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## Welcome Greetings for Prof. Panossian

As I celebrate my own 85th year, it is now time to hand over the steering wheel of *Phytomedicine*, which I founded with the late Professor Farnsworth (Chicago) eighteen years ago, to a younger colleague with a similar scientific background. It was not difficult at all to find a suitable successor because I knew so many of the phytochemists working in the field from my former research group in Munich.

The colleague we have chosen, Professor Alexander Panossian, is a native Armenian who began his scientific career in Moscow with a PhD from the Moscow Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the USSR Academy of Sciences. His diploma in Chemistry was earned at the Yerevan State University and the Diploma of Professor in Bioorganic Chemistry and Chemistry of Natural Compounds – in the Russian Federation since 1991. He has served as Director of the Expert Analytical Laboratory of Drug & Medical Technology Agency of Ministry of Health of the Republic of Armenia and Professor at the National Institute of Health of the Republic of Armenia. He spent 1982–1983 as a guest scientist at the laboratory of Nobel Laureate B. Samuelson in the Department of Physiological Chemistry of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, and later spent an additional two years (1993–1995) as a guest scientist at the Institute of Biological Chemistry in Munich.

Professor Panossian has been recognized with several honors, awards, fellowships and memberships in professional societies. His publications include 172 articles and 112 communications in peer-reviewed journals and he holds 30 patents and inventions. His main research interests focus on isolation and structure elucidation of natural compounds and quality control and quality assurance

of herbal drugs. His expertise is concentrated on the efficacy and mechanisms of action of adaptogens, herbal preparations modifying the stress response of the neuroendocrine and immune systems in stress-induced and age-related disorders.

Professor Panossian, now Head of Research and Development at the Swedish Herbal Institute in Göteborg will assume the editorship of *Phytomedicine* but he will not be alone. I will act as Honorary Editor and Advisor through September 2014. Further, Professor Panossian will be supported by our new Co-editor, Professor Susana Zacchino, Academic Chief of Pharmacognosy Area at the National University of Rosario (Argentina), also an excellent phytochemist specialized in the field of Antifungal Natural Products and Synergy Research. Professor Panossian's work will also be supported by our excellent staff, including Editorial Assistant and EES expert, Mrs. Ingrid Maier, and our long-standing secretary, Magdalena Heimhilger.

We welcome Professor Panossian with the bouquet of flowers pictured on the cover of issue 6, 2014. I have painted the image several years ago without a knowing to whom I might dedicate this colourful image of the so-called straw flowers, which can live more than 20 years and withstand heavy rain and storms. It is a fitting way to welcome Professor Panossian to *Phytomedicine* and to wish him a steady hand in the direction of the journal.

Cordially, your friend and colleague Prof. Dr. H. ("Bert") Wagner  
March 28, 2014