

# Editorial

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Dear readers and authors,

The number of manuscripts submitted to Pharmacognosy Communications over the recent 3 month period has continued to climb steadily. Similarly, the diversity of topics covered also reflects the increasing interest in our journal. Since the first issue, we have strived to establish a journal that publishes quality research findings and reviews of interest to a wide audience of researchers in the field of pharmacognosy. The current issue continues and extends this trend. In volume 2, issue 1, we present 10 original research publications along with 2 review articles. The first original research manuscript featured in this issue describes an interesting *in vivo* study into the interactions between the commonly used herb *Zingiber officinale* (ginger) and the anti-diabetic drugs insulin and glibenclamide by Al-Omari et al. Coincidentally, ginger also features prominently in other sections of this issue - as our cover picture, and as one of the medicinal plant images, which is one of our regular features for the journal.

Research studies examining the pharmacognosy of several other plants including Aloe vera, Fenugreek, the palm oil tree *Elais guinensis*, *Araucaria bidwillii*, *Acacia anlacocarpa*, *Acacia complanta* as well as the common spices clove, black pepper and allspice are presented in this issue. We also present a pharmacognostic study of a non-plant derived natural agent (silver) and its antimicrobial and toxicity properties. There are also 2 review manuscripts published in this issue. Annamalai discusses the role of informatics in the study of medicinal plants and describes an approach for the usage of existing databases to aid research into plant medicinals. The second review is a rigorous examination of plants and plant products as anti-convulsants by Kumar et al. This is an exhaustive study which itemises and examines the anti-convulsant activity of several hundred plants. Furthermore, this study also examines the various classes of anti-convulsant compounds (with examples of specific anti-convulsant

phytochemicals for each class of compound) and the commercial anti-convulsant formulations. It is a highly detailed review and would be a valuable resource for all researchers examining the anti-convulsant activity of plants. We have included this review as a separate supplement to this issue.

Our regular features are also continued in this issue. Editorial board member Dr Matthew Cheesman has provided an interesting profile of the Department of Pharmacology, University of Queensland. A commentary by Dr Phillip Kerr (also a member of the editorial board) highlights an often overlooked area of medicinal plant research – the potential of arid environment plants. The World Wide Web feature of this issue looks the Journal of Contradicting Results in Science, an upcoming journal for Pharmacognosy Network Worldwide. I also introduce a new section to Pharmacognosy Communications. The Janus Corner is an occasional section which will be included as required. This section will include mini-biographies of notable research (and the people behind them), historical reflections, book reviews, article alerts and letters to the editor. I encourage all readers to get involved with this section.

As the numbers of submissions to Pharmacognosy Communications continues to grow, so does the amount of reviewing and editing that the members of the editorial board and our reviewers need to get through for each issue. I encourage more people to become reviewers for Pharmacognosy Communications and once again, extend my sincerest thanks to all that assist in these roles. We recognise that whilst Pharmacognosy Communications is published in English, many of our contributors come from non-English speaking backgrounds. We encourage you to have a colleague review your manuscript before sending it to the journal for review. Similarly, the spelling/grammar checking function of your word processor program will ensure that you correct the majority of errors before submission, thus saving an unnecessary drain on the time of the reviewers and editors. I would further implore authors to check and comply with the instructions to authors which are included in every issue of the journal, as well as on the journals web site. It is vital that you follow the journals instructions and formatting requirements, or your manuscript will be returned without review.

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I look forward to the next issue of Pharmacognosy Communications, which will be our fourth issue and round out our first year. Keep submitting your quality research manuscripts and reviews and consider becoming involved/submitting to the other sections (such as the Dept Review,

Janus Corner etc) of the journal also. On behalf of myself and the editorial board, we look forward to bringing you the next issue of Pharmacognosy Communications in 3 months time.