

### Partnership symposium: Leipzig – Cotonou, West Africa (06. Juli 2017)

The partnership between the University of Leipzig and the IRGIB-Africa University (Benin, West Africa) is marked by regular academic and cultural exchanges between the two Universities. Joint research programs focus on the documentation and evaluation of the indigenous traditional medicinal knowledge of Western Africa and the promotion of its integration into the existing regional health system.

To acknowledge the long-term partnership between our two Universities, we have organized a partnership symposium, which focused on the joint application of natural healing methods and medicinal plants. Purpose of this symposium was to highlight common grounds and differences within traditional medicinal practice between our two cultures and to discover joint research fields:

#### **Impressions gallery:**



*Figure 1: Prof. em. Karen Nieber and Dr. rer. nat. Cica Vissiennon on future perspectives of phytopharmaceuticals (© Oliver Schlicke)*



*Figure 2. Prof. Erich Schröger (Prodekan für Forschung, Universität Leipzig) during his opening remarks (© Oliver Schlicke)*



*Figure 3: Prof. Virgile Ahyi (Vice-President of the IRGIB-Africa University, Cotonou Benin) highlighting challenges of a technical University in a developing country in Africa (© Oliver Schlicke)*





Figure 4: (© Oliver Schlicke)



Figure 5: (© Oliver Schlicke)



Figure 6: (© Oliver Schlicke)

## Programme:

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### **Introduction and opening remarks**

Chair: Dr. Cica Vissiennon (Universität Leipzig)

Prof. Erich Schröger, Prodekan für Forschung und Nachwuchsförderung  
(Universität Leipzig)

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### **Leipzig – Cotonou: Brief history of a partnership**

Dr. Cica Vissiennon (Universität Leipzig)

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### **Tradition and relevance of natural medicines in Western African countries**

AssProf. Dr. Gado Dramane (IRGIB-Africa University)

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### **Medicinal herbal drugs in Europe**

Prof. em. Dr. Karen Nieber (Universität Leipzig)

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### **The challenge of a technical university in a developing country in Africa: IRGIB-Africa**

Prof. Dr. Virgile Ahyi (IRGIB-Africa University)

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### **Naphthylisoquinoline alkaloids: therapeutic effects and possible biotechnological production**

JProf. Dr. Karin Fester (Universität Leipzig)

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### **Antibacterial and anti-inflammatory mechanisms exerted by the fungus-growing termite strain *Macrotermes bellicosus* used in traditional medicine in Benin**

MSc. Dima Hammoud (IRGIB-Africa University)

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**Phytochemical and pharmacological analysis of *Entada africana* extracts – traditionally used in Benin for the treatment of inflammatory disorders**

MSc. Murielle Codo-Toafode (IRGIB-Africa University)

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**Phytochemical and pharmacological analysis of *Ficus natalensis* and *Pilostigma thoningii* – plants traditionally used for the treatment of inflammatory disorders**

Dipl.Pharm. Peter Marquardt (Universität Leipzig)

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**Synergy in phytotherapeutics: Pharmacological interaction of myrrh, chamomile and coffee charcoal – components of a German traditional medicinal product**

MSc. Dima Hammoud (IRGIB-Africa University)

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**Closing remarks and future perspectives**

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