



Apiterapi ve Doğa Dergisi
Journal of Apitherapy and Nature
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Congratulations on the New Journal

Letter to the Editors

On behalf of all members of our Associations, we would like to extend our sincere congratulations on the first edition of the new scientific publication: *Journal of Apitherapy and Nature*. We believe that it is a valuable addition to the scientific literature.

Apitherapy is considered as one of the traditional and complementary medicine disciplines. World Health Organization describes traditional medicine as the sum total of the knowledge, skills, and practice based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness (Anonymous, 2017). Complementary medicine is a general term used to describe a number of non-conventional treatments and natural products. Complementary therapies are those which can work alongside and in conjunction with orthodox medical treatment (Anonymous, 1993).

There has been a continuing demand for traditional and complementary medicine worldwide. Over 100 million Europeans are currently users of traditional and complementary medicine. The issue of regulations of such therapies in EU is covered in the report of CAMbrella (Anonymous, 2018b).

In Anatolia apiculture is based on thousands of years old history. Due to the region's status as a transitional region between the European and Asian continents, it has one of the highest potentials in the world for apiculture. This land is a home to 10.000 native plant species, nearly 3.900 of which are endemic. With more than 6 million bee colonies, Turkey is at the second place in apiculture in the world after China. Apitherapy has a deep historical background in Turkish culture. The Apitherapy Association was established in Istanbul in 2010. It has been very keen that there should be professional standards, registration and accountability in all aspects of apitherapy practices in the country.

The Health Ministry of Turkey has aimed at harmonizing the new legislation on medicinal products with the EU Directives (Anonymous, 2018b). The Turkish government has on October 27, 2014 passed a new law on Regulation of Traditional and Complementary Medicine Practice. Hence, Apitherapy has been recognized as a natural supportive treatment which utilizes bee and bee products for certain health problems. It aims at modulating the immune system and at reducing the symptoms of certain progressive diseases by using honeybee products i.e. honey, propolis, royal jelly, pollen, bee venom etc. Therefore, it is vitally important that apitherapy researchers and professionals have an international forum through which they can share their scientific work and experiences. An important aspect of publishing such a scientific journal would be retaining a high quality evaluation team and the effort to invite respected scholars to contribute review articles is a priority. We believe, this journal will provide valuable insights into apitherapy products. It will significantly contribute to communicating among academicians and scientists, allowing them to share information and learn from each other. In

this era of globalization, it may strengthen the international community of apitherapy and nature. We wish the journal every success and look forward to it having a long and distinguished place in the scientific literature.

Again, we want to convey our message of great thankfulness and congratulations to Prof. Sevgi Kolaylı and Assoc.Prof. Oktay Yıldız, Editors-in-Chief. Also praise the effort and devotion professors who contributed as assistant administrators and other editing members.

With sincere appreciation,

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