Dear American Society of Pharmacognosy Members and our International Colleagues,

My hope is that this letter finds you all safe and secure and that the current coronavirus pandemic has not directly affected you or your loved ones. There is no doubt, however, that this pandemic is radically altering all our lives and our expectations for the future. We at the American Society of Pharmacognosy (ASP) are closely monitoring this situation and trying to help where we can. We all know that there are likely natural products that can have an effect against SARS-CoV-2 and I am sure that many of you are working to find and develop just such agents. I wish you all success.

Another aspect of our future that we are trying to adjust to is the effect this pandemic may have on the 2020 International Conference on Natural Product Research (ICNPR) which is scheduled to be held in San Francisco California from July 25-30, 2020. We are in contact with the Hyatt Hotel and with the on-site organizers of this meeting on a weekly, sometimes daily, basis to keep current on the outlook in San Francisco. As many of you may know, San Francisco is currently under a “stay-a-home” restriction for its population. The Hyatt hotel is currently closed until May 17th, but they plan to be open and functioning for our meeting in July.

At this time, we continue to work under the assumption that the meeting will take place as scheduled in July. However, we understand that concerns about the meeting are high. For that reason, we have instituted a generous cancellation policy for the ICNPR. In addition, we are extending the abstract submission deadline until May 1st, 2020 to allow more time for all of us to have a better understanding of the impact of the coronavirus on our futures.
I encourage everyone to register for the 2020 ICNPR with the knowledge that the ASP and Hyatt Hotel will do everything in our power to insure a safe and secure conference. We at the ASP will continue to monitor the situation in San Francisco and with the Hyatt Hotel. Should there be any change in plans we will let everyone know as soon as possible.

Please stay safe and, for the time being, stay separated.

With my sincere best wishes,

Barry R. O’Keefe
President, American Society of Pharmacognosy