materials collected from the area. Communities must have guarantees of deriving benefit from any commercially viable product developed from natural products obtained from the community.
- Sustainability of natural resources must always be considered in harvesting material from nature. This is particularly important for products derived from roots, stems or parts of plants that result in plant death.
- The meeting called on members to screen weeds that are a menace to a community. Such weeds may yield products of interest for further exploitation.
- Scientists with expertise in re-generating natural resources must be encouraged to join WANNPRES.

Quality Assurance

- Quality assurance is important at all stages during the research, especially of the raw materials. It is important that raw materials are authentic.
- Therefore, Finger-prints or markers of authenticity of all materials and final products should be identified. There is no one method of doing this. Each laboratory must develop its standards. Such methods must be simple and rapid; for example, a quick extraction with a non polar (e.g. hexane) and a polar (e.g. methanol) solvent followed by TLC to identify Rf values of components.
- Researchers should always keep herbarium samples of all plant materials, extracts and compound banks.
- Rf values of all compounds should be documented to prevent duplication and waste of resources. This information could also be useful for identifying compounds from other plant species.
- Researchers should strive to adopt quality procedures, including good agricultural and collection procedures (GACP), good laboratory procedures (GLP) and good manufacturing procedures (GMP) in research and production. This also applies to all basic research.

Funding Support and Infrastructural Facilities

- WANNPRES should solicit support from Governments of the sub-region and other regional organizations to support researchers. External donors often have different interests and may not be interested in research for solution of local problems.
- Minimum infrastructural requirements for research should be provided e.g. assurance of constant power supply.
- Researchers should be more aggressive in seeking funding and looking for partnership from the private sector, including industry and civil society. Partnership should be formed right at the beginning of the research for it to be effective, sustainable and mutually beneficial.
- Researchers from more than one institution are encouraged to go in for Joint funding application(s) as such applications have better chances of success.
- WANNPRES should collaborate with other organizations with similar objectives
- It is not possible to have all expertise or infrastructure in any one institution. Therefore, WANNPRES should identify resource at various centres for effective networking
- WANNPRES should explore and press the need for the setting up of national herbaria that are linked regionally to follow the models in South Africa and UK.

Human Resource and Capacity Building

- The natural product research/enterprise is multi-disciplinary. Expertise required is varied depending on the objective of each centre. However, it was noted that there was a particular need for taxonomists and other botanists who are scarce. A generic plan of activities of a natural product research team and specialist's requirement is included in the appendix. It shows the need for a wide variety of expertise.
- WANNPRES and its members should pay priority attention to instrument purchase maintenance and service which includes appropriate training of laboratory technicians and users. Application for funding should include training of instrumentation technicians to ensure proper maintenance of expensive equipment.
- WANNPRES members are encouraged to network in country and within the sub-region for utilisation and maintenance of equipment.
- WANNPRES should actively recruit members with expertise in areas including anthropology and sociology and others (see Specialist's Requirement for Natural Product Research in the appendix).

- WANNPRES should identify Centres for training of its members.
- WANNPRES should establish a committee to look into core activities and Centres and identify a critical mass of scientists for effective work.

Policy

- The meeting congratulated Ghana for setting up a herbal medicine school at the university level.
- The meeting called on other governments in the sub-region to encourage their institutions of higher education to set up similar programmes.
- It recognized Ghana's efforts at trying to set up a Council to regulate the practice of herbal medicine.
- It called on the Ghana government to expedite action towards setting up the Council to regulate herbal medicine practice
- WANNPRESS should encourage all governments in the sub-region to set up research centres such as the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD) in Abuja, Nigeria and the Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine (CSRPM) at Mampong, Akuapem in Ghana to actively work on the development of natural products
- WANNPRES in each country should encourage collaboration between all ministries related to natural products.
- WANNPRES should endeavour to engage in research projects that can easily be used to guide policy action on health maintenance.

The next item for discussion was the theme for the third Scientific Meeting. By consensus, the meeting selected "Challenges of Research into African Plants as Natural Food and Medicines" as the theme for the 3rd Scientific Meeting. The following sub-themes were also agreed upon, all relating to natural products: Capacity building in research; Sustainable use; Safety; i. Food and drug Interactions ii. Toxicity; Returning benefits to local communities; Standardization.



***View From the Developing World:
AJTCAM's Contribution In a Global Village**

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*Presentation at CSE Meeting, Austin, Texas



Where I work

- Faculty of Pharmacy, OAU, Ile-Ife, Nigeria



Organization of DRPU

- Autonomous Department within the Faculty of Pharmacy
- 10 Academic members
- 3 Administrative
- 3 Research Technicians
- 3 Laboratory Supervisors
- 1 Laboratory Assistant
- 1 botanical garden attendant
- 1 Herbalist

DRPU Mandate

- To encourage, provide facilities for and initiate research into natural drugs and pesticides with special interest in African medicinal plants
- To establish analytical procedures as complementary elements towards the production of high quality drugs.
- To produce drugs in various dosage forms for clinical trials and provide high quality drugs
- To provide substantial drug manufacturing training and experience for pharmacy students and professionals.
- To render consultancy services in drug research, production and quality control to the public and private sectors of the community.
- To serve as a liaison organ and provide a forum for contact, interaction, dissemination of information and to enhance co-operation among various researchers in and outside the OAU in the discipline of natural and synthetic drug research.

Teaching at DRPU

- Phytomedicines courses
- Undergraduate courses in the Departments of Pharmacology, Pharmacognosy, Pharmaceutics and Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Post graduate course in the Department of Pharmacology
- Currently 2 PhD, 2 MSc and 5 PGD students are enrolled in the Department

Research

- Chemical, biological and related studies on natural product research and drug development.
- The chemistry and biology of plants used against malaria, schistosomiasis, trichomoniasis, trypanosomiasis etc
- Development of pharmaceutical adjuvants from locally available raw materials
- Acetylcholine esterase inhibition properties of alkaloids from African *Crinum* species



African Journal of Traditional, Complementary, and Alternative Medicines

- **ISSN:**0189-6016 (Electronic)/print
- **Publication Start Year:**2004
- **Publisher:**African Networks on Ethnomedicines
- **Language:**English
- **Country:**Nigeria
- **NLM ID:**101232990



AJTCAM in a Global World



Mission statement

- To Publish exciting research in Applied Medicinal Plants,
- Traditional Medicines, Complementary Alternative Medicines,
- Food and Agricultural Technologies, and
- Promotion of Healthy use of Medicinal Products



Scope

- **Electronic Submission**
- **Regular articles:** should describe new and carefully researched findings that have arisen from experimental procedures
- **Short Communications:** suitable for recording the results of complete small investigations or giving details of new models etc.
- **Reviews:** covering topics of current interest are also peer-reviewed.



Editorial Board

1. **Editors-in-Chief: 2.**
2. **Associate Editor: 1**
3. **News Editor: 1**
4. **Advertisement Manager: 1**
5. **Editorial Advisory Board: 21 members**
from the global scientific community:

<http://www.africanethnomedicines.net/editorial.php>



AJTCAM in a Global World



Submission of papers

- ❖ Electronic, mainly by e-mail
- ❖ Online submission on website



Reviewers

1. Local
 - a) Within OAU
 - b) Nigerian Universities and Institutes
2. International: African and international scientists from the global community.



AJTCAM's review Process

- ❖ Electronic, via e-mail (80%)
- ❖ printed/hard copies (5%)
- ❖ Completed online (website based) 15%.



Example of Online Review

124	05-21	ART	kumar	Anti-diabetic activity of Butea...	06-12	-	-	-	CO
					05-21	05-24	06-12		
125	05-27	ART	Taweechaisupapong, Sri-e-san,...	Effects of oil and ethanolic extracts...	05-27	05-29	06-27	-	CO
					05-27	05-27	05-29	-	
ID	MM-DD submit	Section	Authors	Title	Peer Review				
					Ask	Start	Done	Ruling	Section Editor



Problems with authors

1. Double or triple submissions
 - Will not follow instructions
 - Will not respond
 - Will not pay publication fee.



Problems with reviewers

- will not acknowledge receipt
- late in review
- will not review



Other Problems encountered

- Creation of xml files.
- Delivery of xml files
- Lean budget



Printing/Production

- a. **Electronic files are edited and named with the Tables and Figures**
- b. **pages are generated and proofed.**
- c. **Appropriate printer is chosen bearing in mind AJTCAM's learn budget.**



Fulfilment and distribution

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- but subscription for printed copies fall into three categories:
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 - II. Personal
 - III. Free subscriptions to indexing services such as MEDLINE, Chemical Abstracts, African Journals' online, HINARI and Bionline Journals
- The main source of revenue for AJTCAM is publication fees. However, other sources include gifts of printing materials, software and donation.



USAGE of AJTCAM

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AJTCAM in a Global World



Events in AJTCAM' history

- 1) Establishment of African Networks of Ethnomedicines, 2003
- 2) Establishment of AJTCAM, 2004
- 3) AJTCAM launched as online journal, August, 2004
- 4) AJTCAM launched as printed journal December 2004
- 5) AJTCAM participated in FAME workshop, Etembe, Uganda April, 2005
- 6) AJTCAM named a top Nigerian International Journal by NUC
- 7) AJTCAM participated: Course for Medical Editors & Peer Review and Biomedical Publication Congress, Chicago, September, 2005
- 8) AJTCAM's is participating at this CSE's workshop





Acknowledgements

- CSE
 - OAU
1. Thank you all for listening

