PREFACE

Millions of people have died globally as a result of a disruptive and deadly pandemic that lasted two long years. Due to economic, structural problems, and erratic political decisions, many priority projects were interrupted or gave in to the pressure of COVID-19 policies. However, there are now signs that the mood of the scientific community is beginning to improve. The consequences of SARS-CoV-2, including acute, medium-term, and long-term effects, on brain function, are becoming more evident every day. To this, we must also consider the harm that various anti-COVID vaccines have inflicted on the brain, particularly in those most at risk for developing cerebrovascular and neurodegenerative diseases.

COVID-19 has also had a very negative effect on the publication of scientific papers. Many international journals have seen the supply reduced due to the focus of many studies around COVID. It seems that this trend is beginning to reverse. Likewise, the deleterious effects of COVID on the nervous system are also driving the development of new pharmaceuticals to protect the brain against viral invasion and its consequences.

In this first number of volume 22nd of Central Nervous System Agents in Medicinal Chemistry (CNSAMC), different articles on a variety of scientific themes are incorporated. To the Editorial by R. Hardeland on COVID-19: An Urgent Need to Redesign Anti-inflammatory Strategies for CNS Protection, follow two interesting reviews, one by S. Joshi et al. on Therapeutic Potential and Clinical Evidence of Hesperidin as Neuroprotective Agent, and another by K. Qi et al. on The Inflammatory Effect of Epigenetic Factors and Modifications in Depressive Disorder. Together with these two reviews, four original articles are also included: (i) Promising effects of naringenin and melatonin against hepatic encephalopathy impairments induced by bile duct ligation in male rats by E.K. Raviz et al.; (ii) Pyrazole Based Furanone Hybrids as Novel Antimalarial: A Combined Experimental, Pharmacological and Computational Study, by D. Choudhary et al.; (iii) Synthesis and CNS Activity of Phenytoin derivatives by R. Chauhan et al.; and (iv) Design, synthesis and evaluation of benzimidazole hybrids to inhibit Acetylcholinesterase and COX for treatment of Alzheimer’s disease by S. Kaur et al.

We trust that the topics included in this issue will be liked by CNSAMC readers and that young researchers and experts in this area of knowledge will feel motivated in the immediate future to propose new ideas that will allow us to advance in the ability to prevent neurodegenerative problems of the central nervous system, whose onset occurs many years before the disease manifests its symptoms, and for the early identification of brain damage to be approached therapeutically with new neuroprotective agents.

It is also desirable to discover new drugs for effective intervention in the treatment of many neuropsychiatric disorders whose therapeutic strategies continue to be based on obsolete models, limited to the modulation of classical neurotransmission systems, still far from a molecular neuropharmacological approach.

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