

XII National Meeting of Pharmaceutical Chemistry Professors: could we have now a subarea of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry in the CNPq Pharmacy Committee?

Last February, the 12th National Meeting of Pharmaceutical Chemistry Professors was held in Goiania, state of Goias, Brazil. This biannual event, that encompasses professors from public and private Faculties of Pharmacy, has been an academic space for discussing topics related to the teaching and the research of this very important subject.

The first National Meeting was carried out in 1975, in Rio de Janeiro city, supported by the Federal Council of Pharmacy. It was organized by Professor Andrejus Korolkovas, the well-known professor and scientist of this area of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Sao Paulo, who died 17 years ago. In that Meeting, the Pharmaceutical Chemistry, which scope is drug design and discovery, was reintroduced in the Brazilian pharmaceutical curriculum. Actually, this Meeting was fundamental to emphasize the relevance of this subject to the background of the pharmacists, either actuating directly in the area or in the overall possibilities of the pharmaceutical career.

The second Meeting was organized in 1992, thanks to the great stimulus of Professor Eliezer L. Barreiro, from the Faculty of Pharmacy at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, considered nowadays as one of the best Brazilian scientists in this area. From then on, the Meeting has been organized each two years, in different cities, supported by professors, graduate, and undergraduate students from different universities.

It is noteworthy that Pharmaceutical Chemistry or Medicinal Chemistry, or even Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry, are denominations that have been used interchangeably nowadays. Besides being highly innovative in its nature, this area of science is the essential link to RD&I sector in pharmaceutical industries. The paradigm of drug design and development is changing gradually towards a stronger partnership between universities and pharmaceutical companies, and Pharmaceutical/Medicinal Chemistry is the essential connection link. Without this knowledge we will not create a solid scientific background, which is still incipient, *hélas*, in the country, and we will be far from the possibility of being real players in this important economic sector.

For this very reason, the creation of the subarea of Pharmaceutical and Medicinal Chemistry in CNPq Committee, as decided in the 12th National Meeting of Pharmaceutical Chemistry Professors, is an

acknowledgment of its importance in the Pharmacy scope and a strategy for contributing to the scientific and technological development of our country.

We are quite sure that the members of Pharmacy Committee of CNPq will be sensible to this fare aspiration of Professors and students of this area!

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