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Traditional medicinal systems have always played an important part in the health-care system of almost all countries of the world. Even in the developed countries, most people have at least once in their life time has visited traditional medicinal practitioners or have taken traditional medicinal products. Bangladesh is particularly rich in traditional medicinal systems, which include Ayurveda, Unani, homeopathy, and folk medicine. Ayurveda is the oldest and arguably the most systematized form of traditional medicinal system in the Indian sub-continent. The practice of Ayurveda has been going on for at least the last three thousand and five hundred years. Sadly, with the introduction of allopathic medicine, traditional medicines started to lose ground with people switching over more and more to allopathic drugs. However, in recent years there has been a resurgence of interest in the traditional medicinal systems, and such systems has been given due recognizance by the World Health Organization. This is a timely turn of events for many modern drugs have been discovered through close observations of traditional medicinal practices. Moreover, many modern drugs have developed drug-resistance and some have quite serious adverse side-effects. In many of such cases, traditional medicines can fill up the gap, more so, because of their ready availability and cheaper prices.

Arguments quite often made against traditional medicines by scientists include lack of scientifically conducted clinical trials and lack of standardization. These arguments are correct despite the claims of millennium long usage of most traditional medicines demonstrating their comparative safety and efficaciousness. Towards fulfilling this gap and bringing traditional medicines at par with allopathic drugs, it is time to start working on the twin factors of safety and standardization. One of the factors dissuading scientific research on traditional medicines is the lack of scientific journals which are willing to publish such research. From that view point, the launching of a new journal “Journal of Ayurvedic and Traditional Medicines” is a welcome and timely step not only for traditional medicine researchers in Bangladesh but for researchers throughout the world. We aim to publish this Journal as per international standards and we seek the cooperation of all traditional medicinal researchers to help us achieve this objective. For that purpose, from the very onset, we have assembled a panel of distinguished and internationally reputed scientists on the Editorial Board.

The first issue of this Journal is dedicated to 2nd International Conference of the Ayurveda and Naturopathy Association of Bangladesh. This issue contains only Abstracts of oral and poster presentations. From the second issue, the Journal will start publishing full papers. We invite researchers in traditional medicines to submit review and research papers, as well as short communications and letters for all subsequent issues starting from the second issue of the Journal scheduled for publication in July 2013. In the beginning the Journal will be published twice a year in January and July. Subsequently, the frequency of publications may be increased depending on the number of manuscripts submitted. It is our hope that the Journal will be able to contribute significantly to promotion of research in traditional medicines, especially Ayurveda,

and also contribute to development of public interest in the traditional medicinal systems of the whole world.

On behalf of the Editorial Board I thank all contributors and the publisher and hope to hear more from the contributors in the future.