

Dear colleagues,

we would like to announce the symposium

Biodiversity and Health

at the international SAGE 2017 conference in Bogor, Indonesia, 28 August - 1 September, 2017. The conference will take place at the Salak Tower Hotel in Bogor, about 10 mins on foot north of the Botanic Gardens Bogor.

Oral as well as poster presentations are welcome. Registration is to be done online at <http://sage2017.org/registration.htm>. The deadline for abstract submission to our symposium has been extended until May 31st 2017 (further extension possible if required).

INVITED KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nina Rønsted, University of Copenhagen

“Can the evolutionary history of plants help guide better healthcare, new leads, conservation, sustainable use and agriculture of medicinal plants?”

The use of plants for medicine is closely associated with human culture and has provided both local healthcare and new leads. Through evolution plants have developed sophisticated chemical defenses, which may explain their bioactivity in humans. Intuitively, the evolutionary history of plants may enable predictive approaches allowing systematic evaluation of current and potential medicinal value as well as help guide safety, conservation policies and agriculture. A series of case studies have highlighted that medicinal use, plant defensive compounds and bioactivity are correlated with phylogeny to some extent and suggested methods for identifying the potentially most useful species. Developing new systematic and integrative approaches and tools to synthesize and take advantage of systematics, phylogeny, bioinformatics, ethnobotany, natural products, chemistry and bioactivity studies could supplement traditional selection approaches with the ultimate aim of providing better healthcare. This presentation will summarize recent studies, current efforts, and future directions providing examples of phylogenetic exploration of *Aloes*, selection of drug lead candidates for immunological disorders and cancer research in *Euphorbia*, as well as for authentication of horsetail herbal products (*Equisetum* L.). We conclude that in the era of big data and genomics, botanists of the 21st century, can set the agenda by taking advantage of collections, collaboration, and an interdisciplinary approach to help develop new understanding, tools, better medicines and policies for sustainable and ethically responsible biodiversity use and agriculture.

We hope to see you soon in Bogor!

Kind regards

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