Editorial

In the emerging scenario, there has been tremendous expansion in the use of Ayurveda and traditional system of medicines not only in the developing countries but also in the developed countries owing to its efficacy and potentials of prevention and health promotion. Due to increase in the use of Ayurveda in the country and across the globe, the issues of quality, safety, efficacy, rational use, and accessibility has become an important concern to health administrators, policy makers, health care providers, and public in general at large. As such, the traditional classics of Ayurveda comprising of issues of clinical diagnosis, pathology, and therapeutics have been built up on strong reproducible evidence as a result of constant observations and clinical experimentation utilizing authentic tools, i.e. Pramanas. The Pramanas encompasses direct evidence (Pratyaksha), logical inference (Anumana), analogy or comparison (Upamana) and experiences of physicians (Aptopdesha).

Research and development is a dynamic process applicable to Ayurveda and other traditional systems too. The change in the ecoclimatic conditions, industrial production of medicines in large scale, emerging new disease entities have directed for tangible scientific evidences on quality assurance, preclinical safety assurance, and clinical evidences on classical drugs and newly developed formulations.

The research in Ayurveda and traditional medicines is a challenge to the scientists in view of certain important differences of the approaches between Conventional Biomedicine and Traditional systems like Ayurveda. The diverse concepts and holistic principles of diagnosis and therapy in Ayurveda and other Traditional systems need special emphasis by adopting a suitable approach. The methods of validation as followed in the conventional way from bench to bedside may be reversed in the case of Ayurveda i.e. from clinic to laboratory approach wherein the available clinical experiences or documented knowledge is to be validated by generating evidence through reverse innovation. This type of approach certainly poses lots of benefits in terms of shortening the pathways, time and resources.

While adopting such approaches, it is also pivotal to adopt an integrative approach and concepts of integrative medicine. Certain studies have examined the feasibility and efficacy of such integrative designs and approaches in establishing the role of Ayurveda on large scale such as studies to integrate RCH regimens in primary health care, management of osteoarthritis in tertiary health care set ups, prevention and management of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through National Programme For Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke (NPCDCS) in primary health level, and so on.

In the era of integrative medicine, the need is felt to generate evidences adopting the interdisciplinary approaches without losing the core fundamentals and philosophy of Ayurveda related to biomedicine and life sciences.

We have now introduced online edition of the journal from this issue onwards for better visibility among the scientific community across the globe. For the convenience of authors, online submission portal is already made available and the articles can be submitted utilizing this facility at www.jdrasccras.com.

I wish the scientists and scholars dedicated in the field of Ayurveda and traditional medicines share their research outcomes and knowledge by contributing to this official journal being published by the Council.

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