

## Editorial

# Medicinal Plants Research in an Open Access Era

It is my pleasure to write the first Editorial for JMPR. Over the years there have been very few journals dedicated solely for Medicinal Plants. In the past two years since the publication of JMPR in August 2007, the quality of papers in JMPR increased immensely with inclusion of Reviews and regular scientific papers on topical issues. So also the numbers per issue increased in an average from 5 in 2007 to more than 20 in 2009. The sincere and rigorous efforts made by the team of JMPR will see the journal as one of the leading one in the field of Medicinal Plants, in the years to come.

There has been a marked shift in the publication and dissemination of scientific journals from few print versions to many on-line ones. The scientific dogma 'publish or perish' led to the competition by scientists to publish scientific research results with increased emphasis on "quality" or "citation status" of a specific journal with high impact. JMPR is an open access, peer reviewed journal which covers research into all types and aspects of Medicinal Plants, at both the basic and applied levels. *JMPR*, as in other open access journals, the cost of publication is borne by the author in the form of a publication or processing fee. Many grant-awarding bodies assist in meeting the funds for publication or processing fee. On case-to-case basis fee waivers and discounts are awarded and so a lack of funds does not restrict a paper to be published in JMPR, irrespective of authorship or country of origin. JMPR's open access policy will benefit the researchers working in institutions around the world where economic constraints do not allow institutional libraries to afford subscription fees for many journals. Because all journal articles will be accessible without any access boundaries to all internet users throughout the world, it will without any doubt be one of the leading and cited journals of the world. The freedom to contribute irrespective of the status of the Institution, coupled with rigorous, fair and prompt standards of peer review ensures quality of publication. Also, the inclusion of large data sets, links to other web pages, colorful animations, slides and video clips, at no additional cost increases the readability and adoration for the papers in JMPR. All articles are freely available to all, worldwide, and at no cost to the reader. Authors retain copyright of their work and can grant anyone the right to reproduce and disseminate it with correct citation and acknowledgements.

I expect that JMPR will attract manuscripts of the highest quality which are of the greatest possible benefit to readers. Peer review is undertaken by at least two leading experts in the area of the manuscript. The changing policies will see JMPR as a high impact factor journal, in near future.

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