PUBLIC TALK: NEW ROOTS – LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY NATURAL PRODUCT RESEARCH

Emeritus Professor Dr. Geoffrey A. Cordell
Natural Products Inc., Evanston, IL, U.S.A.
International Collaborative Partner, UTAR Global Research Network

For eons, plants have been used by humankind as healing agents for numerous disease states. Using alkaloids as an example, a brief history of these developments in health care will be presented. Recent developments, however, demand that new approaches for the examination of plants as medicinal agents are needed. The reasons for this include the failure of recent drug discovery initiatives in the major pharmaceutical companies, the rapid increase in global population, the absence of drugs for critical diseases, and the increasing difficulty in assuring the sustainable access to safe and effective medicinal agents, whether synthetic or natural. From a public health perspective, the regulations governing the quality of plant-based traditional medicines, and the reporting of interactions between traditional medicines and allopathic drugs are inadequate.

Consequently, for enhanced future health care, and to restore the health of the Earth, a profound paradigm shift is necessary. New strategies for drug discovery for critical global diseases need to be developed. Scientists in industry and academia must form links with regulators to evolve long-term integrated strategies which will assure a steady and sustainable increase in the availability of standardized safe and efficacious plant-based medicinal agents. This presentation will propose some steps which are necessary to achieve these long-term goals.

Venue:
UTAR auditorium 3, PB Block, 13, Jalan 13/6, 46200, PJ
Date: 30th July 2010
Time: 10.00 – 11.30am

FREE Admission
For enquiry, please contact
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Lim Yang Mooi (0196217109)
For registration, please fill in the reply form and email to ymlimutar@gmail.com
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