# Current Issues in PHARMACY

## Qamar Uddin Ahmad

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# **Current Issues in Pharmacy**

Editor

## Qamar Uddin Ahmed, PhD

Kulliyyah of Pharmacy, International Islamic University Malaysia



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#### **CHAPTER 13**

### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ON ANTIDIABETIC HERBS: MALAYSIA PERSPECTIVE

#### Abdul Razak Kasmuri

Department of Basic Medical Sciences, Kulliyyah of Pharmacy, International Islamic University Malaysia, Kuantan, Pahang DM, Malaysia

#### Introduction

Malaysian market value for herbal industry was estimated to grow at 10% annually and the total market value of Malaysian herbal industry in 1999 was RM 4.55 billion (Huda et al., 2007; Zainal, 2007). On the other hands, diabetes mellitus (DM) is a major and growing health problem since it is the fourth or fifth leading cause of death in most developed countries (Shafie et al., 2004). In Malaysia, National Health and Morbidity study showed that there was an increase in the prevalence of DM among adults above 30 years old of Peninsular Malaysia from 6.3% in 1986 to 8.8% in 1996 (Chua, 2001). It causes substantial amount of disability, premature mortality, lost of productivity and increased burden on health care budget and facilities.

In clinical reality, despite the introduction of new agents due to vigorous researches, efforts for better management of this disease have been disappointing and the control of blood glucose levels remains unsatisfactory (Nanthan et al., 1996). This leads to increase demand on traditional preparation since people looking for alternatives. Actually, the antidiabetic-claim-

preparations were already penetrated the local market and well accepted by the community ly based on anecdotal and folklores claims.