

ISE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017

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1. President's message



Dear members of ISE,

This newsletter is some kind of relaunch. It shall inform you on the recent developments within ISE and also on future activities.

Since I was elected president of ISE two years ago, there were two major initiatives. The constitution of ISE has been updated and finally approved by

the members meeting in Yulin. You can find the new version at the ISE homepage. http://www.ethnopharmacology.org/ISE_constitution.htm

The second effort was to organize the annual meetings in Yulin, China, and this year in Kaslik, Lebanon. Since we decided to have annual meetings, it is certainly a challenge to find organizers and to prepare the meetings in such a close order. But we are lucky to have many offers, and it is certainly worthwhile doing it, because ISE meetings bring together the ethnopharmacology family and help to enlarge our network.

However, the effect on the number of ISE members is still limited and we are especially lacking paying members. Therefore, I want to encourage you to demonstrate your commitment for ISE by transferring your annual fee in time. In the next weeks we will send out reminders to all colleagues who have been members of ISE in previous years, and we would appreciate very much the renewal of your membership, so that you are again entitled to the following ISE benefits:

- Reduced fees at congresses and symposia of ISE
- Highly reduced subscription rate for the Journal of Ethnopharmacology for personal use
- Information on activities inside and outside the ISE through our newsletter
- Support for students and young scientists to attend the annual scientific meetings of ISE
- Free copy of the abstract book of the biannual congress for members who did not attend
- Access to a wide network of scholars interested in the traditional and local use of medicinal, food and toxic plants.

Last year we had a very successful and outstanding ISE meeting in Yulin. It has been the third time that our Honorary Board Member Academician Prof. Xiao Peigen was hosting an ISE meeting in China. The 16th ISE congress was co-organized by China Association of Chinese Medicine, the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences, the China Association of Traditional Chinese Medicine, Division of Medicine and Health, the Chinese Academy of Engineering, and the People's Government of Yulin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. We received special support by Huang Ribo, Vice Chairman, People's Government of Guangxi, and Su Haitang, Mayor of the People's Government of Yulin, and I want to thank them very much for their great enthusiasm to host this event in the beautiful City of Yulin and for the generous financial support. I also want to thank Lu Jianfeng, Vice Mayor of the City of Yulin, for acting as the director of the organising committee, and Miao Jianhua, Director of Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants Nanning, who acted as the Secretary General of the congress.

The 17th ISE congress will take place at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik in Jounieh, Lebanon, and will be organized by Marc Beyrouthy together with Lara Hanna Wakim. Many thanks to them and their team for preparing this meeting. I hope that they succeed to attract many participants and that we will have another successful ISE conference.

It is especially important that many ISE members will attend this meeting in Lebanon, because the ISE Executive Committee will be elected at this occasion. We are always looking for young colleagues, who are willing to commit themselves to ISE and to take over leadership. Therefore please consider, whether you want to become a candidate for the Executive Committee.

Last year, I have also been attending 3rd International Congress of the Indian Chapter of ISE organized in Raipur on February 19-21, 2016. I was extremely impressed by the activities and engagement of our Indian colleagues. I am sure that also this year's Congress (SFEC 2017) in Surat, Gujarat, will be very successful. So it is quite consequent, that ISE will organize its 18th International Congress 2018 together with the Indian Chapter in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

At this time, my successor, Prof. Dr. Guillermo Schmeda-Hirschmann, will have taken over as president of ISE. I wish him all the best and great success for leading ISE into the next period.

Prof. Dr. Rudolf Bauer
President of ISE

2. General Meeting 2017

Dear members of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE), you are kindly invited to the ISE Members' Meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday 25th of April 2017 at 17:00 (venue in ##### to be announced)

Agenda:

1. Welcome by the President
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the 2016 meeting in Yulin
4. Report of the President
5. Report of the Secretary (General and member status)
6. Treasurer's report and financial status
7. Report from the Indian Chapter
8. Membership Fees
9. Election of Board members (Executive Committee) and President-Elect
10. Future ISE Congresses: Bangladesh 2018 and proposals for the upcoming years
11. Any other business
12. Handing over to the new President

Candidates for the Executive Committee should detail their qualifications with a curriculum vitae that includes publications and scientific papers presented at professional meetings and make their application using the templates that have been sent out by the secretary.

3. Past congresses

Three ISE congress took place since February 2014 in Chile (14th ISE congress in Puerto Varas, September 23-26, 2014), Jordan (15th ISE congress in Petra, May 05-08, 2015) and China (16th ISE congress in Yulin, May 16-18, 2016) each attracting at least 200 delegates. It was wonderful to see so many young scientists – some of them awarded the esteemed ISE travel grant – with different research backgrounds come together and interact.

For instance, the 15th ISE congress in the historic place of Petra on the ancient incense route where once the caravans stopped over was the ideal opportunity to bring together people with an interest in ethnopharmacology from the Near East and the rest of the world. Around 200 delegates from 39 different countries participated at the first ISE congress in the Middle East including 15 invited speakers from around the world. Participants joined from Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Israel, Palestinian authority, Iran, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia, China, Brunei Dar-Asalam, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Ecuador, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, South Africa, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Austria, France, Portugal, UK, Denmark, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine & Australia.

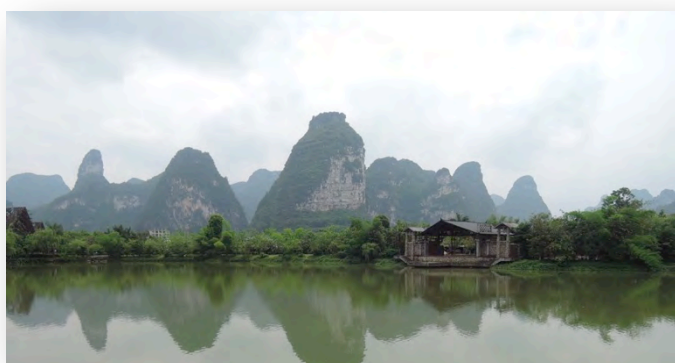




The 16th ISE congress in China attracted in addition to hundreds of Chinese delegates more than 80 international participants following a well-organized congress with a diversified program. The topics were covering all aspects of ethnopharmacology, from protection of traditional knowledge, via conservation and sustainable use of herbal resources, pharmacological, clinical and safety studies, including systems based approaches, data mining and network pharmacology, as well as research on drug discovery and development of modern herbal medicine from traditional products. In a panel discussion we addressed the major challenges in integrating traditional medicine in modern health care systems in the various regions of the world. More than 40 speakers were invited from all around the world.



Besides, the attendees were blessed by a spectacular cultural program and a rich regional Chinese cuisine. On top of that the Guangxi Botanical Garden of Medicinal Plants of Nanning (China) and the Medicinal plant market of the city of Yulin, which serves as a major hub for Chinese *materia medica*, provided the perfect occasion of getting more acquainted with TCM.





The organizers created a flag, which in the future will be handed over to every organizer of an ISE annual congress.



4. Future ISE congresses: Lebanon 2017, Bangladesh 2018

Lebanon 2017

Marc Beyrouthy invites to Lebanon for April 24-28, 2017 to attend **the 17th ISE congress**, taking place at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) in Jounieh, 15km north of Beirut. The topic will be “Ethnopharmacology at the crossroads of cultures and disciplines”. Presentations are welcome for the following subthemes:

- Ethnopharmacological approach to drug discovery: strengths and limitations.
- Application of hyphenated techniques and metabolomics in
- Traditional use of plants and herbal pharmacopoeias
- Ethnoveterinary medicine: using plants for animal health and productivity
- Contribution of aromatic and medicinal plants of the Mediterranean basin for traditional medicine and food worldwide

All details can be found on the web page:

<http://webapp.usek.edu.lb/forms/WS/ise/>

and on the ISE facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/International-Society-for-Ethnopharmacology-388053424884991/?ref=bookmarks>

For any questions about safety issues please write to Marc:
marc.beyrouthy@gmail.com or marcelbeyrouthy@usek.edu.lb

Place of venue: University campus USEK:



Bangladesh 2018

For 2018 the **18th ISE congress** is scheduled to take place in Dhaka (Bangladesh). The exact date is not fixed yet but will be between January and March. This congress will be a joint meeting coordinated between the SFEC-India and ISE.

5. The Indian Chapter: Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE) India

The Indian Chapter of ISE (SFE India) has developed well and attracted a lot of researchers, people from the herbal medicine industry and healthcare practitioners (<http://www.ethnopharmacology.in/>) while the annual congresses (SFEC) were very well attended. Raipur (India) - SFE 19-21 February 2016:



The **next** and **4th Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFEC 2017)** will be organized at C.G. Bhakta Institute of Biotechnology & Maliba Pharmacy College, Uka Tarsadia University, Bardoli, Dist. Surat - 394350, Gujarat, India, an industrial city close to Mumbai during February 23-25, 2017 under the title: "Healthcare in the 21st century: Perspectives of Ethnopharmacology & Medicinal Plant Research".



6. "A Medical Landscape in Laos" Progress report by Elizabeth Elliott, PhD Candidate, Anthropology, University College London (UCL) and winner of the Nina Etkin Award

My work aims to examine and document traditional knowledge in a context of rapid erosion of expertise and ecological resources, as well as exploring the future of healthcare integration and opportunities for the sustainable conservation of medicinal plants.

Taking an anthropological approach involves a long-term commitment as it means learning the language and culture and building relationships with local people and institutions; also there was very little previous research to base my work on. The situation in Lao PDR is also very challenging in terms of research permission and lack of scientific infrastructure, although my work has been received very positively. Thus my fieldwork has gradually evolved from gaining language proficiency and adapting to bureaucratic concerns, as well as experimenting with different methodologies and field sites.

Lao PDR is highly biodiverse, with a mainly rural population, many of whom are subsistence farmers, and are knowledgeable about the use of plants. Traditional medicine is widely used, and most villages still have a healer offering health-care services, although they are usually elderly. The healthcare system is still in a process of development, and traditional medicine acts as both primary and secondary health care, often used alongside biomedicine. Traditional medicine also has a high socio-cultural value, and it has been a government objective to integrate it into the healthcare system. However, there has been very little previous research on this subject in comparison to surrounding Asian countries, with almost no written documentation.

I received the Nina Etkin Young Researcher award at the ISE congress in Chile, September 2014. Later that year I moved to Laos to begin fieldwork and have been here since; I will return to the UK to begin writing my thesis at the end of 2016, with planned future publication(s) in the Journal of Ethnopharmacology. I also gave a presentation on my research at the ISE congress in Yulin, China in May 2016. Much of the first year was spent studying Lao language, applying for research permission and making contacts at all levels of traditional medicine and the health system. Through attending the ISE congress I was also able to connect with the Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD) Pharma-Dev unit, who are in the process of establishing a laboratory in the Faculty of Pharmacy in Vientiane; together we are collaborating on several ethnopharmacology projects focusing on traditional medicine for fevers (malaria/dengue) and liver cancer.

My research is based in rural Champasak province, a predominantly lowland and ethnically Lao area in Southern Lao PDR, bordering Thailand and Cambodia and divided by the Mekong river. In a preliminary survey, I interviewed 35 healers across the province in conjunction with Champasak regional hospital traditional medicine centre. I documented a wide diversity of practices, including herbal medicine (the use of decoctions and powders in specific formulations), 'blowing doctors', healing rituals, and the manufacture of pills and capsules. Each healer has their own specific knowledge about treating disease, transmitted through the family or from learned teachers; many of them travel long distances to collect their medicinal plants from forests across the south, finding them increasingly difficult to locate.

I then selected two highly reputed healers with whom to pursue long-term anthropological field research in different villages and have for most of 2016 been based in the countryside. During this time I have been recording the treatment of patients and their health-seeking behaviour, the role of the healers in the community, the collection and preparation of herbal medicines and the use of plants for medicine within households, through a mixture of interviews, surveys and participant observation, including both quantitative and qualitative data. Plant voucher collection provides material for further investigation and to examine the classification of medicinal plants in local understanding. I have also had the opportunity to copy many old texts as part of the process of knowledge preservation. Working in a village context has enabled me to explore people's health-seeking behaviour; to begin to map the 'Medical Landscape' and gain a deeper understanding of the culture of health and illness in Laos.

Elizabeth Elliott

Fotos from the field site in Laos (courtesy of Elizabeth Elliott):

Collecting plant specimens with traditional healer, hospital staff and IRD researchers



Villagers showing us where to find a tree in the forest



Interviewing a traditional healer and his daughter



Cataloguing traditional medicines with healer



Elizabeth Elliott learning how to prepare medicines at the hospital TM centre



7. Call for photo essay on field or lab-based ethnopharmacology projects

ISE members are invited to showcase their ongoing or past projects on the ISE website (right lower corner): <http://www.ethnopharmacology.org/>

If you are interested please submit your photo essay reflecting and describing very succinctly your project in ethnopharmacology to marcoleonti@netscape.net and caroline.weckerle@systbot.uzh.ch

Photos should be 1000 pixels in height, have a caption each and should tell a story.

8. Literature: Ethnopharmacology a reader. By Michael Heinrich & Anna K. Jager (Editors).

Ethnopharmacology is one of the world's fastest-growing scientific disciplines encompassing a diverse range of subjects. It links natural sciences research on medicinal, aromatic and toxic plants with socio-cultural studies and has often been associated with the development of new drugs. The Editors of Ethnopharmacology have assembled an international team of renowned contributors to provide a critical synthesis of the substantial body of new

knowledge and evidence on the subject that has emerged over the past decade.

<http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118930746.html>

9. Upcoming congresses related to natural products research, herbal and traditional medicine

4th Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFEC), February 23-25, 2017, Gujarat, India: <http://www.ethnopharmacology.in/>

17th Annual Oxford International Conference on the Science of Botanicals, April 3rd - 6th, 2017, Oxford, Mississippi, USA: <http://oxfordicbsb.org/>

58th Annual Meeting of Society for Economic Botany, June, 4-9 2017, Bragança, Portugal: <http://esa.ipb.pt/seb2017/en>

Phytopharm 2017 July, 2-5, 2017 in Graz, Austria:
<http://www.doclinika.ru/Phyto17/index.html>

65th International Congress and Annual Meeting of the Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA). September 3-7, 2017, Basel, Switzerland: <http://www.ga-online.org/events>

Marco Leonti
Secretary ISE