

## 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference and Exhibition on **Pharmacognosy, Phytochemistry & Natural Products**

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### Quality & safety of herbal medicines-A dire need today to combat diseases

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Natural medicinal products are gaining increasing popularity and use worldwide as complementary alternative therapies. Among such therapeutic preparations are plant-derived phytomedicines, nutraceuticals and cosmeceuticals. Reasons for the popularity are multifaceted, based partly on the fact that the raw materials are available naturally and in abundance with an estimated record of potentially beneficial substances. The increasing use of traditional medicines, the general lack of research, the growing concern by stakeholders vis-à-vis the demands for patenting rights, evidence of safety, efficacy, good quality traditional medicinal products are some of the pressing challenges that must be tackled for acceptable use of traditional and alternative medicines in modern therapeutics. It is therefore required to increase its contribution to meet the growing demand by supplying high quality herbal medicinal products. With the ever growing commercialization in the field of herbal medicines, there has been an instant demand for quality control of the drugs used in this system. The studies on the identity, purity and quality of the genuine drugs will enhance information in checking the adulteration. This presentation incorporates study of plants from plantation of a medicine to its dosage form which is a dire need for all concerned to have a knowledge of good agricultural practices good field collection practices, good laboratory practices, current good manufacturing practices, good clinical practices and the possible adulterations. All modern instrumentation used for quality control studies are discussed with its usage, besides inadvertant contaminations special practical experiences have been described on intentional adulteration of synthetic chemicals frequently being used to increase the efficacy of herbal medicinal products (HMPs).

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