

#ISP60years WEBINAR SERIES

The Nexus of Nature and Science: Evaluation of Phytochemicals from Medicinal Plants of Zimbabwe as antimicrobials and other anti-infective agents

The use of traditional medicinal plants (TCMs) has been practiced for a long period, almost as long as humans have been in existence. This has prompted growing interest in use of natural methods and medicines in management of different conditions including microbial infections and some cancers. However, the mechanism of action of the TCMs and other herbs in the treatment of diseases is not known and this is why Nature needs to meet Science.

Studies have been carried out with the aim of validating, improving and optimizing the use of indigenous medicinal plants to improve the wellness of the society in Zimbabwe. We have been able to isolate variety of plant-derived chemicals fractions and extracts with many antimicrobial and un-infective properties. A modern approach to traditional use of these plant derived chemicals is being developed with the formulation and characterization of antimicrobial creams and ointments particularly for topical uses.

We also provide evidence for efficacy of these phytochemicals thus validating the use these plants in ethnomedicine in vitro.

The role of ISP in the training of students and support for networking with other ISP Chemistry colleagues in achieving these goals is also highlighted in the talk.

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