

# Editorial

**I.E. Cock<sup>a,b\*</sup>**

*Editor-In-Chief*

<sup>a</sup>*Biomolecular and Physical Sciences, Nathan Campus, Griffith University, 170 Kessels Rd, Nathan, Brisbane, Queensland 4111, Australia.*

<sup>b</sup>*Environmental Futures Centre, Nathan Campus, Griffith University, 170 Kessels Rd, Nathan, Brisbane, Queensland 4111, Australia*

Dear readers and authors,

It is with a sense of satisfaction that I introduce the second issue of Pharmacognosy Communications. Following on from the successful introduction of the journal in issue 1, I am pleased to follow this up with a second high quality issue. A lot of work goes into the establishment and production of a new journal and it is with a great deal of appreciation that I acknowledge the work of a number of individuals who have assisted in these processes. Firstly, the guidance and assistance of Dr Mueen Ahmed (managing editor of Pharmacognosy Network Worldwide) and his staff, has eased the introduction of the journal into the Pharmacognosy Network Worldwide group of publications. Dr Ahmed and his team were invaluable in the establishment of the online submission system and the Pharmacognosy Communications homepage (<http://www.phcogcommn.org/>). Furthermore, Dr Ahmed has been of great assistance with promoting this journal to the members of Pharmacognosy Network Worldwide and has been a valuable source of advice regarding the establishment of a new journal.

Publishing a high quality journal would also not be possible without the dedication and assistance of a strong and committed editorial team. The work of the members of the editorial board in assisting me to bring out the first two editions has been invaluable and I look forward to working with them again on future issues of this journal. The journal benefits from the wealth of experience and knowledge of such a diverse editorial board, with members from diverse global regions, with broad range of research interests. I would also like to thank those who have accepted the requests to review manuscripts. A high quality journal is reliant on the quality of its peer review process, and therefore on the efforts of the reviewers.

Pharmacognosy Communications continues to grow as evidenced by the increased number of submissions received following the publication of the first issue. I am pleased to be now receiving manuscripts from geographically diverse regions of the world. Pharmacognosy and medicinal plant

usage has a rich tradition, particularly in Asian, African and the Middle Eastern regions. Indeed, written records of man's usage of plant medications date back more than 6000 years. Sumerian clay tablets (circa 4000 BC) provide details of approximately 1000 medicinal plants and plant medications. Similarly, the Pun-tsaο (dating to approximately 2500 BC) records thousands of herbal cures used in traditional Chinese medicine. Ancient records also exist describing Indian and African plant medicines. It is therefore not surprising that the vast majority of submissions are from these regions. However, other regions of the world also have much to offer the study of pharmacognosy and we encourage submissions globally. Submissions have been recently received from areas as diverse as India, Ghana, Nigeria, Australia, Iran and Poland. Some of these manuscripts are published within this issue, whilst others will be available in upcoming issues.

Issue 2 also continues with the regular features established in issue 1. The World Wide Web review section of this issue focuses on the Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS), a useful source of information for a wide range of users, including researchers in the field of pharmacognosy. These encyclopedias cover a broad range of topics and have the aim of making this information available to a wide global audience. I would encourage any interested persons to examine the site for themselves and evaluate its usefulness for your own studies. Dr Michal Tomczyk has also provided an interesting profile of his research facility, the Department of Pharmacognosy, Bialystok, Poland. Also, another 2 original photographs of medicinal plants are published in this issue.

Considering the growing interest in pharmacognosy, I look forward to increasing submissions of manuscripts from our readers worldwide. Furthermore, I would also encourage readers to consider contributing to the other sections that I have introduced into the journal (departmental profiles, reviews and original photographs of medicinal plants). We also aim to provide an accurate, up to date list of upcoming events. I encourage any societies with upcoming conferences/symposia etc to provide me with the details so that I can publicise the upcoming events in the journal. On behalf of myself and the editorial board, we look forward to bringing you the next issue of Pharmacognosy Communications in 3 months time.

\*Correspondence: Tel.: +61 7 37357637; fax: +61 7 37355282.  
E-mail address: [I.Cock@griffith.edu.au](mailto:I.Cock@griffith.edu.au)  
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