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EDITORIAL

It's a pleasant occasion to note CRIPS publication has been revived. Due to some unavoidable circumstances, there was a gap of 3 years in the publication. As our institution is being instilled with new energy and stability, it has become practical to revive this publication. I am confident that the readers will appreciate this new enthusiasm as well as subscribe and support the upcoming CRIPS issues as usual.

In this issue, the importance of Artificial Intelligence in Drug Discovery (AIDD) has been highlighted. This emerging technology has a lot of promise though it is in its infancy. Several techniques under this umbrella are being explored towards the drug design. Machine learning (ML) methods like Support Vector Machine (SVM), Artificial Neural Network (ANN), Deep Learning (DL), Genetic Algorithm (GA), Knowledge Base System (KBS), etc. are being efficiently integrated along with stabilities to design new drugs. These methods are significantly different from the quantum medicinal chemistry and molecular mechanics methods, which deal with electrons and atoms in the drugs respectively. The AIDD methods are strongly associated with data analytics. In this issue, the current status and the future prospects of AIDD have been covered.

COVID-19 pandemic has prompted significant drift the drug discovery research. In India mostly virus biology and virus epidemiology related topics were extensively studied, but less importance was given for the antiviral drug discovery. Since past 2 years due to COVID-19 pandemic, a lot of research activities in vaccine development as well as drug development have been taken-up. To identify the COVID-19 virus induced disease conditions several biomarkers are required for proper diagnosis and treatment specifically for the comorbidities. The prospects and problems associated with biomarker development in COVID-19 have been discussed in the current issue.

Pharmacy practice topic is essential to bridge between pharmacist, physician and the patients. Though its importance was realized since long time, there were several practical challenges in adopting this technology in India. Prof. Tiwari elaborated six different challenges being experienced by pharmacy practice experts in India.

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