

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE SOCIETY FOR ETHNOPHARMACOLOGY, INDIA**

The First International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology, Kolkata, India (SFE-India) was organized at Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, India, during March 7-9, 2014. The theme of the event was “Globalizing Traditional Medicines: Present and Future Prospects.” The congress was organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy, Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai. The congress has evidenced participation of over 700 delegates from 20 countries, and had more than 300 scientific presentations.

A preconference workshop was organized on “Publishing Your Research in Impact Journals.” Eminent editors/ editorial board members of various internationally acclaimed impact journals delivered lectures in this workshop. Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Associate Editor, J. Ethnopharmacology, Elsevier; Dr. Michael Heinrich, Editor, J. Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Pharmaceutical Press, UK; Dr. Rudolf Bauer, Editor, *Planta Medica*, Germany; Prof. Anna Jäger, Copenhagen, Denmark, J. Ethnopharmacology, Elsevier; Dr. Gail B. Mahady, J. Pharmaceutical Biology, Wiley; Dr. T. K. Mukherjee, Ex-Editor, Indian J Traditional Knowledge, CSIR and others delivered lectures. This workshop focused on essential techniques for effective writing and presentation of scientific information and highlighted some of the important issues related to publishing research works in journals with high impact factors.

The congress was inaugurated by Shri Shekhar Dutt, Honorable Governor of Chhattisgarh and Sri V. R. Venkatachallam, Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai. Other respected dignitaries who attended the program were Dr. H. Devaraj, Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi; Prof. Anna Jagar, President, International Society for Ethnopharmacology UK; Prof. S. Datta, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University, Kolkata; Dr. Pratim Banerji, President, Society for Ethnopharmacology, Kolkata; Dr. S. P. Thyagrajan, Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai; Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Secretary, Society for Ethnopharmacology, Kolkata; Prof. S. S. Handa, Former

Director Indian Institute of Integrative Medicines, Jammu; Dr. Michael Heinrich, Centre for Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy, School of Pharmacy, University of London, UK; and Dr. D. Chamundeeswari, Organizing Secretary of the congress [Figure 1].

In the inauguration programme of the congress, a book entitled “Traditional Medicine and Globalization: The Future of Ancient System of Medicine” edited by Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, was released by Sri. Sekhar Dutt, Honourable Governor of Chhattisgarh. Felicitations of the eminent scientists were made in this function followed by special lectures by Prof. S. S. Handa and Dr. Michael Heinrich. SFE annual awards for outstanding contributions on Ethnopharmacology were awarded in the inaugural function. Dr. Sukhdev Swami Handa received the SFE Lifetime Achievement Award: “Bisheswar Saha Memorial Award”; Prof. Michael Heinrich received the SFE Outstanding International Ethnopharmacologist Award: “Pranab Banerji Memorial Award”; the SFE Outstanding Indian Ethnopharmacologist Award “Harihar Mukherjee Memorial Award” was conferred to Prof. Y. K. Gupta; Sri Birendra Kumar Sarkar received the SFE Best Entrepreneur Award; Prof. S. P. Thyagarajan received the SFE Merit of Excellence Award; Natural Remedies Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore received the SFE Herbal industry leader award; and Dr. D. Chamundeeswari received the SFE Outstanding Service Award.

Keynote lectures, special lectures and the plenary lectures were delivered on different issues for promotion and globalization of traditional medicine, ethnopharmacology and medicinal plant research by a galaxy of eminent scientists and researchers from all over the world. Some eminent speakers were Dr. Gail B. Mahady, USA; Dr. Pradip Paul, USA; Prof. Rudolf Bauer, Austria; Prof. Elin Yulinah Sukandar, Indonesia; Prof. Anna Jäger, Denmark; Dr. R. S. Ramaswamy, India; Dr. Y. K. Gupta, India; Dr. R. Soundarajan, India; Dr. Ramesh K. Goyal, India; Dr. Michael Heinrich, UK; Dr. S. P. Thyagarajan, India; Dr. Alexander D. Crawford, Luxembourg; Dr. D. K. Mitra, India; Dr. V. Aridhasan, India; Dr. Tuhinadri Sen, India; Dr. S. P. Subramanian, Bangladesh; Dr. Sitesh C Bachar, Bangladesh; Dr. K. M. Manikkavasagam, India; Dr. Mukhlesur Rahman, UK; Dr. Debprasad Chattopadhyay, India; Dr. Mukesh Doble, India; Dr. D. K. Mitra, India; Dr. S. K. Maulik, India; Dr. James Oluwagbamigbe, Brazil; Dr. Ciddi Veeresham, India; Dr. A. K. S. Rawat, India; Dr. Anjan Adhikari, India; Dr. Olatunde Peter Ajagbonna, Nigeria; and many others representing 20 countries of the world.

Access this article online	
<p>Quick Response Code:</p> 	<p>Website: www.jaim.in</p>



**Figure 1:** Inaugural ceremony of First International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India

The conference ended with a valedictory programme with the gracious presence of Dr. B. Suresh, President, Pharmacy Council of India and Mr. Sibeswar Saha, Germany, Mentor, SFE, India. Special recognition was made by SFE-India and the organizers to recognize the services rendered by eminent personalities for their contribution in natural product and ethnopharmacological research and contribution for the promotion and development of ethnopharmacology in India. Thus, the first congress of the society was very successful in every aspect.

SFE-India was formed in 2013, registered under the West Bengal Society Registration act 1961, and affiliated to the International Society for Ethnopharmacology, UK. The society has made its presence throughout the country and provides networking opportunity for the development and promotion of medicinal plants and natural products. The Society works on dissemination of knowledge in this area through different local chapters made in different parts of India, with the major highlights on globalizing local knowledge and localizing global technologies.

The Second International congress of the society will be organized by the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, R. T. M. Nagpur University, Nagpur, during February 20 - 22, 2015. We invite all of you to join the Society. More information on the activities, awards and membership of the Society is available on [www.ethnopharmacology.in](http://www.ethnopharmacology.in).

For further information, please contact Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Secretary, SFE and Director, School of Natural Product Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata 700032, India. We invite all of you to join in this forum and be actively involved in the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India, for promotion, development, validation and documentation of medicinal plants, traditional medicine and their Ethnopharmacology in all aspects. Feel proud to be a member of this society and avail the benefits for being the member. For details, please visit [www.ethnopharmacology.in](http://www.ethnopharmacology.in) and contact:

*Dr. Pulok K Mukherjee, PhD, FRSC*

*The Secretary,*

*Society for Ethnopharmacology, India*

*E-mail: [sfeindian@gmail.com](mailto:sfeindian@gmail.com)*

*23/3 Sakhtigarh, Jadavpur, Kolkata 700032.*

*Pulok K. Mukherjee, Sushil K. Chaudhary, Santanu Bhadra*

*Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, School of Natural Product Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India*

*E-mail: [naturalproductm@gmail.com](mailto:naturalproductm@gmail.com)*

**How to cite this article:** Mukherjee PK, Chaudhary SK, Bhadra S. First International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India. *J Ayurveda Integr Med* 2014;5:201-2.

**Source of Support:** Nil, **Conflict of Interest:** None declared.