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Pharmacognosy : significance

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Description

"Pharmacognosy" obtains from two Greek words, "pharmakon" or drug, and "gnosis" or knowledge. Like countless complementing branchs of science, Pharmacognosy has undergone crucial change in recent years and today acts for a highly interdisciplinary science that is one of five major regions of pharmaceutical education. Humans make medicine from plants and other organisms for 100 years, hence pharmacognosy being routinely considered the oldest brand of pharmacy. There is 5000-year-old proof of medicine production on Sumerian clay from Nagpur, and throughout 12 old medicinal recipes have been found with plant ingredients such as poppy and mandrake, which is a Mediterranean plant in the nightshade family.

The American Society of Pharmacognosy was founded in 1959 as growth of the Plant Science Seminar, which virtually was started in 1923. The Society is international in reach and brings together men and women committed to the boost, growth, and progress not only of pharmacognosy but all sides of those sciences related to and dealing in natural products. The Society now has over 1,100 active and associate representatives. Approximately 40 percent of the active representatives of the Society reside outside of the U.S. and Canada, and act for more than 60 nations all over the world.

Pharmacognosy is the study of natural product molecules (typically secondary metabolites) that are utility for their medicinal, ecological, gustatory, or other functional properties. The natural species that are the source of the compounds under study span all biological kingdoms, most notably marine invertebrates, plants, fungi, and bacteria. The branch of pharmacognosy is ever-changing and is constantly being refreshed by input from new scientific branchs and technologies as they are developed. This is one reason why studying pharmacognosy is a good choice for those who like to work at the interface of many different, but complementing, regions of science that relate to the natural world.

Branches of Pharmacognosy:

- Medical ethnobotany: the work of the traditional use of plants for medicinal purposes.
- Ethnopharmacology: the work of the pharmacological qualities of regular medicinal substances.
- Phytochemistry
- Zoopharmacognosy
- Fluorescence quenching

Latest research in drug discovery from medicinal plants requires multifaceted approach combining botanical, computational, phytochemical, biological, and molecular forms. It is obvious that drug discovery from medicinal plants pursue to supply new and important leads against several pharmacological targets including cancer, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, malaria, and pain. Various natural product drugs of plant origin have either recently been founded or are now involved in late-phase clinical trials.

Whether we like it or not, Pharmacognosy is not a topic of the past, but it has developed and evolved over the years to adapt itself with the changing environment, and is now fit to meet the challenges of the current and the upcoming of drug discovery and development. Thus, the significance of Pharmacognosy in Pharmacy cannot be exaggerate. Pharmacognosy will still to be a important and an essential contributor to the knowledge and percepting of drugs and therapies, and thus should be an integral part of any meaningful academic Pharmacy programs world over.

The use of phytotherapy in preventing or healing ill-effects faced by mankind was established by the eminent roles played by natural products obtained from MP. With pursued efforts in research and usage of HM on daily basis, it is envisioned that it would attain its rightful place and be embraced as well organized system worthy of acceptance within the global health care practice.

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