

## EDITORIAL

# Discovery Phytomedicine: an open access journal for knowledge dissemination in herbal and nutraceutical research

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There are several scientific journals publishing the benefits of valuable phytochemicals to improve human health, as well as help prevention of chronic diseases. Then why do we need a new journal dedicated on the role of phytochemicals and nutraceuticals? The answer may not be simple. There are number of important reasons. Plants and natural foods consist of thousands of phytochemicals and phytonutrients that have been identified so far and there are probably more to identify, all of which have not been completely understood for their roles in human metabolism and health. More scientific research has been going on to unearth a myriad of phytomedicines for their use to combat chronic diseases and maintain healthy life. Since the number of phytochemicals identified and their significance with improving health are increasing day by day, there is an increasing need for scientific journals with open access policy to reach the scientific community as well as general public with the benefits of phytochemicals on human health.

In recent years, interest on phytochemicals and functional foods has been increasingly rising.<sup>1</sup> A large number of people in the Western countries presently started acknowledging the importance of natural products to promote health and to prevent disease.<sup>2</sup> Results and findings from research on phytochemicals have supported and suggested the health benefits of developing phytochemical products.<sup>1</sup> Phytochemicals have been endorsed for prevention and treatment of chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease (CVD), diabetes mellitus and cancer.<sup>2,3</sup> Since ancient times the link between diet and health has been recognised and validated by evidence from several research studies.<sup>1, 3, 4</sup> All of these facts demonstrate the importance of discovering phytochemicals and exploring their mechanism of actions on disease prevention and treatment.

Discovery Phytomedicine is a journal that aims at recognizing and publishing scientific research and review articles that reflect the discovery of phytochemicals and their mechanisms of actions on chronic diseases and improvement of overall health.

The journal intends at discovering phytochemicals that could be used as preventive and therapeutic medicine. It is a journal dedicated to get attention and disseminate novel and experimental innovations focusing on *in vitro* and *in vivo* research of naturally occurring phytochemicals, phytopharmacology, pharmacognosy, standardization and phytotoxicology, obtained with plant extracts, as well as, isolated compounds from these extracts and phytopharmaceuticals. In addition, articles encompassing structural elucidation of bioactive compounds and their pharmacological and toxicological studies are also of interest. Furthermore, the open access nature of publication by the journal would reach to a large number of readers which is another great opportunity for scientific researchers to deliver their findings to a large number of audiences.

The editorial board for this journal consists of renowned scientists around the world including countries such as Canada, United States of America, Germany, South Africa, Australia, United Kingdom, Italy, Singapore, Malaysia, Egypt, China, and South Korea. Contributions from highly knowledgeable scientists as editors to the journal ensure the higher quality and integrity of the scientific content of the journal. The journal has an online manuscript submission system that would help with simple and expedited way of the submission and review process. Furthermore, peer review system of the journal further exhibits the evidence in maintaining the quality, originality, and appropriateness of the data and articles to be published.

Overall, it is appreciable to see an emerging journal with high quality and integrity to fulfil the need with delivering the scientific and research findings on the benefits and mechanisms of phytochemicals in prevention and treatment of diseases and improve health.

## Conflict of interest

Dr. Ramprasath is the editor-in-charge for Discovery Phytomedicine.

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