

Eclectic and Rich Mix of Quality Reviews in 2nd Issue of Sys Rev Pharm

Systematic Reviews in Pharmacy (Sys. Rev. Pharm.) [ISSN: Print -0975-8453, Online – 0976-2779], half yearly publication from the InPharm Association, serves the need of different scientists and others involved in pharmaceutical research and development. Each issue covers review articles on drug discovery topics and also publishes full length reviews related to different subjects in pharmacy and that are of broad readership interest to users in industry, academia, and government. The journal was launched during the start of the year 2010 and it is now being indexed with Caspur, Chemical Abstracts, EBSCO Publishing's Electronic Databases, Genamics JournalSeek, Google Scholar, Hinari, Index Copernicus, OpenJGate, PrimoCentral, ProQuest, SCOLAR, SIIC databases, Summon by Serial Solutions and Ulrich's International Periodical Directory. In the second issue, there are highly interesting and diverse papers from pharmaceutical field.^[1,2]

Current efforts in the area of drug delivery include the development of targeted delivery in which the drug is only active in the target area of the body (e.g., in cancerous tissues, eyes, etc.) and controlled release formulations in which the drug is released over a period of time in a controlled manner from a formulation. The use of natural polymers in designing drug delivery system has received much attention due to their excellent bioavailability and biodegradability. In this issue, Dakhara *et al.* describe the applications of polyelectrolytes as membranes for different end uses, film and fiber coating, medical implants, microcapsules, beads, hydrogels, isolation and fractionation of proteins, isolation of nucleic acid, etc. Factors affecting PEC and its properties are being discussed in this issue. Patel *et al.* highlight the different concepts and novel technologies of controlled drug delivery systems, and their usage and application in the field of pharmacy are well reviewed.

Delivering drug to the eye is one of the most interesting and challenging tasks faced by a pharmaceutical scientist. The article in this issue has covered the constraints of conventional ocular therapy and essential factors in ocular pharmacokinetics, and explores various approaches like eye ointments, gel, viscosity enhancers, prodrug, penetration enhancers, microparticles, liposomes, niosomes, ocular inserts, implants, intravitreal injections, nanoparticles, nanosuspension, microemulsion, *in situ*-forming gel, iontophoresis, and periocular injections to improve the ocular bioavailability of drug in order to provide continuous and controlled release of the drug to the anterior and posterior chamber of the eye.

Medicinal plants are known to have tremendous effects since ancient times. However, most of the drugs have been illicitly

used.^[3] In the present issue, Gosh *et al.* address the most commonly abused drugs extracted from or based on natural products that are illicit substances, such as cannabis products, morphine, or cocaine, but other herbal products used to produce a “high” are becoming increasingly popular drugs of abuse. This article lists and provides details of such herbs which are labeled as abused drugs.

Different pharmacological actions of *Opuntia* species, known as Nagphani, are being discussed in this issue. This species is found to have many interesting biological effects, which could lead the way to drug discovery. Various websites and databases related to herbs have been detailed by Dighe *et al.* I would like to add at this instance that Pharmacognosy Network Worldwide is a non-profit network dedicated to Natural Products Research in order to develop promising drugs. Their main mission is to enable and make available quality information on herbal drug research. A long-term objective is to provide high quality, accurate and required information to enhance herbal drug research. Read more from www.phcog.net. Phcog.Net publishes many journals related to herbal drugs research, viz., *Free Radicals and Antioxidants* (www.antiox.org), *Journal of Natural Pharmaceuticals* (www.jnatpharm.org), *Pharmacognosy Journal* (www.phcogj.com), *Pharmacognosy Magazine* (www.phcog.com) – PUBMED indexed, *Pharmacognosy Research* (www.phcogres.com), *Pharmacognosy Reviews* (www.phcogrev.com), *International Journal of Traditional Medicine* (www.ijtmed.org) and *Unani Research* (www.unanires.org).^[4,5]

Melatonin, an endocrinal hormone, and its pharmacological response in humans is well summarized by Haris *et al.* It is interesting to learn that it is related to cancer risk. It appears to have the ability to strengthen the immune system and may play a role in cancer treatment/prevention. Melatonin is also known to improve the growth hormone response to exercise and reduce the amount of harmful free radicals in the body. Diabetes is caused due to high free radical generation and it is one of the major causes of deaths worldwide.^[5] Mishra *et al.* present an article on the vanadium salts known to have insulin like effect in humans. Many plants and foods are reported to have trace elements of vanadium salts, which could possibly be useful in the therapy of diabetes. Modulation of peroxisome proliferator-activated receptors (PPARs) has wide therapeutic potential in diseases like diabetes mellitus, obesity, heart disease, atherosclerosis, cancer, inflammatory bowel disease, and many other conditions. More insight on this has been given by Kumar *et al.*

Malaria is the one of the most common parasitic diseases in tropical and subtropical regions, and 40% of the worldwide population lives in malaria endemic areas, as the World Health Organization estimates, the number of people living in areas at risk of malarial transmission is alarming. Singh *et al.* summarize different 7-chloro-4-aminoquinolines, synthetic antimalarials, in their review.

The paper by Jeetu and his colleagues discusses the impact of intellectual property rights and data exclusivity which plays a major role in the drug development in the field of pharmacy. This is an eclectic and rich mix for a second issue. More papers are in the

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system and it is expected to be published in the year 2011.

To conclude, the *Sys. Rev. Pharm.* editorial team is excited and honored by the tasks and challenges ahead. We welcome the opportunity to contribute to the future of pharmaceutical. We hope that many of you will join us as authors and reviewers in this process.

We wish you a happy reading of this issue.

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Announcement

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