



Editorial

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Grant opportunities for Ayurveda research and development: call for impact research publications for the cause of global acceptance

Dr. KN Sunil Kumar

Editor-in Chief (Journal of Ayurvedic and Herbal Medicine) and Senior Research Officer, Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, SDM Centre for Research in Ayurveda and Allied Sciences, Kuthpady, Udipi – 574118 India

Ayurveda ‘the science of life’ is one of the oldest known medical systems originated in India during 3000 BCE as an oral tradition. Dalhana, Sarngadhara and Bhavamisra compiled works in Indian Medicine during middle ages of India. Medical works of *Sushruta* and *Charaka* were translated into Chinese language in the 5th century and Arabic/ Persian language during the 8th century. The Arabic works originally from the Ayurvedic texts reached Europe by the 12th century. During colonial British rule, Ayurveda was neglected by the British Indian Government, to favour modern medicine. However the independent India has managed to bring Ayurveda and other traditional medical systems to mainstream. Ayurveda became a part of the Indian National health care system with establishment of hospitals for Ayurveda in the country. Up to 80 percent of people in India use some form of traditional medicine including Ayurveda.

Department of AYUSH, Government of India has initiated promotional activities for teaching, research and development of Ayurveda and other traditional medicines of India by forming an independent Ministry for AYUSH^[1]. Subsequently the Ministry has launched National AYUSH Mission (NAM) during 12th Plan with objective of promoting AYUSH medical systems through cost effective AYUSH services, strengthening of educational systems, facilitate the enforcement of quality control of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani & Homoeopathy (ASU & H) drugs and sustainable availability of ASU & H raw-materials^[1]. Developmental plans for upgrading Ayurvedic teaching and research are also executed through All India Institute of Ayurveda (The AIMS for Ayurveda) New Delhi, National Institutes for Ayurveda (NIA) Jaipur, Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (IPGT & RA), Jamnagar^[1] and Banarus Hindu University (BHU) Varanasi^[2]. State universities like Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Rajasthan Ayurved University Jodhpur^[3] and Uttarakhand Ayurved University^[4] are also part of the mission of propagation of Ayurvedic education and research.

Along with these educational and research institutions, AYUSH ministry of the Indian Government is promoting Ayurveda sector through various grants like Central Sector Scheme/ Centrally Sponsored Schemes/ Financial Sanctions, such as Continuing Medical Education (CME), Centre of Excellence (CoE), Extra Mural Research (EMR), AYUSH Industry Cluster, Evolving Pharmacopoeial Standards for drugs, to name a few^[1]. Scheme of Ayurvedic Biology by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Government of India is one of the important initiatives from non AYUSH agency^[5]. Lot of funds are allocated by the ministry of AYUSH through agencies like Central Council for Research in Ayurveda (CCRAS) New Delhi^[6], Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) New Delhi^[7], Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine (PCIM) New Delhi^[1], National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) New Delhi^[8] etc. to tackle bottlenecks in the sustainable growth of Ayurvedic practice. Preliminary to significant researches are also part and parcel of Post Graduation (MD Ayurveda) and PhD (Ayurveda) theses of reputed Ayurvedic institutions of India.

Though there are excellent opportunities for researchers, most of these findings on the concepts, therapeutics and drugs of Ayurveda go unpublished for many reasons. “It can be said that efforts have to be taken by researchers in the Ayurvedic community to greatly improve the quality of their research as well as the publications. Considering the ills that modern research reporting is plagued with, we have to aim beyond just publication in the journals, we can consider it to be close to the truth. Suave to nurture a research culture that will aim to distill the truth of the matter by getting to the end of the road of the critical review: The meta-review of published research papers.” Says Dr Ram Manohar Managing Editor of

***Corresponding author:**

Dr. KN Sunil Kumar

Senior Research Officer,
Department of Pharmacognosy
and Phytochemistry, SDM Centre
for Research in Ayurveda and
Allied Sciences, Kuthpady, Udipi
– 574118 India

Email:

sunilkumarayanan@gmail.com

journal Ancient Science of Life and Director-CSO of AVP Research foundations Coimbatore^[9].

To conclude, Ayurvedic researchers need to be educated of impact of publications of research through the supervisors/ universities by imposing publications as one of partial requirements for award of research degrees. Major Ayurveda research funding agencies can consider sparing grants exclusively for publication of research in indexed journals similar to granting money for a research project. For globalisation of Ayurveda every researcher must work towards bringing out quality publications as powerful tools for growth and development towards international acceptance of Ayurvedic medicine.

Of late many publication platforms in the form of periodicals/ journals have taken birth. The days ahead will look for affordable and authentic platforms for indexed journals of Ayurvedic research. So far there are only three Medline indexed research journals devoted for publication of Ayurvedic research, and there is no journal with word 'Ayurveda' in its title in Thomson-Reuter's master list of Science Citation Indexed (SCI) journals^[10]. There are many blacklisted journals which publishes research articles just for the sake of publication without the peer review process. Many other journals lack acceptable standards as they are not indexed in important databases. The **Journal of Ayurvedic and Herbal Medicine** will take maximum efforts to put forth quality ascertained impact publication of Ayurvedic research. Let us be a part of globalisation of Ayurveda.

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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest.

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