Editorial

Natural products have a long history of use for neurological symptoms. For example, *Crocus sativus* has traditionally been used as an antispasmodic and sedative. Yet the study of the mechanisms of action of neuroactive natural products began only recently. Armed with an arsenal of enabling technologies, researchers are now able to take a closer look at the complex molecular events associated with the therapeutic actions of natural products in neurodegenerative diseases. Extensive information has been generated to inspire the design and development of more efficacious and safe therapies. This issue brings together contemporary perspectives and research findings of leading experts on a vast array of mechanisms underlying the effects of natural products on neuroprotection and neuronal regeneration. The multifunctional properties of constituents of botanicals and their derivatives are discussed here to illustrate the possibilities toward the development of effective multi-target therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases. The study of neuroactive natural products will indeed advance our understanding of the nervous system, and open up exciting opportunities in drug discovery.

Yung Hou Wong, Hong Kong
Joseph T.Y. Wong, Hong Kong