

ISE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

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1. Message from the President



Dear members and colleagues of the International Society of Ethnopharmacology (ISE),

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as the new President of our Society. I am deeply honoured to have been entrusted by the membership and the Board with this responsibility for the current biennium. I approach this role with enthusiasm, as well as with a sense of humility, fully aware of the prestige of this position and the trust you have placed in me.

First, I would like to sincerely thank our immediate Past-President, Prof. Namrita Lall, for handing over a Society in excellent health, thanks to her outstanding leadership, culminating in the wonderful Congress held in Cape Town in 2024. Thank you, Namrita — your continued

support as Past-President will be invaluable. I also extend my gratitude to Prof. Gunter Vollmer, who has served as Past-President before her, offering wise guidance to all of us. My thanks go as well to the outgoing Board members, and my best wishes to the newly elected ones. Finally, I warmly thank our Secretary, Prof. Marco Leonti, and our Treasurer, Prof. Carolina Weckerle, whose great work fortunately continues under my presidency.

What will be the focus of my presidency? As many of you already know, next year — from 14 to 17 September 2026 — the 25th ISE Congress will take place in Foligno, Italy, with Marco Leonti and myself as Congress Chairs. We are already deeply engaged in its organization, and I am delighted to announce that many distinguished scientists have accepted our invitation to contribute as speakers. Among them will be Thomas Hummel and Fabien Schultz (Germany), Jürg Gertsch (Switzerland), Giovanni Appendino (Italy), Namrita Lall, Alvaro Viljoen, and Kobus Eloff (South Africa), Thomas Bendler and Angela I. Calderon (USA), Hung-Rong Yen (Taiwan), Ekaterina-Michaela Tomou (Greece), Adolfo Andrade Cetto (Mexico), Rudolf Bauer (Austria), Pulk Mukherjee (India), among others. The program details, deadlines, and the Congress website will be announced soon.

The theme of the Congress, “Ethnopharmacology as Transcultural Medicine,” also reflects the broader vision I wish to share with you. I would like to extend the scope of ethnopharmacology beyond its traditional and historical domains — such as phytochemistry — and embrace its truly interdisciplinary nature. Ethnopharmacology can serve as a container that integrates not only botany and pharmaceutical biology, but also anthropology, archaeology, sociology, economics, art, philosophy, and history. As a physician by training, I also hope to strengthen the dialogue with medical practice, paving the way for our President-Elect, Prof. Hung-Rong Yen, whose focus on clinical applications in Taiwan will be of great importance.

During the next two years, I also intend to strengthen our community by reaching out to countries that are still underrepresented within the ISE — for example, Vietnam, where I have been working for a long time, and other regions with rich but less explored ethnopharmacological and ethnomedical traditions. This will also allow us to identify new potential host countries for future ISE Congresses.

Finally, I hope to establish more regular communication with you, not only with the Board but with all members, through periodic letters to be published on the website or in the newsletter. I warmly invite you to reach out to me directly, so that together we can consolidate our network, particularly among members in countries not yet fully engaged in the life of the Society.

With these words, let me close my introductory message by sending you my warmest regards, and expressing the hope to meet you all in Italy for the 25th ISE Congress.

With kind regards,

Domenico Delfino

President, International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE)

2. 23rd Annual International Conference on the Science of Botanicals (ICSB) and the 24th International Congress of the International Society of Ethnopharmacology (ISE)

The 23rd Annual International Conference on the Science of Botanicals (ICSB) and the 24th International Congress of the International Society of Ethnopharmacology (ISE) were successfully held from 7–10 April 2025 in the charming city of Oxford, Mississippi, USA. This joint event brought together a vibrant community of researchers, academics, industry leaders, and policy makers from around the world, all passionate about advancing the field of medicinal and aromatic plants.



Figure 1: *University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi.*

Over four dynamic days, participants engaged in a wide range of presentations and discussions on topics spanning natural product research, traditional medicine, pharmacognosy, and sustainable botanical practices. Each day featured multiple sessions with thought-provoking plenary talks, offering fresh perspectives on current approaches, global challenges, and the evolving needs of the botanical sciences.



Figure 2: *Various engaging and diverse discussions were held over the four-day event*

The conference provided a valuable platform for networking and collaboration, allowing delegates to share ideas, forge new partnerships, and explore the role of natural products in global health and innovation. It was especially encouraging to see early-career researchers actively participating and contributing to conversations about the future of ethnopharmacology.



Figure 3: *Participation of ISE Board members at the conference. From left to right, Prof Vollmer, Prof Delfino, Prof Leonti, Prof Lall, Prof Calderon, Prof Bauer and Prof Yen.*

Overall, the event was a resounding success—celebrating scientific excellence, fostering international collaboration, and reinforcing the vital importance of botanicals in improving health and well-being worldwide.



Figure 4: *Prof Calderon, Prof Yelkaira and Prof Lall during one of the multiple networking events that took place during the conference*



Figure 5: *Highlights of some of the events that took place during the conference*

3. Report of the 12th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFEC 2025)

Pramod HJ , Sunil S Jalalpure, Pulok K Mukherjee, Amit Kar*

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The 12th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFEC 2025) was jointly organized by KLE College of Pharmacy, Belagavi, KLE Academy of Higher Education & Research, the Society for Ethnopharmacology Kolkata (India), in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - National Institute of Traditional Medicine, Belagavi, India. This prestigious event took place from March 6th to 8th, 2025, at the KLE Centenary Convention Centre in Belagavi, Karnataka, India on the theme of “Ethnopharmacology: Integrating Traditional Health Practices and Contemporary Medical Science”. The conference attracted international experts, academicians, researchers, and practitioners to discuss the intersection of ethnopharmacology, drug technology, and phytopharmaceuticals.



Inauguration and lighting of the inaugural lamp during SFEC 2025 at Belgavi, India



Inauguration of Conference proceedings of SFEC 2025 at Belgavi, India

This three-day conference featured a series of keynote and plenary sessions addressing cutting-edge topics. Highlights included Prof. Mukherjee's keynote on integrating traditional practices with modern science, and Prof. Rudolf Bauer's insights on metabolomics-based quality control. Sessions explored a range of themes, such as regenerative medicine, data

integrity, crisis in reproducibility, and innovative research on neurodegeneration and tribal healing traditions. Thought-provoking panel discussions tackled themes like ethno-entrepreneurship for *Atmanirbhar Bharat* and the integration of ethnopharmacology with mainstream medicine, bringing together academia, industry, and policy stakeholders. An engaging SFE-Young Ethnopharmacologist Competition celebrated emerging researchers, while poster presentations provided a platform for scientific dialogue. Cultural performances and a conference dinner added a vibrant social dimension to the scholarly exchange. With participation from eminent scientists, industry leaders, and young researchers across the globe, SFEC-IDTP 2025 served as a vital platform for fostering collaboration and innovation in the realm of traditional and modern healthcare convergence.

The formal inauguration ceremony of the 12th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFEC 2025) was held with great dignity and grandeur on March 6, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Dr. B. S. Jirge Auditorium (Hall 1) of the KLE Convention Centre, Belagavi. The event commenced in the esteemed presence of Dr. Prabhakar B. Kore, Hon'ble Chancellor and Chairman of KAHER & KLE Society, who welcomed delegates and dignitaries with inspiring words on India's leadership in traditional healthcare systems. The dais was graced by eminent personalities including Dr. Nitin M. Gangane, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of KAHER; Dr. Subarna Roy, Director of ICMR-NITM; Dr. Sanjay Mishra, Senior Advisor at the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India; and Shri Sekhar Dutt, Former Governor of Chhattisgarh and Advisor to the Society for Ethnopharmacology. A highlight of the ceremony was the presence of Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, Distinguished Professor at the Bioinformatics Centre, SPPU Pune, and Former Director General of CSIR, who delivered remarks on the intersection of scientific innovation and traditional medicine. The founding spirit of the society was upheld by Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Founder of SFE India and Chairman of Scientific Services for SFEC 2025, who welcomed delegates and outlined the congress objectives. Distinguished international guests, including Prof. Namrita Lall, President of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology (Switzerland), and Prof. Rudolf Bauer, Executive Member of ISE Switzerland and Professor Emeritus at the University of Graz, Austria, addressed the audience, highlighting the global relevance of ethnopharmacology. Other key dignitaries included Dr. C. K. Katiyar and Shri Indraneel Das, Vice Presidents of SFE India, whose remarks emphasized collaborative research and cultural preservation. The organizing spirit of the congress was represented by Dr. Sunil S. Jalalpure, Principal of KLE College of Pharmacy and Organizing Chairperson of SFEC 2025, alongside Dr. M. S. Ganachari, Registrar of KAHER. The inauguration concluded with a ceremonial lighting of the lamp and the release of the congress souvenir, symbolizing the formal launch of a historic event dedicated to integrating traditional medicine with cutting-edge scientific innovation.

Panel Discussions

A major intellectual highlight of SFEC-IDTP 2025 was the **panel discussion series**, which created a platform for critical dialogue across sectors. One of the standout panels focused on "*Ethno-entrepreneurship for Atmanirbhar Bharat*," emphasizing the integration of traditional knowledge with entrepreneurship to achieve self-reliance in healthcare. Experts from regulatory bodies, R&D institutions, and herbal industries engaged in stimulating conversations about policy frameworks, business models, and funding opportunities to empower rural and tribal communities through herbal entrepreneurship.

Another thought-provoking session, "*Innovative Product/Process/Technologies from Botanicals: Industrial Perspectives*," brought together industry stalwarts like Dr. Lal

Hingorani, Dr. Nikhil Agrawal, and Dr. Aboli Girme. Under the stewardship of Dr. U.V. Babu and Dr. Arvind Saklani, this panel addressed the practical aspects of product development from botanicals, ranging from regulatory hurdles and quality assurance to global marketing and intellectual property rights. These discussions were vital in aligning academic research with industrial and commercial needs.

Keynote Lectures

The keynote sessions set the academic tone of the congress with impactful talks from internationally renowned experts. Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee delivered the inaugural keynote, advocating for the integration of traditional medicine systems with evidence-based scientific methodologies. His address underscored the need for quality, safety, and efficacy assessments in herbal formulations.

Prof. Rudolf Bauer of Austria shared his expertise on *“Metabolomics-Based Quality Control in Herbal Medicines,”* stressing the role of modern analytical tools in standardizing phytopharmaceuticals. On Day 3, keynote lectures by Prof. Namrita Lall and Dr. Roy Upton delved into *“Sustainable Natural Product Innovations”* and *“The Global Relevance of Ayurveda,”* respectively, offering visionary insights into how traditional medical systems can thrive in a globalized scientific ecosystem.

Plenary Sessions

A series of plenary sessions over all three days delivered a diverse and deep exploration of scientific innovation in ethnopharmacology. Topics ranged from regenerative and integrative medicine to novel bioactive compound discovery, crisis in reproducibility, antimicrobial resistance, and veterinary applications of herbal therapies.

- **Plenary V** featured speakers like Dr. Marina Spinu and Dr. Sanjay Jachak, who explored natural remedies for antimicrobial resistance.
- **Plenary VI**, under the theme *“Tradition to Trends in Integrative Medicine,”* saw participation from Dr. Prakash Neswi and Major Dr. Jeetendra Singh, focusing on regulatory frameworks and therapeutic harmonization between modern and traditional practices.
- **Plenary VII to IX** showcased regional and international research on African traditional medicine, Cannabis sativa genotypes, polyherbal formulations, and phytotherapy in animals, with contributions from Dr. Narendra Kumar, Dr. Shashikant Torgal, and others.

Each plenary session was meticulously curated and expertly moderated, facilitating a seamless transfer of knowledge across generations and geographies.



Felicitations of the keynote & Plenary speakers during the SFEC 2025 at Belagavi, India



Felicitations of the keynote & Plenary speakers during the SFEC 2025 at Belagavi, India

SFE Award Ceremony 2025

The SFE Award Ceremony 2025, held on the first day of the 12th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFEC-IDTP 2025) at the KLE Convention Centre, Belagavi, served as a grand tribute to excellence in the fields of medicinal plant research and ethnopharmacology. In recognition of remarkable contributions to science, innovation, and the promotion of traditional healthcare knowledge, five major awards were conferred on eminent personalities by the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India. Dr. Sekhar C. Mande, Former Director General of CSIR and Distinguished Professor at the Bioinformatics Centre, was presented with the prestigious SFE Lifetime Achievement Award 2025, honouring his exceptional leadership and lifelong dedication to the advancement of scientific research. Additionally, the Sibeswar Saha Memorial Award 2025, instituted in memory of Sri Sibeswar Saha, was conferred in acknowledgment of distinguished service to ethnopharmacological advancement. Dr. Arvind Saklani, Vice President of Sami-Sabinsa Group, was honoured with the SFE Outstanding National Ethnopharmacologist Award 2025, and further recognized with the Harihar Mukherjee Memorial Award, instituted with the support of Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee in remembrance of his late father Sri Harihar Mukherjee, for his efforts in bridging traditional wisdom with modern industry practices. On the international front, Prof. Ikhlas Khan, Director of the National Center for Natural Products Research, University of Mississippi, USA, was awarded the SFE Outstanding International Ethnopharmacologist Award 2024, alongside the Pranab Banerji Memorial Award 2025, both recognizing his global leadership in botanical medicine research. The SFE ZANDU Award 2025, supported by Emami Ltd., Kolkata, for outstanding contributions to plant-based drug research, was awarded to Prof. Aleksander Shikov of Saint Petersburg State Chemical Pharmaceutical University, Russia. In recognition of academic leadership and institutional contributions,

Prof. Sunil S. Jalalpure, Principal and Professor in the Department of Pharmacognosy at KLE College of Pharmacy, received the SFE Special Recognition Award 2025.



Some Glimpses of the SFE Award Ceremony during the 12th International Congress of SFE (SFEC 2025)

Traditional Healers' Meet

One of the most culturally and scientifically enriching segments of the congress was the Traditional Healers' Meet, held under the banner "*Traditional Healthcare Practices – Exploring Ancestral Medicine.*" This session honoured the wisdom of India's traditional medical practitioners, creating a shared platform for dialogue between indigenous knowledge holders and modern scientists.

Chaired by Dr. Prakash R. Itankar and Dr. Harsha V. Hegde, with discussions led by Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee and Dr. Pramod H. J., the session featured valuable insights from Vaidya Sridhar Desai, Shri. Vishwanath Hedge, and others. These discussions highlighted the preservation and formal recognition of oral traditions and community-based healing, reinforcing their relevance in the modern healthcare ecosystem.



*Traditional Healers' Meet during the
12th International Congress of SFE, (SFEC 2025)*

Oral Presentation Sessions

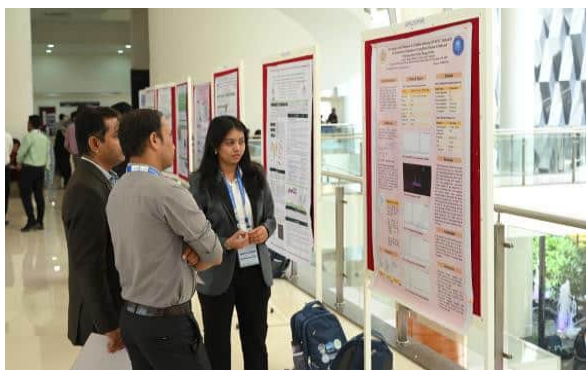
The oral presentations provided an inclusive stage for young and experienced researchers to present their work on novel bioactives, traditional formulations, pharmacological validation, and drug delivery systems derived from natural sources. Two different oral session was organized one session on “Young Ethnopharmacologist Competition” – Prof. P K Debnath Memorial Award and “Oral presentation competition” – Prof. Peter J Houghton Award. The sessions were guided by a panel of esteemed international reviewers including Prof. Rudolf Bauer, Dr. Patricia Rijo, Dr. Amit Karand Dr. M.S. Palled. The interactive nature of these sessions enabled deep academic discourse and critical feedback, fostering the next generation of scholars in ethnopharmacology.



Oral presentation session during the 12th International Congress of SFE, (SFEC 2025)

Poster Presentations

Running parallel to the oral sessions were poster presentations, which took place in three sessions over two days in the KLECCC foyer. More than 150 posters were exhibited, categorized thematically across phytochemistry, pharmacology, pharmacognosy, and clinical applications. These sessions facilitated vibrant interactions between researchers, evaluators, and industry experts, allowing participants to refine their scientific narratives and form collaborations. The Best poster presentation Award – Prof. SS Handa Memorial Award has been conducted.



Poster presentation session during the SFE 12th International Congress of SFE, (SFEC 2025)

Ethno-entrepreneurship, Grower's, Buyer's & Seller's Meet

Held in tandem with the special session ethno-entrepreneurship development, the Grower's, Buyer's & Seller's Meet centred on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs). With the participation of cultivators, herbal traders, academic scientists, and policymakers, this meet emphasized value chain strengthening—from farm to formulation. Key discussions included GAP (Good Agricultural Practices), market accessibility, certification, and biodiversity conservation. Chaired by Dr. Shrinivas Patil and Dr. Nayeem Khatib, with the participation of Mr. Anand Kale and other industry figures, this meet highlighted sustainable models for livelihood through herbal farming and the importance of aligning cultivation practices with market demand and scientific validation.



Ethno-entrepreneurship development, Grower's, Buyer's & Seller's Meet during the SFEC 2025

From the richness of panel dialogues and keynote insights to the vibrant healer interactions and research showcases, SFEC 2025 embodied the vision of a globally interconnected, locally rooted health ecosystem. It successfully created pathways for the translation of traditional practices into scientifically backed, socially relevant, and commercially viable healthcare solutions.

Networking and Collaboration Opportunities

A dedicated exhibition area was set up as a significant attraction of the event. The exhibition was hosted as a platform to showcase the dynamic and diverse contributions of various institutions, companies, and organizations in the field of ethnopharmacology and medicinal plant research. More than 22 reputed organizations, academic institutions, research institutes, universities, startups, and industry stakeholders including Society for Ethnopharmacology, India; ICMR - National Institute of Traditional Medicine (ICMR-NITM), Belagavi; CCRAS, New Delhi; Himalaya Wellness Company, Bengaluru, India; Sami-Sabinsa Group, Bengaluru, India; Anchrom India; Jamia Hamdard, Delhi, India participated by setting up exhibition stalls, reflecting their active engagement, innovations, and initiatives in the domain of traditional medicine, phytopharmaceuticals, and bioresource-based entrepreneurship. The exhibition venue became a vibrant center of knowledge exchange, innovation display, and collaborative networking.



Glimpse of SFEC 2025 at Belagavi, India



Dignitaries, Speakers of SFEC 2025 at Belagavi, India

Cultural and Social Engagement

Cultural programs, featuring traditional music and dance performances, provided an opportunity for attendees to experience Karnataka's rich heritage. A traditional banquet further strengthened the sense of camaraderie among participants.



Cultural Program during the SFE 12th International Congress of SFE (SFEC 2025)

Valedictory Program

The Valedictory Program of the 12th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology (SFEC2025), held on March 08, 2025 at KLE College of Pharmacy, Belagavi, brought together eminent dignitaries from academia and industry. The session was graced by Dr. M. B. Patil, Dr. Sunil S. Jalalpure, Dr. Debprasad Chattopadhyay, Dr. C. K. Katiyar, Dr. Subarna Roy, Dr. M. S. Ganachari, Dr. Pramod H. J., Dr. V. S. Mastiholimath, and Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee. The best oral and poster presentation has been awarded during the valedictory program. The program concluded with a vote of thanks, marking the end of a fruitful scientific gathering and paving the way for future innovations and partnerships in traditional medicine research.



Valedictory Program of the 12th International Congress of SFE (SFEC 2025)

The 12th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFEC 2025) was a landmark confluence of traditional knowledge, cutting-edge research, industrial innovation, and policy discourse. By harmonizing ancestral wisdom with scientific validation and technological advancements, the congress significantly advanced the global agenda for integrative health systems. It fostered multi-sectoral partnerships, empowered indigenous voices, and encouraged youth-led innovation in ethnopharmacology. The event also underscored the urgent need for quality assurance, sustainable sourcing, and regulatory alignment in the herbal and phytopharmaceutical industries.

4. Report of the 2025 International Joint Symposium in Taiwan “Advancing Tradition and Innovation: Challenges, Opportunities, and Prospects in Chinese Medicine and Natural Products

ISE member, Prof. Hung-Rong Yen at China Medical University (CMU), Taiwan held the *2025 Joint Symposium on “Advancing Tradition and Innovation: Challenges, Opportunities, and Prospects in Chinese Medicine and Natural Products”* from October 24 to 26, 2025, at its Shuinan campus in Taichung, Taiwan. This conference pioneered a New Milestone in Natural Products, Free Radical Science, and Traditional Chinese Medicine Research in Taiwan.

The event brought together four major societies — the 40th Symposium of Natural Products (SNP 2025), 25th Symposium of Free Radical Research (SFRR-Taiwan 2025), 2025 Symposium of the Taiwan Association for Traditional and Alternative Medicine (TATCM 2025), and the 1st Symposium of the Society of Chinese Pharmaceutical Sciences of Taiwan (SCPS-Taiwan) — along with the Annual Research Presentation of the Division of Pharmacy and Chinese Medicine, Department of Life Science, National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Taiwan.

This large-scale international conference was co-badged by two globally renowned academic organizations, the *Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research (GA)* and the *International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE)*, symbolizing Taiwan’s growing influence and academic strength in the global field of natural products and traditional medicine research. Complimentary registration was kindly provided to all GA and ISE members.



The all-English symposium attracted **618** registered participants, including **29** invited speakers from Taiwan, the UK, Austria, Hungary, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, and South Africa, featuring **214** poster presentations and **89** oral competition papers. The meeting covered a broad range of topics, including natural products, free radical science, pharmacological and clinical applications of traditional medicines, complementary and integrative medicine, and translational biomedical research.



Group photos of participants in one of the three conference rooms in the conference venue at China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan



On October 24, the symposium opened with the NSTC Pharmacy and Chinese Medicine Program session. In Prof. Hung-Rong Yen's capacity as the Conference Chairperson and Co-Convener of the Division of Pharmacy and Chinese Medicine under the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), Prof. Hung-Rong Yen was delighted to welcome everyone to this year's annual research presentation. Several Taiwanese distinguished scholars delivered keynote talks. This gathering showcases the remarkable scientific achievements supported by the NSTC, reflecting Taiwanese principal investigators' shared commitment to advancing pharmacy, Chinese medicine, and interdisciplinary biomedical innovation.

Academician Jaung-Geng Lin, Chair Professor at CMU, also presented the *Journal of Traditional and Complementary Medicine* (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-traditional-and-complementary-medicine>)

complementary-medicine)— Taiwan's first SCI-indexed journal in traditional medicine — which he serves as Editor-in-Chief.

On October 25, Prof. Hung-Rong Yen welcomed everyone to attend the multiple joint sessions, which were co-organized under the leadership of Prof. Ping-Jyun Sung (President, The Natural Medicine Society of Taiwan), Prof. Tsong-Long Hwang (President, Taiwan Society for Free Radical Research and Taiwan Association for Traditional and Complementary Medicine), and Prof. Yuan-Shiun Chang (President, Society of Chinese Pharmaceutical Sciences of Taiwan).

The conference featured cross-disciplinary exchanges and research achievements in natural products, free radical medicine, pharmacology, and integrative medicine.

Key Taiwanese speakers included Academician Lu-Hai Wang (CMU Chinese Medicine Research Center), who shared novel findings on enhancing anti-cancer immunity and targeting cancer stem cells from the perspective of “supporting the vital qi and dispelling pathogens” in traditional Chinese medicine.

Other distinguished speakers included those from Taiwan and international institutions such as Prof. Michael Heinrich (University College London, U.K.), Assoc. Prof. Pravit Akarasereenont (Mahidol University, Thailand), Prof. Victor B. Amoroso (Central Mindanao University, The Philippines), Dr. Bob Allkin (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U.K.), Prof. Rudolf Bauer (University of Graz, Austria), and Prof. Attila Hunyadi (University of Szeged, Hungary) delivered speeches on the 2nd day of the conference.



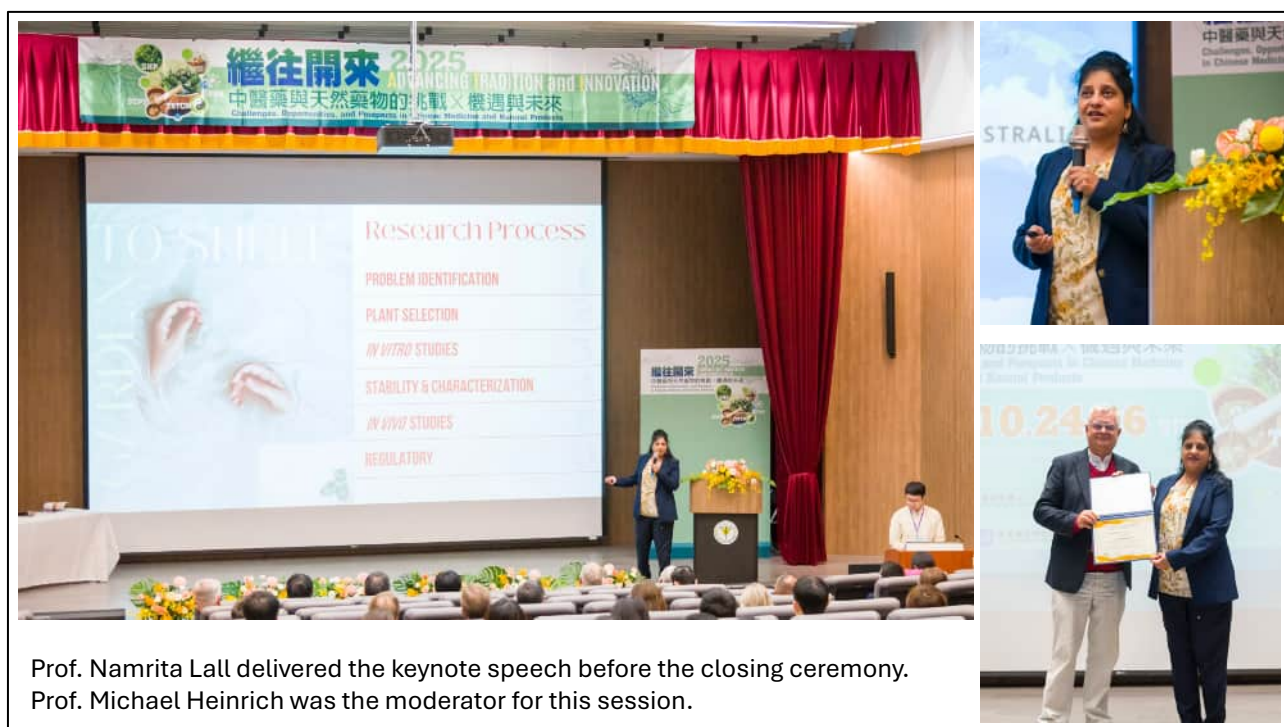
Prof. Michael Heinrich delivered the speech on the 2nd day of the conference





Prof. Rudolf Bauer delivered the speech on the 2nd day of the conference

On October 26, the final day started with the awarding ceremony for the Young Student and Scholar's Awards for the research papers that they published. Afterward, there were 89 oral presentations for the competition among the 214 posters. Undergraduate students, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows vividly presented their research work. The invited speeches on the last day focused on clinical integration of natural products and traditional medicine. Prof. Namrita Lall (University of Pretoria, South Africa) and Asst. Prof. Jinbong Park (Kyung Hee University, South Korea) delivered international lectures, while Dr. Yu-An Yeh (China Medical University Hospital, Taiwan) presented Taiwan's National Adverse Event Monitoring and Reporting System for Chinese Herbal Medicines, which is led by Prof. Hung-Rong Yen. In the last session, the organizing committee conferred the awards for oral competition awards to the young students, which made the successful conclusion of the three-day event.



Prof. Namrita Lall delivered the keynote speech before the closing ceremony.
Prof. Michael Heinrich was the moderator for this session.

Prof. Hung-Rong Yen, Dean of the College of Chinese Medicine and Conference Chairperson, expressed his gratitude to all organizing societies and international partners.

He remarked, *“The advancement of traditional medicine requires interdisciplinary collaboration and global engagement. With the joint efforts of the four major societies and two international associations, this symposium not only fostered academic exchange but also underscored Taiwan’s pivotal role and contributions in the global research of natural products, free radical science, Chinese pharmacology, complementary medicine, and integrative healthcare.”*



5. Awards and achievements by ISE members

Prestigious awards received by Prof Namrita Lall

1. Prof Namrita Lall from the University of Pretoria, for developing and commercialising several innovative pharmaceuticals and cosmeceuticals from medicinal plants with novel mode of action, and for establishing viable spin-off companies and promoting entrepreneurship amongst her graduates. This award was presented by the National Science and Technology Forum (July 2025) (Pic A).

2. Champion of Research Capacity Development and Transformation at South African Higher Education Institutions Award (August 2025) has been awarded to Prof Lall by the National Research Foundation of South Africa (Pic B).



(Pic A)



(Pic B)

Awards received by Professor Hung-Rong Yen

Professor Hung-Rong Yen received the Oriental Medicine for Healthy Taiwan Award at the 21st International Congress of Oriental Medicine on August 31, 2025. The award was presented by the Minister of Health and Welfare of Taiwan in recognition of his contributions to advancing academic research in traditional medicine.



Achievements by Dr. Ruyu Yao in 2024



Dr. Ruyu Yao is a member of ISE since 2015. Since April 2024, he has been an associate Professor in Ethnobotany based at Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

1. International communications

In 2023.11, he invited Prof. Michael Heinrich (India Liaison Officer of ISE Board) and Dr. Caroline Weckerle (Treasurer of ISE Board) to visit Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences Peking Union Medical College for an academic communication.



In 2023.12, he invited Prof. Elaine Elisabetsky (Honorary Board Member of ISE Board) to visit Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences Peking Union Medical College for an academic communication.



In 2024.03, he invited Prof. Marco Leonti (Secretary of ISE Board) to visit Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences Peking Union Medical College for an academic communication.



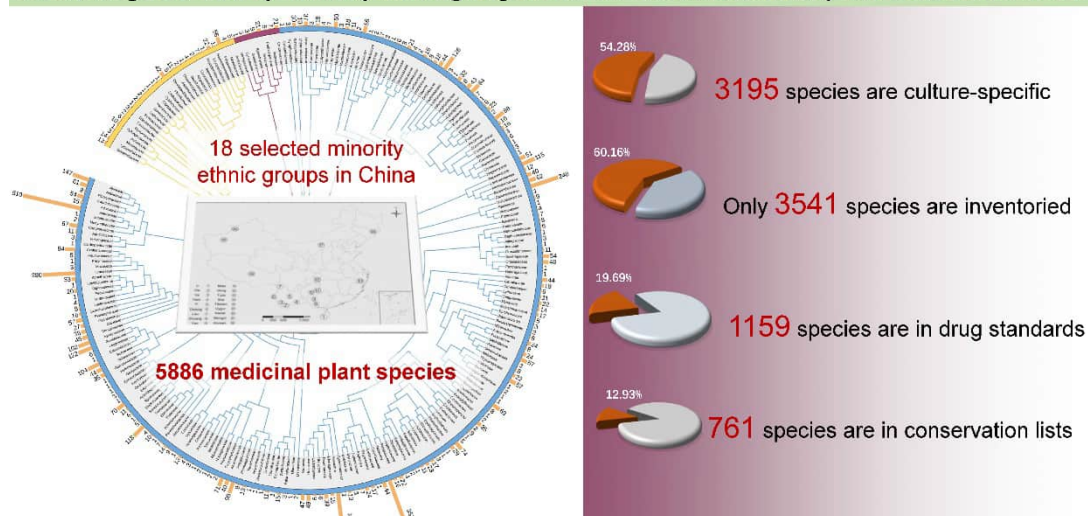
2. Publications

2.1 Shan, F., Li, L., Bi, Y., Wang, W., Amu, G., Li, M., Zhou, H., Yao, R., 2024. Exotic medicinal plants from the Silk Road promote the diversification of traditional Chinese medicines. *Pharmacological Research* 205, 107243.



2.2 Yao, R., Gao, J., Heinrich, M., Yu, S., Xue, T., Zhang, B., Wei, X., Qi, Y., Gao, W., 2024. Medicinal plants used by minority ethnic groups in China: Taxonomic diversity and conservation needs. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology* 334, 118573.

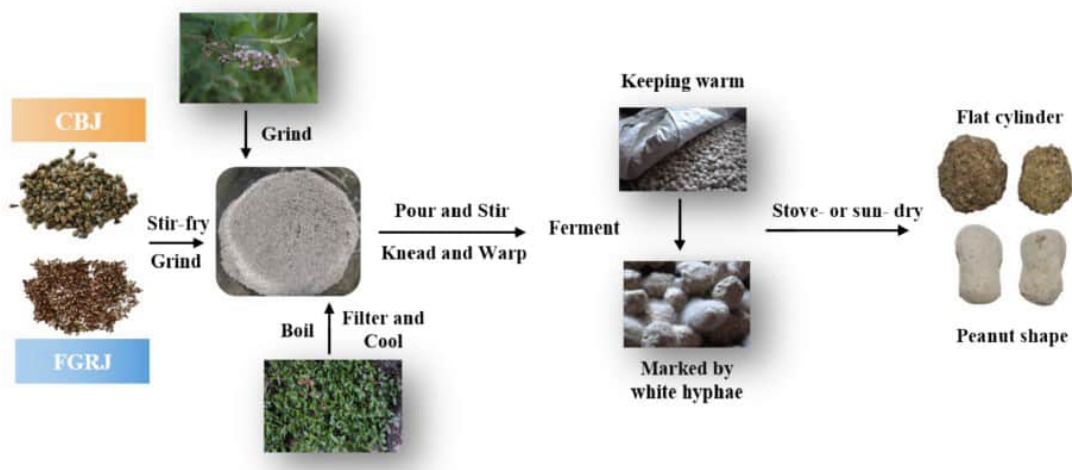
Medicinal plants used by minority ethnic groups in China: taxonomic diversity and conservation needs



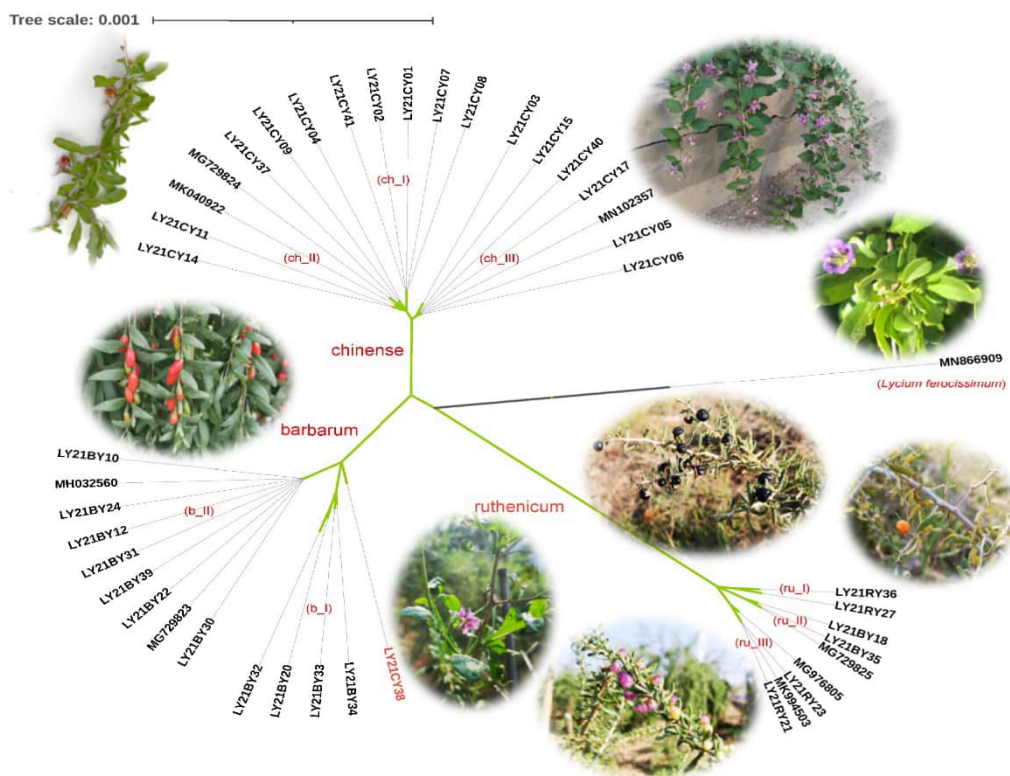
2.3 Bi, Y., Gao, F., Guo, J., Yao, X., Wang, A., Liu, H., Sun, Y., Yao, R., Li, M., 2024. An ethnobotanical survey on the medicinal and edible plants used by the Daur people in China. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 20(1), 55.



2.4 Zhao, J., Wang, Q., Ren, Z., Yang, C., Guan, S., Wang, X., Huang, Y., Yao, R., Yin, H., 2024. Legendary fermented herbs: an ethnobotanical study of the traditional fermentation starter of the Chuanqing people in Northwestern Guizhou, China. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 20(1), 84.



2.5 Yao, R., Wang, B., Heinrich, M., Wang, Q., Xiao, P., 2024. Genetic diversity of food-medicinal *Lycium* spp. in China: Insights from chloroplast genome. Chinese Herbal Medicines 16(3), 401-411.



2.6 As an associate editor, he published a book titled “Atlas of Food-medicinal Plants in Chongzhou City” (in Chinese), presenting 119 plant species that are used as both food and medicine in Chongzhou City of Sichuan Province, Southwest of China:

Hongxiang Yin (Ed). Atlas of Food-medicinal Plants in *Chongzhou* City. Sichuan Sci & Tech Press. China, Sichuan, Chengdu. ISBN: 978-7-5727-1522-8

