

First African Research Workshop on medicinal plant and natural products research took place in Innsbruck on 01 September 2019

During the 67th annual congress of the GA, the African Research Network has hosted its first scientific workshop on medicinal plant and natural products research. An inspiring impulse lecture on African traditional medicine and eight scientific short lectures gave an overview about diverse topics related to natural products research conducted in Africa.

Since the establishment of the GA-Working Group “African Research Network” in 2014 the desire to meet in a dedicated scientific session among African researchers was high and the idea of organizing an African research focused workshop during the annual congress was established.

The aim of the African Research Workshop is to provide an exchange platform for African scientists working in the field of natural products research within the GA and to stimulate the dialogue between them. As an interaction platform for researchers from all over the world, this year’s annual congress of the GA in Innsbruck offered an ideal setting for hosting this scientific workshop for the first time.

The workshop was organized and chaired by Dr. Emerson Ferreira Queiroz from the University of Geneva, Switzerland and Dr. Cica Vissiennon from the University of Leipzig, Germany. Prof. Dr. Sami Khalid from the University of Science and Technology, Sudan opened the dialogue with an inspiring lecture on “*Revisiting African traditional medicine within the 21st century context - past, present and future perspectives*” where he has highlighted the vast potential of the continent based on its biodiversity and the deeply rooted ethnobotanical tradition. He has emphasized current challenges to streamline research efforts in order to maintain a sound scientific capacity in Africa which will further consolidate the ethnomedicinal heritage and empower young scientists.

A total number of 45 participants attended the workshop and created a dynamic and collaborative atmosphere. Abstracts from eight different countries have been received out of which the scientific committee selected eight contributions for oral presentation. The presented short lectures on phytotherapy, veterinary medicine, botany, phytochemistry and ethnopharmacology have been lively discussed among the participating scientists allowing a fruitful scientific but also personal exchange between the attendees.

At the end of the workshop the scientific committee has announced the *Best Presentation Award of the African Research Workshop 2019*, which was selected out of the presented short lectures. Mr. Achille Parfait Atchan Nwakiban from the University of Dschang, Cameroon, has been awarded for his lecture on „*Antioxidant and Anti-Inflammatory activities of Cameroon nutritional spice extracts in human gastric epithelial cells*„. The award was granted with the opportunity to present his work to the plenary during the main congress on Wednesday 04 September 2019.

All in all, both organizers as well as the participants considered the event as a great success which will be continued in the future!

Annex: Pictures:



Picture 1: Mr. Achille Parfait Atchan Nwakiban (University of Dschang, Cameroon) receiving his award "Best Presentation of the African Research Workshop 2019" during the opening ceremony and during his award presentation on „Antioxidant and Anti-Inflammatory activities of Cameroon nutritional spice extracts in human gastric epithelial cells" on WEdnin the plenary lecture hall of the main congress.



Picture 2: Group picture after the first African Research Workshop 2019 at the 67th annual congress of the GA in Innsbruck.