Amy Wright

Dr. Wright has conducted research in the field of natural products chemistry for the past twenty-five years. Currently she is the Director of the Division of Biomedical Marine Research at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution and the Head of the Natural Products Chemistry Group. She is a member of the graduate faculty of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department of Florida Atlantic University and the Department of Marine Biomedical and Environmental Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina. Her current research program focuses on the discovery of novel bioactive marine natural products obtained from marine plants, invertebrates and microorganisms associated with marine invertebrates using bioassay guided purification. The structures of new compounds are determined through spectroscopic means with an emphasis on the use of nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. Organisms of special interest are those which live in deep water habitats and their microbial associates. She has over fifty-five publications in the field of marine natural products and is an inventor on seventeen US patents.

S-14 THE MARINE NATURAL PRODUCTS DRUG DISCOVERY PROGRAM AT HARBOR BRANCH OCEANOGRAPHIC: BIOACTIVE COMPOUNDS FROM DEEP-WATER MARINE ORGANISMS

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The Division of Biomedical Marine Research at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution has been conducting research on biologically active compounds from marine organisms for the past twenty-one years. Samples are collected using conventional methods such as scuba, snorkeling and wading but our emphasis is upon the collection of organisms from depths greater than those typically accessible through scuba collections . The Division makes use of the JOHNSON-SEA-LINK (JSL) human occupied submersibles to collect and document samples from previously less-accessible marine habitats such as deep-water vertical walls. Many of the organisms which live in these habitats represent previously undescribed species. Some of the organisms produce structurally unprecedented compounds while others contain metabolites which are related to those found in organisms which live in shallow water habitats of the Pacific and Indo-Pacific. Over the years, the program has utilized a mixture of molecular target-based assays as well as more traditional anti-proliferative assays. The talk will exemplify our relative success with the two approaches.