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Editorial

Diagnosis and treatment trends in biomedicine

It is well known that changing lifestyles and greater life expectancy heighten the risk of chronic disorders. Recent years have witnessed various alternative and novel treatment approaches to such complications. Topics covered by this issue of *Biomedicine* include clinical and fundamental research in the realm of treating and diagnosing clinical conditions such as cardiac diseases, cancer, and immune system disorders.

Exploring pharmaceutical applications of traditional medicines is now widely thought safe and advantageous with regard to human toxicological study. Chang et al report that extract from the traditional Chinese remedy alpinate oxyphyllae fructus protects cardiomyocytes from apoptosis. They conclude that alpinate oxyphyllae fructus has potential to ameliorate the events in cardiac remodeling. With new pharmaceutical products introduced, researchers look for alternate approaches to offer patients top-flight supportive care to improve quality of life and survival, particularly during and after chemotherapeutic regimens. In a clinical study from France, Cipolla et al report on feasible strategy for chemotherapeutic outcome of docetaxel treatment in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. According to their findings, it is vital to avoid consumption of diet containing polyamine during treatment regimens for castration-resistant prostate cancer.

Although pharmaceuticals and their efficacy are evaluated worldwide by various strategies and methods, superior screening to monitor real time actions of drugs looms essential. Ho et al report evaluation on *in vitro* and *in vivo* antimicrobial activity of *Galla chinensis* extract, using bioluminescent *Escherichia coli* *in vitro* and in intestines of experimental mice. Findings highlight *in vivo* bioluminescent imaging as a rapid and reliable approach to assess activity of potential antibacterial agents.

Factors that play a chief role in disease progression (oxidized low-density lipoproteins, proinflammatory cytokines, adhesion molecules, inflammatory stimulants, and a host of other acute-phase reactants) are considered as

efficient diagnostic markers. Two articles propose leptin as a novel marker to diagnose the onset of clinical complications. In a cross-sectional study among human volunteers, Priya et al correlate the increase in fasting serum leptin levels, among postmenopausal women of South India, as a risk factor of diabetes; obesity, and cardiovascular disease. Leptins, claim Lin et al, also play a pivotal role in the invasion of human colon cancer cells. Su et al suggest that certain biliary cytokines can be considered as a marker of acute cholecystitis (inflammation of the gall bladder). This diagnosis strategy would help in cases where physical examination is not possible.

Here I should like to take the opportunity to extend my sincere acknowledgement to authors and readers of *Biomedicine*, for their support and cooperation that have helped the journal reach its current prosperity.

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