Editorial

Preface to the 2nd Issue of the International Journal of Medicine and Biomedical Research, 2012

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We are pleased to present this issue of the International Journal of Medicine and Biomedical Research, IJMBR. We continue to include a selection of articles with a broad international authorship that represent innovation transcending a wide cross-section of global medicine.

Many effective and highly-utilized pharmacologic agents are derivatives of naturally occurring substances. This issue offers two fascinating reports of medicinal agents derived from natural sources. The opening article summarizes strategies to enhance the selectivity, affinity, stability and targeting of chemotherapeutics derived from the venoms of a variety of animal species. Detailed interviews from four ethnomedical specialists from the Adiladab district of Andhra Pradesh, India form the basis for the fourth article that describes the use of 31 plant species that are used to treat 57 different ailments and diseases in this region.

Mediastinitis following cardiac surgery has been declared a “never event” by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, yet remains a significant postoperative complication. Numerous efforts have been made to determine the etiology and best treatment strategies for postoperative mediastinitis. Kunal et al. describe current methods of prevention and treatment of postoperative mediastinitis and conclude that there is no consensus regarding the best surgical treatment for this problem.

The metabolic syndrome, primarily a disease resulting from the Western lifestyle and diet, is spreading globally and brings with it cardiovascular and renal disease to Eastern populations once spared from its complications. This issue features four manuscripts related to the upsurge of the metabolic syndrome in Indian, African and Eastern European populations. Amira et al. provide compelling data from the World Kidney Day Screening Programme that obesity is a strong independent risk factor for hypertension in Nigeria and highlight the importance of screening programs world-wide. Bandana showed that meat consumption is associated with elevated serum cholesterol. The author also suggests that mustard oil may reduce the prevalence of high cholesterol levels. In a healthy Nigerian population, the incidence of metabolic syndrome was reported by Ogbu et al. to be 23.4% and to increase with body mass, irrespective of which weight index was used. Most alarming, was that urban residence was a risk factor for metabolic syndrome, suggesting that as Eastern and African populations move to urban centers, the incidence of metabolic syndrome will likely increase dramatically. Finally, Fatemeh et al. demonstrate an association between oxidative stress parameters, antioxidant markers, an inflammation index and lipid status parameters, implicating their involvement in the development of coronary artery disease in an East Azarbijan population.

Reproductive technology continues to increase the age of first pregnancy. Abou-Romia et al. compared characteristics of primigravidas older and younger than 35 years-of age. Older primigravidas are at increased risk of high-risk pregnancies, but have positive behaviors compared to younger primigravidas.
An unfortunate result of successful public health efforts on common diseases is the neglect of less common infectious diseases. Kamga et al. highlight the low community knowledge pattern of neglected tropical diseases that affect female and rural populations and suggest that a major media campaign is needed to increase awareness of neglected tropical diseases.

Virulence and the pathogenicity of Candida species are partly dependent on the secretion of extracellular hydrolytic enzymes. Sachin et al. documented the variability of both Candida and non-albicans Candida species with respect to extracellular hydrolytic activity.

This issue concludes with two case reports. The first by Choukimath and Ramalingappa reported a 38-year-old woman with bilateral and multiple benign cystic teratomas with broad ligament fibroid. The patient was successfully treated with ovarian cystectomy and myomectomy, preserving both ovaries. The authors stressed that when there are multiple bilateral teratomas, recurrence most commonly occurs in the form of a dermoid cyst of immature teratoma of the residual ipsilateral ovary. Finally, Aggarwal et al. highlighted the importance of considering nosocomial sinusitis in ventilated intensive care patients. Maintaining a high index of suspicion will allow early intervention of nosocomial sinusitis to prevent more sinister complications such as ventilator pneumonia and sepsis. Early endoscopic drainage is suggested as standard management.

We hope that you will find this issue of the International Journal of Medicine and Biomedical Research interesting, stimulating and clinically relevant. Our success depends on the submission of high-quality manuscripts. We would like to extend an invitation to you to submit your work for consideration in the Journal.

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