



# President's Message



## Welcome to January-May 2019 Issue

*Mohammed Rahmatullah*

University of Development Alternative

We are passing through difficult times. The COVID-19 pandemic has now affected practically the whole world with about 100,000 new infections being reported each day. The pandemic has affected every part of our lives; businesses and educational institutions are closed, people have lost jobs, lockdowns are present in virtually every country affecting the street vendors, restaurant owners, gyms, bars, clubs, tourism, and aviation and what not. Rich and poor countries are equally at risk; the virus does not make distinctions between rich and poor people. A state of panic is slowly pervading the world with no signs of a quick cure in sight.

Under this difficult situation, pharmacognosists have to rise to the occasion. The way to eradicate COVID-19 will be through vaccines or drugs, unless like SARS or MERS the virus suddenly disappears. More than 100 vaccines are under trial, but it is not certain when and whether these vaccines will be deemed suitable for human use. That leaves drugs and scientists can look at the plant kingdom for an effective anti-COVID drug. That is where the Asian Society of Pharmacognosy and its Journal can play a major role in encouraging scientists, disseminating information, and instilling a sense of confidence among all that human ingenuity will find a way out of this viral menace.

On behalf of the Society and the Journal, I urge everybody to stay safe, maintain the rules as promulgated by the World Health Organization as well as each country's Government, and keep clear of the misinformation available on the Internet. Certainly, we will overcome the virus.