



President's Message



Welcome to June 2021 issue

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It is my pleasure to say that Asian Journal of Pharmacognosy has finally started to pick up steam and is getting quality papers on a regular basis. However, that does not mean that we can now all go off somewhere and leave the Journal. The hard work done by the Editor, Editorial Board and well-wishers need to be sustained till the Journal attains PubMed status and becomes a prestigious journal reflecting the pharmacognosy needs, news and views of the Asian continent. At the moment, all of us are in a sort obsessed with COVID-19. This is natural, considering how this dreadful viral disease has affected practically all of us in losses of dear friends and relatives and bringing economic disruption to practically every home of the world. The efficacy of the various vaccines currently administered has been brought into focus again with the emergence of 'variants of concern'.

Quite possibly, in the future we may see more 'variants of more concern' from this virus, and active steps need to be taken to stop this virus before the virus stops us entirely. Pharmacognosy, along with other disciplines can play an active role in eradicating this viral disease. And let us not forget that SARS, MERS, avian flu and a host of other viruses have not gone anywhere but lurking in our midst, waiting for an opportunity to come back with a vengeance. Sadly, we are ill-prepared to face and be victorious over this viral menaces. We need dozens of equipped laboratories in every Asian country capable of anti-viral testing and experiments, but it seems that this practical necessity is not a major concern with the ruling powers. Pharmacognosy and microbiology are two subjects that need to be started from primary schools together with global climate changes and environment. It is very much likely that global climate changes and disruption of ecological and environmental balances are the driving forces behind the emergence of these new viruses and other infectious diseases, and pharmacognosy can be an important tool in finding new therapeutics against the new pathogens.

There is a saying that "Nero fiddled while Rome burned". While deforestation is increasingly being thought upon by the leading scientists as a cause of ecological imbalance and emergence of new pathogens, a section of our 'high and mighty' are busy cutting of forests whether be it in the Amazons or rain forests and mangrove belts elsewhere to clear land for cattle grazing, industrialization, or simply commercial cultivation of crops. There is absolutely no rational thinking about the consequences of such devastating deforestation. The lure of money is becoming the major principle of a few at the cost of human lives of many. Let me end with a quote from the famous Scottish-American naturalist John Muir. "The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness." We can disregard this quote but only at our own peril.