



## ISE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

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## 1. President's Message

### **The President reports:**

The last annual meeting of the general assembly of members was held on April 23rd, 2021. Since then, we had two board meetings on November 09th, 2021 and March 22nd, 2022. In addition, the 21st International Conference of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology was held late May this year in Taichung, Taiwan.

The aim of my report is to guide you through some key events or key issues involving the board of ISE. The president expresses his deepest gratitude for the help and support he received from the board members during a difficult time, which for several reasons was not easy for all: Thank you very much!

**Otto Sticher**, a remarkable and outstanding Swiss Pharmacognosy professor and natural products scientist deceased on March 11th, 2022. Otto Sticher's breadth of research covered the entirety of the field. From 1972 to 2002 he had been a full Professor and Director of Pharmacognosy (later Pharmacy) at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences at ETH Zürich. A detailed obituary can be found below.

**The 21st international conference of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology** in Taichung, Taiwan, was a huge success. The president regrets that circumstances did not allow attending in person. The outstanding program attracted 294 abstracts and around 300 participants. The meeting was held in a hybrid format and adopted several program elements including the Editor-in-Chief session with editors from 6 renowned journals in the field, the young investigators session and the African workshop, all of which had been a big success. The president expresses his deepest gratitude and very special thanks to Profs. Hung-Rong Yen, Lu-Hai Wang and their entire team (more detailed information can be found below).

### **News from the board:**

**Auditors:** As the term for our auditors Yvonne Scherrer and Peter Staub ends by the end of this year, we need two new auditors for the next year. The president thanks and express his gratitude to Yvonne and Peter for their service to the society and *calls for the nomination of new candidates*.

**Young Researchers Group:** The board decided to change the denomination of the "Young Researchers Group" into "Early Career Researchers".

**Social media:** In addition to Twitter the ISE has now a LinkedIn group account

The **News section/blog** will be managed by Javier Echeverria

The **Photo assays** will be managed by Sayeed Ahmad

### **Open initiatives of the board**

**Code of conduct:** The ISE needs to adopt a code of conduct as a guideline for social interactions at conferences. The plan is to draft a code based on codes used by other societies and adopt it to the requirements of the ISE. A draft version should be ready before the next board meeting.

**The African initiative:** The African initiative was developed under the umbrella of ISE and GA and is on its way to become an independent society named "The African Phytomedicine

Scientific Society (APSS)". It is intended to facilitate collaborations and improve research capacities. Eight African speakers were present at the ISE congress in Taichung.

**Volkswagen (VW) Foundation Proposal:** VW Foundation Summer School Knowledge for Tomorrow

Applicants: Prof. Namrita Lall (University of Pretoria, South Africa) and Dr. Cica Vissiennon (Leipzig University, Germany)

Scientific topic: Ethnopharmacological relevance: From bench to shelf, including intellectual property and bioprospecting acts. The aim of this Summer School is to bring together early career scientists primarily from Sub-Saharan Africa. A call for application for participation will be published later this year.

**West Africa:** A letter of support on behalf of the board of directors of the International Society Ethnopharmacology (ISE) in favour of the West African Green Medicine Initiative (WAGreenMed). WAGreenMed comprises scientists from the University of Leipzig, IRGIB University (Benin), Institute for Research and Health Sciences (Burkina Faso), University of Ghana and the Centre Omnitherapeutique Africain (Togo) as part of the BMBF funding line for African- German Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa (RHISSA). The Aim of the WAGreenMed is to scientifically assess and valorise traditional medical concepts using modern bioscientific approaches and to improve the pharmaceutical processing to ensure a future-oriented integration of nature-based medicines in the healthcare of the initiative's West African partner countries. This aim matches the objectives of ISE, namely, to promote ethnopharmacology as a scientific field of research, and we offer our unrestricted support.

## **2. 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology**

With May 2022, came the exciting and immensely successful 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology. The congress was hosted at China Medical University (CMU), a university which has committed itself to the research and development of modern-day therapeutics in an attempt to combat the global disease burden whilst at the same time utilizing, disseminating and preserving centuries-old indigenous knowledge. China Medical University epitomizes the principal theme of the congress which was defined as ‘Integrating ancient knowledge into modern clinical practice.’



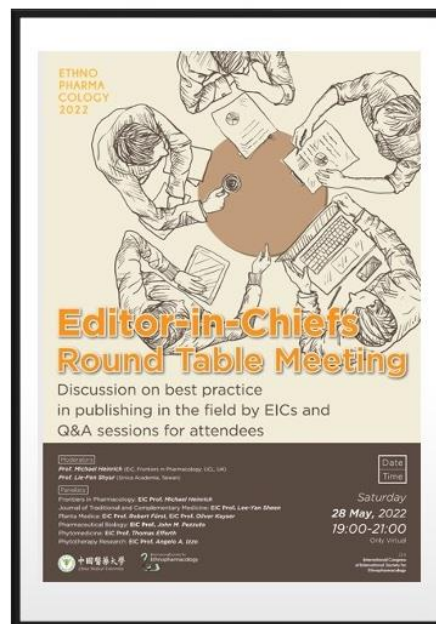
Photograph of CMU President Mien-Chie Hung (front row, fourth from the right), Vice President Lu-Hai Wang (front row, second from the right), Dean Hung-Rong Yen (front row, first from the right) and the invited guests in the opening ceremony.

Over 20 countries were represented by a total of 42 international speakers. In addition, several keynote addresses were delivered by the likes of Professor Günter Vollmer, President of the International Society of Ethnopharmacology as well as Director Yi-Tsau Huang from the Ministry of Health and Welfare, Taiwan. The 300 participants were exposed to 13 thematic topics with highlights including the role of Ethnopharmacology in the COVID-19 pandemic and how the biological gold mine of compounds contained within natural traditional sources may be utilized to ease the disease burden. A special lecture in memory of Dr. Bu-Tao Zhang was organized to further highlight the rich potential of Traditional Chinese Medicine classics in the clinical setting of COVID-19.



The congress venue in the International Conference Hall, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan.

The Editors-in-Chief of 6 international journals in the field of botanical medicine and pharmacology were invited to a round table discussion with over 100 participants to discuss the current state of research, the challenges to such research as well as novel advances in the field of Ethnopharmacology. The Young Researcher's Forum co-hosted by Dr. Fabien Schultz from Germany and Dr. Jung Chao from CMU Taiwan as well as the African Workshop, moderated by Professor Namrita Lall from the University of Pretoria, South Africa were examples of two additional sessions which took place at the congress. A total of 19 graduate students and fellows received travel awards and in addition 20 participants were also awarded with best poster awards.



The Editor-in-Chief Round Table Meeting poster of the congress.

Overall, the 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress was a successful and fruitful experience for all involved. The transfer of knowledge and expertise as well as the networking opportunities provided by such a congress are most valuable and greatly appreciated in the journey towards the advancement of Ethnopharmacology.



Photograph of the Travel Award and Best Poster Award winners with the meeting organizers and invited speakers in the closing ceremony.

### 3. An overview of the African Workshop and Young Researchers Forum

An African Workshop was held on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May during the 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE) that took place in Taichung, Taiwan. The workshop was Chaired by Prof. Namrita Lall, the president-elect of the ISE. The workshop started with an introduction on COVID-19 and a retrospective look at past viral pandemics, highlighting the importance of understanding and preparing for future pandemics. This was followed by a discussion on the potential of African-based medicinal plants and plant-based adjuvants in combatting COVID-19. Further to this, the potential use of African medicinal plants as vaccine candidates were highlighted. Additionally, to the session on COVID-19, the registration of complementary medicines in South Africa was discussed. The Young Researchers Forum was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May and showcased many up-and-coming ethnopharmacologists from across the world. It introduced a wide range of topics exploring many fields.



Young Researchers Forum and African Workshop posters of the congress.

#### 4. 22<sup>nd</sup> International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE) and the 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the Society for ethnopharmacology (SFE)

The joint 22<sup>nd</sup> International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE) and the 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE) will take place from the 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 at the City Convention Centre, Imphal, Manipur, India. This ISE-SFEC congress will be jointly organized by the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (Imphal, India) and SFEC (India).

**FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT**

**ISE SFEC 2023**

**22<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of International Society for Ethnopharmacology & 10<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Society for Ethnopharmacology**

*"Reimagine Ethnopharmacology: Globalization of Traditional Medicine"*

**February 24-26, 2023**

**City Convention Centre, Imphal, Manipur, India**

*Jointly organized by*

**Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD)**  
Imphal, Manipur, India  
[www.ibsd.gov.in](http://www.ibsd.gov.in)

**&**

**Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE)**  
Kolkata, India  
[www.ethnopharmacology.in](http://www.ethnopharmacology.in)

**SFE- Eastern Himalaya Local Chapter**  
Imphal, Manipur, India

**Join the Congress & Explore the Opportunities**

For details for registration, abstract submission please visit:  
[www.isesfec2023.in](http://www.isesfec2023.in)

The theme for the conference is “Reimagine ethnopharmacology-Globalization of traditional medicine”. The major topics that will be covered are Globalization of traditional medicine: tradition to translation, evidence-based validation of traditional medicine, evaluation of safety, efficacy and quality of botanicals as well as bioprospecting of natural products-an approach towards drug discovery.

The congress enables participants to present their research work, interact with each other as well as with experts in the field of ethnopharmacology. The congress also enables the dissemination of ideas that may aid in the further enhancement of the ethnopharmacology field. The congress will be hybrid (both in-person attendance and online). For further details visit [www.isesfec2023.in](http://www.isesfec2023.in) or email any queries to [isesfec2023@gmail.com](mailto:isesfec2023@gmail.com)



## 5. Prof. Otto Sticher Obituary



Otto Sticher, Emeritus and former Professor of Pharmacognosy and Pharmaceutical Biology at ETH Zurich, died peacefully on March 11 at his home in Ebmatingen, Switzerland at the age of 85.

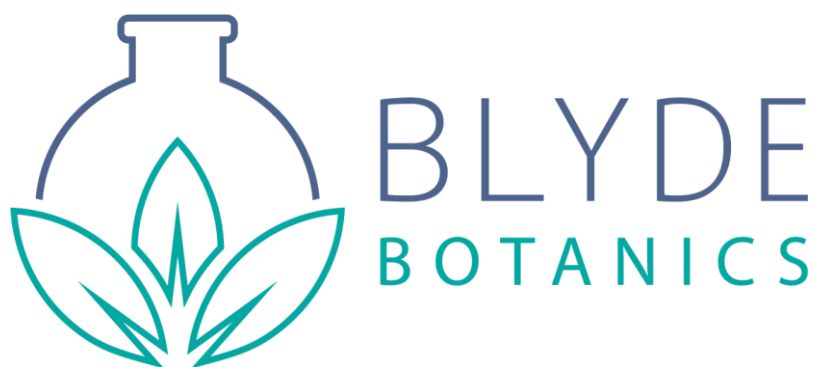
His passing brings the loss of a distinguished colleague, great mentor and most importantly, a long-standing friend to many. Many who have had the honour of interacting with him have said that his enthusiasm for science has influenced all those who worked with him. Prof. Sticher greatly contributed to the field of pharmacognosy and has influenced the ways of thinking and lives of many others.

Otto Sticher will be remembered as a scholar in a class of his own. His scientific contributions were prodigious in quality and quantity. As mentor and friend to many scientists in the field of natural product research, he will remain with us all after his passing. Several of his former PhD students have become professors. The human and academic legacy of Otto Sticher will live on, and he will be missed in person but not in our intellectual work. His vision and personality remain an inspiration to all of us.

The thoughts of us all go to his beloved wife, family, students and colleagues.

## 6. Blyde Botanics Company Profile

Blyde Botanics (Pty) Ltd. is a business-to-business plant extract manufacturing company which manufactures three scientifically proven, quality-controlled actives from unique indigenous species for the treatment of acne (Actify), ageing (WrinkLess) and periodontal health (NatalFresh). This new start-up was founded by Prof. Namrita Lall' two students from the University of Pretoria, Dr Isa Kupke and PhD candidate, Bianca Payne. With their passion for plants and scientific expertise, Bianca and Isa began their mission to provide formulators with indigenous, scientifically proven, quality-controlled actives that safely and naturally solve the pains of end users, and in doing so take them to an elevated level of well-being. With the support of TuksNovation, a high-tech business incubator that provides specialised product and business development support to startups, Blyde Botanics is ready to tackle the natural product cosmetic market. Prof Lall is serving as a non-executive Scientific advisor for the company.



## 7. New books:

*Medicinal Plants as Anti-infectives: Current Knowledge and New Perspectives* edited by François Chassagne provides comprehensive and updated data on medicinal plants and plant-derived compounds used as antimicrobials in a range of locations (such as the Balkans, Colombia, India, Lebanon, Mali, Pakistan, Southeast Asia, South Africa, and West Africa). It is structured in 17 chapters and provides an overview on the most recent innovations and regulations in the field of drug discovery from ethnobotanical sources. This book will help readers to better appreciate the role of plants and phytomedicines as anti-infectives, to better assess the health benefits of plant-derived products, to help implement new methodologies for studying medicinal plants, and to guide future researchers in the field. *Medicinal Plants as Anti-infectives: Current Knowledge and New Perspectives* is a valuable resource for students, academic scientists, and researchers from the fields of ethnobotany, pharmacy, medicinal chemistry, and microbiology, as well as for professionals working in national or international health agencies, or in pharmaceutical industries.

Link:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/book/9780323909990/medicinal-plants-as-anti-infectives>