Editorial Note

"Many Americans-more than 30 percent of adults and about 12 percent of children-use health care approaches developed outside of mainstream Western, or conventional, medicine", reported by the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Institute of Health. Alternative medicine has never been more popular.

Notwithstanding, many people still consider alternative medicine a non-scientific subject that the therapy is useless or beneficial only through anecdotes relayed by word of mouth, relayed on trial and error, or relayed on "superstitious and mysterious power".

Alternative medicine has to take a revolution. Alternative medicines should no longer be treated as a non-scientific subject. With the emergence of sophisticated analytical, chemical and pharmacologic techniques, we can now identify, purify and study the active ingredients in medicinal herbs, and explain the therapeutic effects of the herbs. With statistical and epidemiological studies, we can prove the efficacy and safety of the therapy or remedy in the population. With system biology and both bottom-up and top-down "omic" approaches, we can reveal the therapeutic effects of the therapy or remedy from all levels in the whole body system. The metabolic networks that underlie the mechanism of action of the therapy or remedy can be constructed through mathematical methods and bioinformatics methodologies. The effort using a system methodology to study herbal medicine has already yielded very promising results.

After all, the scientific evidence should be well-documented, reported and published in peer-reviewed journals. We at Journal of Alternative Medical Research would provide a platform for scientists and practitioners to share their findings and report their results that can reach the worldwide audience. Only high quality evidence can prove to the world that alternative medicine is a science; only scientific evidence can gain alternative medicine recognition and reputation.