

The First International Journal of Medicinal Mushrooms

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In view of the great interest in medicinal mushrooms and the absence of a specialized journal in the field, the special journal dedicated to medicinal mushrooms, the *International Journal of Medicinal Mushrooms* (IJMM), was established in 1999 by Begell House (USA, www.begellhouse.com).

Since ancient times mushrooms have been used throughout the world in folk medicine. Mushrooms are being evaluated for their nutritional value and acceptability, as well as their pharmacological properties. They are a nutritionally functional food and a source of physiologically beneficial and noninvestive medicine. Some of the most recently isolated and identified substances originating in mushrooms have been shown to be promising immunomodulators and have demonstrated significant antitumor, cardiovascular, antiviral, antibacterial, antiparasitic, hepatoprotective, and antidiabetic activities. The information published in recent years is helpful in exploring and understanding the rich traditions of medicinal mushrooms in Eastern and Western cultures and medicine.

As Professor S-T. Chang suggested in his article published in the inaugural issue of the IJMM (1,1,1999:1), "Mushrooms have many beneficial effects to human welfare, for example, as food, health tonic, medicine, feed, fertilizers, and for protecting and regenerating the environment. In addition, cultivation and development of edible and medicinal mushrooms can positively generate equitable economic growth and have already had an impact at national and regional levels. The predictions are that this impact will continue to

increase and expand in the 21st century, because more than 70% of agriculture and forest have become nonproductive materials and have been wasted in processing. Therefore, sustainable research and development of mushroom cultivation and mushroom products has been named the "Nongreen Revolution."

Modern science's study of medicinal mushrooms has quickly developed during the last two decades. Publications devoted specifically to the study of medicinal mushrooms have increased geometrically. Articles appear in hundreds of biological, mycological, botanical, microbiological, forest, agricultural, food, biochemical, chemical, medical, pharmacological, ethnobiological, and other journals.

The IJMM publishes original research articles and critical reviews on the following aspects of medicinal mushrooms: systematics, taxonomy, nomenclature, morphology, ecology, biology, tissues culture, culture collection, cultivation, biotechnology, medicinal macromycetes engineering, biochemistry, chemistry, physiology, secondary metabolism, genetics, pharmacology, medicinal value, therapeutic effects, currently recognized biomedical components, and their functions, general characteristics of medicinal uses of medicinal mushrooms, and commercially useful medicinal mushrooms and their products. Articles on new techniques that might promote experimental progress in the aforementioned field are also welcome.

The IJMM highlights new perspectives in the field of mycology and medicine, and we trust that the new journal will be successful.