

# Editorial

## Editorial

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### Dear readers and authors,



It is with a sense of satisfaction that I introduce volume 4 issue 2 of *Pharmacognosy Communications*. This issue completes our first 3 years of publication. As Thomson Reuters requires a minimum of 3 years of publication to calculate an impact factor,

we have now reached this point and can expect to receive an evaluation and the corresponding impact factor when the next year's citation statistics are published. This will be a major step forward for *Pharmacognosy Communications* and will allow us to be compared to other similar publications. I am confident that we will receive a credible first impact factor. Due to the nature of the impact factor calculation, this would be expected to then steadily increase over the following years as the journal builds a more extensive body of previous publications (all of which count towards a journal's citable publications). With this step, we can expect *Pharmacognosy Communications* to continue to develop and improve our reputation in this scientific discipline.

A lot of work goes into the establishment and production of a new journal and working towards attaining a credible impact factor. 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. 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-tSao* (dating to approximately 2500BC) records thousands of herbal cures used in traditional Chinese medicine. Ancient records also exist describing Indian and African plant medicines. It is therefore not

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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 Jordan, Malaysia, India, Ghana, Nigeria, Australia, Iran and Poland. Some of these manuscripts are published within this issue, whilst others will be available in upcoming issues.

Volume 4, issue 2 features manuscripts outlining studies into HPTLC evaluation of *Trichosanthes dioica* compounds, a GC-MS analysis of the essential oils of *Mentha aquatica*, a phytochemical evaluation of *Pongamia pinnata* leaves, studies into the anti-diabetic properties of *Viscum album* (Mistletoe) and *Allium sativa*, and HPLC and HPTLC analysis of *Carrisa congesta* extracts. Our regular features are also continued in this issue. The Janus Corner continues, with short notifications of interest to readers of Pharmacognosy Communications. I encourage all readers to get involved with this section by sending in short notifications of work that may be of interest

to your fellow readers, book reviews and letters to the editor. Two more high quality medicinal plant images are also included in this issue and a listing of upcoming conferences and meetings is also included. I encourage any conference organisers who would like to publicise their event to contact me with details so they can be included in future upcoming events sections of this journal.

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.