



SOCIETY FOR ETHNOPHARMACOLOGY, INDIA **(SFE - INDIA)** **NEWS LETTER**

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Editorial

Nutraceuticals, Food supplements, Micronutrients are flooding the market with tall claims. The gullible public is using with or prescriptions. Physicians are prescribing those products to their patients. In most of the cases without evidence of its safety, quality, and not considering drug- food interactions, drug – drug interactions. Possibility of Drug-food interaction and Drug- Drug interaction is many fold more in case of herbal food products. More research must be carried out to develop evidence of safety of such products. Though the Food Safety & Standard Act & Rules 2011 have prescribed measures for ensuring quality, it is yet to be implemented seriously and uniformly. There is overlapping between drugs and food products creating more confusion in case of applying Drugs and Cosmetics Act & Food Safety and Standard Act. Using these loopholes a drug is being marketed as food to circumvent the Drugs & Cosmetic Act and price Control. There is an urgent need to resolve these issues to protect the health of the people.

-----**Dr. Subhash C. Mandal**, Editor

Secretary's Desk

Dear Friends,

SFE-India has witnessed four International Congress for the dissemination of knowledge for promotion and development of Ethnopharmacology and Medicinal plant Research. For dissemination of knowledge, 12 local chapters have been made with esteemed leadership of the coordinators for individual chapters from different parts of India.

I am happy to inform you that the 4th Convention of SFE-India & National symposium on "Ashwagandha" will be organized at Jadavpur University, during September 9-10, 2017. This convention will focus on several contemporary issues on the drug discovery & development from medicinal plants with special reference to Ashwagandha. Please join the event to enrich your knowledge and share your experiences.

I would like request all of you to become a member of the society and explore all the opportunities.

----- **Prof. Pulok K Mukherjee**, Secretary, SFE-India

Report on the 4th International Congress (SFEC -2017)

The 4th International Congress of Ethnopharmacology was held at Uka Tarsadia University, Bardoli, Surat, Gujarat, India during February 23-25, 2017 with the theme “Health care in 21st Century: Perspective of Ethnopharmacology and Medicinal Plant Research”. The program was jointly organized by the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFE, India) and the C.G.Bhakta Institute of Biotechnology & Maliba Pharmacy College, Uka Tarsadia University, Bardoli, Surat, Gujarat.

The 4th International Congress of Society for Ethnopharmacology focused on recent advances in Ethnopharmacology and related aspects. The program included keynote address, plenary lectures, oral and poster presentation in different areas. The Congress was attended by over 1000 delegates from several countries and different states of India with 78 plenary and special lectures, 105 oral and 400 poster presentations on diverse fields of the medicinal plants and ethnopharmacological research.

The program was started with a welcome address by Prof. Dr. R. Krishnamurthy, Organizing Chairman SFEC-2017 followed by the introductory talk of Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Secretary, Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFE, India). The program was inaugurated by Dr. Dinesh R Shah, Vice Chancellor, Uka Tarsadia University, Surat, Gujarat followed by the introductory lectures of Shri Kiritbhai Patel, Vice President, Uka Tarsadia University, Prof. M Heinrich, UCL School of London, London, UK, Dr Shailesh Shah, Patron, SFEC-2017, Prof. R Bauer, President, ISE, UK, Prof. Vd. K S Dhiman, Director General, CCRAS, New Delhi, Shri. Shekhar Dutt, Ex-Governor, Chhattisgarh, MP, India, Dr. Pratim Banerji, President, SFE-India, Prof. A G Ambali, Vice Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Nigeria, Dr J R Mehta, Registrar, Uka Tarsadia University, Mr. B K Sarkar, Vice President, SFE-India. In their lectures, they gave emphasis on the importance of medicinal plants research based on the traditional knowledge and ethnopharmacology. They also mentioned about the rich biodiversity of India and its wealth of medicinal plants which is being nurtured by the diverse tribal community of India. They deeply acknowledged the vital role of the conference on the development of healthcare through ethnopharmacology based drug development. They recommended to extent the financial benefits to the tribal community, which are coming from the cultivation and trading of medicinal plants. They also acknowledge the contribution of Society for Ethnopharmacology for the development of medicinal plant research and dissemination of knowledge in the field of ethnopharmacology. In the inaugural session, Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFE-INDIA) annual awards were conferred to different eminent scientist/ industries for outstanding contributions on Ethnopharmacology. SFE-INDIA was very much fortunate to offer the SFE – Outstanding International Ethnopharmacologist Award – 2017 (Pranab Banerji Memorial Award) to Dr. Mark Blumenthal, Founder & Executive Director, American Botanical Council for his outstanding contribution in ethnopharmacology, ethnobotany and allied fields. Prof. Vd. K S Dhiman, Director General, Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences received SFE – Outstanding National Ethnopharmacologist Award – 2017 (Harihar Mukherjee Memorial Award). SFE – ZANDU Award – 2017 (Best Research on Plant Drugs) was conferred to Dr. Surinder Kumar Sharma, Ex-Advisor Ayurveda, Dept. of AYUSH, Ministry of Health, Government of India. Dr. S P Thyagrajan, Professor, Dean (Research), Sri Ramachandra University, Porur, Chennai received the “SFE – Lifetime Achievement Award – 2017” (Bisheswar Saha Memorial Award). Dr. Dinesh R Shah, Vice Chancellor, Uka Tarsadia University (UTU), Bardoli, Gujarat received “SFE - Special Recognition Award – 2017”. The “SFE- Outstanding Service Award – 2017” was given to Dr. Ramar Krishnamurthy, Coordinator, Director, C.G. Bhakta Institute of Biotechnology, Surat, Bardoli, Gujarat. From this year, two new awards have been declared in the memories of late Dr. P.K. Debnath and Dr. Tuhinadri Sen. The SFE- Young Ethnopharmacologist Award – 2017 (P K Debnath Memorial Award) was given to Dr. Sayeed Ahmad, Asst. Professor, Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, Jamia Hamdard University, New Delhi. The SFE-T Sen Oration Award – 2017 was conferred to Dr. Motlalepula G Matsabisa, Director, IKS Lead Programme Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Health Sciences, South Africa. Dr. Chandana C. Barua, Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology, College of Veterinary Science, Guwahati was endowed with SFE- Outstanding Local Chapter Award – 2017 for her remarkable contribution to SFE-INDIA.

In the first session, keynote lectures were delivered by Dr. Mark Blumenthal, Founder & Executive Director American Botanical Council Austin where he focused on adulteration of botanical raw materials, extracts, and essential oils used for medicinal herbal products. The second keynote lecture was delivered by Prof. S P Thyagrajan, Dean (Research), Sri Ramachandra University Porur, Chennai on Medicinal Plants Research in Indian Systems of Medicine. In this conference more than 80 plenary and special lectures were delivered by several speakers throughout the world. Among the international delegates, the key speakers were Dr. Michael Heinrich UCL School of Pharmacy, University of London, Prof. Rudolf Bauer President, ISE & Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences University of Graz, Austria, Dr. Puthiyaparambil Josekutty, Australia, Prof. Gudrun Ulrich-Merzenich University Clinic Centre Bonn Bonn, Germany, Dr. M G. Matsabisa, University

University of the Free State Bloemfontein, South Africa, Dr. Bernd Merzenich AG Synergy Research and Experimental Medicine University, Germany, Prof. Dr. Kambizi Learnmore, African Centre for Herbal research, South Africa, Prof. Oyunbileg Yungeree, Institute of General and Experimental Biology, Mongolia, Prof. Marcello Iriti, Dept. of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Italy, Prof. Temidayo Oladiji, University of Illorin, Nigeria, Prof. Sitesh C Bachar, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and many more. All the speakers gave emphasize on several aspects of ethnopharmacology viz., plant metabolomics, conservation of medicinal plants, synergy aspects of medicinal plants, plant tissue culture, ethnobotany and several ethnopharmacological aspects of medicinal plants. These sessions were also chaired by several distinguished scientists, academicians in the field of ethnopharmacology. The distinguished speakers from India were Prof. Vd. K S Dhiman Director General CCRAS, New Delhi, Dr. C K Katiyar Emami Limited Kolkata, Dr. Surinder Kumar Sharma Ex-Advisor Ayurveda, Dept. of AYUSH Ministry of Health, Gurgaon, Dr. Jayram Hazra Director NRIADD, Kolkata, Dr. Lalit Narayan Deputy Director, National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB) Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India New Delhi, Dr. Debrasad Chattopadhyay, Indian Council of Medical Research Belgaum, Karnataka, Dr. Sayeed Ahmad Dept. of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, Jamia Hamdard University, New Delhi, Prof. Rajib Bandyopadhyay, Dept. of Instrumentation and Electronics Engineering, Jadavpur University, Dr. G Geetha Krishnan, Medanta, Gurgaon, Dr. Prof. S Roy Dept. of Human Physiology, Vidyasagar, WB, Prof. A S Raghavendra, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, Dr. Md.



SFE-India Annual GB Meeting



Global Platform meeting



Valedictory Programme of SFEC - 2017

Aslam Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, New Delhi and many more. In the third day of the conference, one interactive session on Ethnopharmacology, Ethnomedine and Ethnic Health Care Practices was called upon where the representatives of individual groups of traditional healers from different parts of India made interactions with the scientists, doctors and technologists based on their different activities from various places, states with varied culture and biodiversity. The meeting of the Global Platform for the Ethnopharmacology, Ethnomedicine and Ethnic Health Care Practices was also organized where different issues of medicinal plant research and the policy making of ethnopharmacological research were discussed in depth. The conference ended with a valedictory program with the prize distribution of scientific oral and poster presentation. In the valedictory program, special recognition was made by SFE-India & ISE, UK to the organizers to recognize their services for the promotion Ethnopharmacology in India. Thus the second congress of the society was very successful in every aspect.

Outcome of the conference:

The conference provided an ideal platform for interaction, debate and dissemination of ideas amongst the distinguished professionals, eminent scientists and technologists and the traditional healers. This motivates the participants in a bigger way to carry out their research work along the novel path shown by the eminent researchers. Finally the attainment of the conference may lies in a bigger perspective as the participants enriched themselves. With their input on the conference topic, the participants were able to take home an updated roadmap to develop future strategies on research work in the area of ethnomedicine as well as traditional medicine inspired drug discovery. Thus the International Conclave on was very successful in every aspect.

More information on the activities, awards and membership of the society is available on www.ethnopharmacology.in.

Emerging Use of Nano-Curcumin

Dr. Farida Rahman. MVSc. (Pharmacology)

Curcumin is the active ingredient in the traditional herbal remedy and dietary spice turmeric (*Curcuma longa*). Curcumin has a surprisingly wide range of beneficial properties, including anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, chemo-preventive, chemotherapeutic and hepatoprotective activity. Curcumin is a free radical scavenger and hydrogen donor and exhibits both pro and antioxidant activity. It also binds with metals, particularly iron and copper and can function as an ion chelator. Curcumin is non-toxic and exhibits limited bioavailability.

Nanocurcumin is a modified form of curcumin in which the particles of curcumin are transformed into nanoparticles that are more soluble and deliverable in the body. These particles have been shown better drug delivery and faster treatment without any wastage or side effects.

Potential advantages of nanocurcumin over turmeric and native curcumin

Though turmeric in itself has long been used effectively for several disorders like cold, swelling, cough, worms, bruises and pain, it is known to be comparatively difficult to treat complex ailments like cancer, arthritis and worms through this herb despite it having a potential ability to treat those disorders. This problem arises because of poor bioavailability of turmeric in the body. In the past, researchers, who realized this problem with turmeric extracted curcumin out of it and directly supplied the active ingredient for the ailment instead of giving a diluted curcumin in the form of high doses of turmeric. This strategy, though better therapeutically, it was again ineffective because curcumin was still insoluble and was rapidly cleared out of the system on consumption. It was also found that due to the high metabolic rates, it wasn't reaching the target organs in the amounts actually administered. Finally, the solution was created in the form of nanocurcumin, a compound, which preserves the properties of curcumin and ensures that it reaches the affected tissue to show its therapeutic effects, efficiently.

Following are some reasons why nanocurcumin may be considered better than turmeric and native curcumin:-**Better absorption, Stronger and faster effects, Lower unwanted/toxic effects to other organs, lesser dosage required**

As a whole nanocurcumin is more effective than turmeric or curcumin because it is faster in action, more targeted and less toxic. It is required in small quantities and its easiness of administration is better than that of turmeric and curcumin as such. Certainly in near future, more application of nano curcumin to be on the anvil.

Andrographis paniculata Potential risk for allergic reactions

The Medsafe has reminded that products containing andrographis have the potential to cause serious allergic reactions. *Andrographis paniculata* is a herb included in some natural health products. These products are used by consumers to support a healthy immune system, support recovery from the common cold and help with symptoms of the cold. In New Zealand, a number of cases have been identified by CARM which reported allergic reaction in consumers taking andrographis-containing products. The reported reactions include dyspnoea, flushing, urticaria and anaphylaxis.

Similar reports have been noted internationally. Between December 2002 and April 2014 the TGA in Australia received 43 reports of anaphylaxis and 78 reports of other allergic-type reactions associated with products that contain andrographis. WHO Global ICSR database, VigiBase® contains 198 reports related to andrographis. Of these reports, 147 reports involved hypersensitivity reactions such as urticaria, pruritus, anaphylactic reactions, eyelid oedema, face oedema and angioedema. These reports were submitted by countries participating in the WHO Programme for International Drug Monitoring (PIDM).

Reference: Safety Information, Medsafe, 24 March 2017 (www.medsafe.govt.nz/)



4th Convention of SFE-India & National Symposium on “Ashwagandha”

Join, enrich, share & enjoy.....

Dear friends

It is our great pleasure to inform you that the 4th Convention of Society for Ethnopharmacology, India and National Symposium on “Ashwagandha” will be organized by School of Natural Product Studies, Jadavpur University in association with the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFE-India) during September 9-10, 2017 at Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*) is one of the most popular Indian medicinal plants and also known as ‘Indian Ginseng’. The Sanskrit term Ashwagandha means “smell of horse”. Ashwagandha has been an important herb in the ayurvedic and indigenous medical system for over 3000 years. In Ayurveda, It is considered as a “Rasayana” herb, which works on a nonspecific basis to increase health and longevity. Ashwagandha has been reported to be used to treat variety of diseases and human ailments and is also considered as an adaptogen with excellent anti-stress properties. The roots and berries of the plant are used in herbal medicine. Numerous studies indicated that ashwagandha possesses antioxidant, antitumor, anti-stress, sedative, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, hematopoetic, anti-ageing, anxiolytic, anti-depressive rejuvenating properties and also influences various neurotransmitter receptors in the central nervous system. This is also an important herb that contributes a huge market potential throughout the globe. It is an herbal miracle and may be considered as a potential candidate for drug discovery and development.

This symposium will focus on several contemporary issues on the drug discovery & development from medicinal plants with special reference to Ashwagandha together with their quality evaluation, validation and safety related aspects. This will be useful for the academicians, scientists, students and researchers to orient with the new developments in this area.

In this context, I would like to request you to join the event and explore the opportunity. Please encourage your student, colleagues to join this event and submit abstract for scientific oral and poster presentation.

Total number of participants in the seminar is limited & registration will be on first come, first served basis. The abstracts should be submitted by e-mail as an attachment at isesnpsju@gmail.com within August 19, 2017.

We are sure your esteemed support will enrich this event to a high extent.

For details about registration and others please visit www.ethnopharmacology.in

For any queries please contact:

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National Convention

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NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON

“Ashwagandha”

4th Convention

**Society for
Ethnopharmacology, India**
September 9-10, 2017



Organized by:



School of Natural Product Studies

Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

www.jaduniv.edu.in

In association with:



**Society for Ethnopharmacology, India
(SFE-INDIA)**

23/3 Saktigarh, Kolkata, India

Affiliated to: International Society for Ethnopharmacology

www.ethnopharmacology.in

Venue: Jadavpur University, Kolkata

**5th International Congress of SFE-India &
18th International Congress of ISE on
“Ethnopharmacology and Drug Development:
Innovation meets Tradition”**

Join the Congress & Explore the opportunities

Dear friends

It is our great pleasure to inform you that the 18th International Congress of International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE) & the 5th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE), India (ISE-SFEC 2018) is being organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Dhaka in association with Society for Ethnopharmacology, India during January 13-15, 2018 at Dhaka, Bangladesh. Main theme of the congress is on Ethnopharmacology & Drug Development: Innovation meets Tradition”. We would like request you to join this international congress being organized for the first time between ISE and SFE at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

We expect a huge numbers of delegations to join the congress at Dhaka. We would request you to kindly encourage your colleagues and students to join this congress and submit abstract for scientific oral and poster presentations. This is an event to highlight their work to the international fraternity which will be represented by over 30 countries.

We are sure your esteemed participation in this event will enrich the congress through the knowledge dissemination on education and research for promotion and development of Ethnopharmacology and Medicinal plant research in a positive way.



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Registration of Indian Delegates for ISE SFE 2018:

Local organizing Committee of the congress in consultation with SFE India has agreed for a special offer for registration for Indian delegates only, to join the congress at Dhaka, Bangladesh.

To avail this special offer for Indian delegates to join the ISE-SFEC-2018 Congress; please contact SFE-India, Kolkata

Society for Ethnopharmacology, India

23/3 Saktigarh, Jadavpur, Kolkata 700032, WB, India

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GRAND OPENING

5th International Congress of SFE-India & 18th International Congress of ISE (ISE SFEC 2018)

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Grand opening of the 18th International Congress of International Society of Ethnopharmacology (ISE) and the 5th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFE), India (ISE-SFEC 2018) jointly in association with Society for Ethnopharmacology, India during January 13-15, 2018 in Dhaka, was made through an impressive opening programme at Dhaka University on 21st May, 2017. This programme was very well accepted. This grand opening of ISE-SFEC-2018 was made through a very interactive seminar which was attended by over 200 participants. Mr. B K Sarkar, Mr. Indraneel Das and Dr. Pulkok K Mukherjee from SFE-India joined the programme.



National Conference on
“Recent Perspectives in herbal drug Regulations - Global scenario”

Organised by



Faculty of Pharmacy
Sriramachandra University
Porur, Chennai



In association with
Society for Ethnopharmacology
Kolkata, India
June 27-28, 2017

International Conference on
‘Globalization of traditional medicine’

Organised by



Mae Fah Luang University
Chiang Rai, Thailand



In association with
Society for Ethnopharmacology
Kolkata, India

September 27-28, 2018

Report of the Society for Ethnopharmacology,
Manipal Local Chapter

The Manipal Chapter of Society for Ethnopharmacology was flagged off by Dr Bhushan Patwardhan; Director, Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune and Editor in Chief, Journal of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine; on 12 February 2016 under the leadership of Dr. N. Udupa, Director, Research, Directorate of Research Manipal University. About 30 members from different disciplines of health care registered as members of the society. Four seminars/ Lecture have been organized by the chapter since its inception in collaboration with Center for Integrative Medicine and Research, Manipal University. Dr. David Frawley an eminent researcher and scholar of Indian history and yogic practices, delivered an impressive discourse on Vedic knowledge and yoga practices on 17 February 2016 at MCOPS. Dr. Kalpana Ranadive, CEO, Integrative, Biologic & Vedic Dentistry, Rockville, Maryland, USA; delivered a lecture on “Redefining health via Ayurveda and Integrative health sciences” on 26 March 2016. In another awareness drive Dr. B. Sathyabharayana Principal, Muniyal Institute of Ayurveda Medical Sciences, Manipal and Dr. Joseph Thomas, Head, Centre for Bioethics, Manipal University and Professor of Urology, KMC Manipal, spoke on Scope and objectives of the Integrative medicine and legal issues in the medical practices, respectively in the seminar. Six members participated in the 4th international congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology at UkaTarasadia University, Surat Gujarat during 23-25 Feb, 2017. One of the Student members Dr. Seren Rose, secured third place for Manjushree pal Memorial Award for her oral presentation in the Congress.



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Special issue on Ayurveda

Edited by

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.....We look forward to continue our bonding