



Editorial

## **Asian Journal of Pharmacognosy**

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The current Western health care system, which is the monopole of powerful pharmaceutical industries globally, is lacking of human dimension. Pills, syrups and injections manufactured in factories are prescribed by doctors and delivered by pharmacists who are trying their best for their patients. That mechanism works well, like a machine. But man is not a machine. During a conference held in Karachi few years ago I met some “hakeems” who spoke about the nature of man, hot and cold temperaments, dry and humid, reminding Ampedocles and Galen as a vestige of Ancient Greek colonization. Their way of treating patients and the medicinal plants offer hope to patients turn down or unexplained by modern medicine. Likewise, traditional Chinese medicine with ying and yang theory, is often successful in treating patients left untreatable by Western synthetic medicine. Thus, blindly jumping into a global Western health care system, which lacks of cultural difference and human heritage, could be a mistake. We need to recall all previous *Materia Medica* and to teach it to new generations of pharmacists. The spirit of AJP is to save traditional knowledge and to permit academics from developing countries to have a voice and to disseminate their knowledge in Asian medicinal plants without being limited by obscene fees and demands of expensive western blots (!). It is not aimed at high impact factor nor making money. Many journals nowadays have turned into lucrative businesses, not all, and researchers from humble settings are not able to share their knowledge on medicinal plants and to get good quality review process with by academic peers. The Asian Journal of Pharmacognosy is a benevolent medium of communication on medicinal plants in Asia. In this issue, we present excellent papers from various Asian regions. Some of the plants mentioned here may in the future provide hope to treat inflammation, diabetes, tuberculosis or cancer. I remain grateful to our President Professor Mohammed Rahmatullah for his graceful guidance and to the board of Directors and Editors for making this fourth issue.