

Editorial

Natural Products of Therapeutic Potential

Natural products constitute the main source of new pharmaceuticals and healthcare products. The use of natural products has been traced to the extraction and development of several drugs from plants as well as from traditionally used folk medicine. Natural products possess enormous structural and chemical diversity that cannot be matched by any synthetic libraries of small molecules and continue to inspire novel discoveries in chemistry, biology and medicine. Together with the recent advances in microbial genomics and metagenomics. Synthetic biology, fundamental understanding of natural product biosynthesis and bioinformatics and analytical technologies, we are surely entering a New Golden Age of natural products drug discovery.

The annual global medicine market is worth about 1.1 trillion US dollars. About 35% of these medicines originated directly or indirectly from natural products including plants, microorganisms and animals. Natural derived products constitute an extremely important resource for global pharmaceutical companies working on the development of new medicines. This issue is dedicated to the effects of various bioactive compounds in the treatment of different acute and chronic diseases. The knowledge that is disseminated from these articles could support to be competitive with other drug discovery methods and address the suitability of natural products in the treatment of ailments. This issue is being released with an hope that the more efficient and effective application of natural products will improve the drug discovery process.

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