



Missouri Botanical Garden

Building Partnerships

The University of Missouri-Columbia, USA and the University of the Western Cape, South Africa, have more than 17 years of bilateral exchanges. Building upon the strengths each has in the study of medicinal plants, together with the Missouri Botanical Garden, The International Center for Indigenous Phytotherapy Studies (TICIPS) is being formed to develop collaborative research on medicinal plants in the context of important diseases of Africa and America.



In addition, the Missouri School of Journalism, the oldest and one of the most prestigious Journalism Schools in the world, is proposing the communication program associated with TICIPS.

Phase two of the TICIPS program is now under way and the investigators are applying for additional funding through NCCAM, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (a part of the National Institutes of Health) and other granting agencies. As part of that effort, we're seeking the advice and participation of individuals in South Africa and the United States.

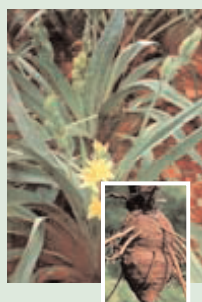
The International Center for Indigenous Phytotherapy Studies (TICIPS)

Introduction

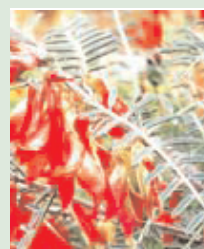
South Africa has an incredibly rich array of flora with more than 30,000 species of higher plants of which some 3,000 are used for medicinal purposes. Approximately 80% of South Africans utilize traditional healers (Inyangas & Sangomas), and indigenous phytotherapies developed over centuries.

The primary mission of TICIPS is to partner with traditional healers and key South African stakeholders to conduct scientifically rigorous research on indigenous phytotherapies. Ultimately it is hoped that these therapies could be integrated into conventional health care systems.

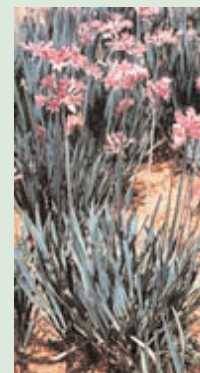
The Need for the TICIPS program



Hypoxis hemerocallidea



Tulbaghia violacea



Tulbaghia violacea

The TICIPS program has several important and interrelated goals:

- To conduct scientifically rigorous research, training and outreach programs that meet foreign and U.S. standards for compliant and ethical conduct.
- To explore and understand the role of religion and spirituality in traditional healing activities.
- To protect biodiversity and habitat in South Africa.
- To protect intellectual property rights relating to indigenous plants and the compounds that are derived from them that benefit the South African and U.S. publics
- To develop collaborations and partnerships with traditional healers, scientists in the U.S. and South Africa, policy-makers, and the media.
- To plan and implement pilot research projects and training experiences focusing upon African indigenous phytotherapies that will demonstrate TICIPS international collaborative research, training, administrative and outreach capabilities.

Key Contacts

Lionel Opie
opie@capeheart.uct.ac.za

Connie Medlen
cmedlen@postillion.up.ac.za

Jeremy Klaasen
Univ of Western Cape
jklaasen@uwc.ac.za

Quinton Johnson
Univ of Western Cape
qjohnson@uwc.ac.za

Wendy Applegate
MOBOT
314-577-0267
wendy.applequist@mobot.org

James Miller
MOBOT
314-577-9503
james.miller@mobot.org

John Cannon
University of Missouri
573-882-2780
cannonj@Missouri.edu

Marian Minor
University of Missouri

William Folk (Bill)
University of Missouri
573- 882-2841
folkW@missouri.edu

Antonie Stam, Ph.D.
University of Missouri

Byron Scott, M.A.
Missouri School of Journalism
573-882-7792
btscott@missouri.edu

Maria Len-Rios, Ph.D.
Missouri School of Journalism
573-884-0111
lenriosm@missouri.edu

Michael Grinfeld, J.D
Missouri School of Journalism
573-884-1633
grinfeldm@missouri.edu

Glen T. Cameron, Ph.D.
Missouri School of Journalism
573-884-2607
cameront@missouri.edu

Margaret Duffy, Ph.D.
Missouri School of Journalism
573-994-9746
duffym@missouri.edu

The Communication Core

The TICIPS program has several important and interrelated goals:

To assure success of TICIPS in its several scientific goals and objectives, the communication core will provide external and internal communication services that:

- 1.) enhance clinical trials recruitment in SA and related issues management in SA and USA
- 2.) facilitate accurate and balanced media coverage of TICIPS activity that conveys the unique and exciting nature of the research
- 3.) equip scientists to serve effectively as sources for science stories produced by both science and general reporters in print and broadcast news outlets,
- 4.) convey sensitive and culturally appropriate information about scientific discovery in TICIPS regarding phytonutrients and related caregiver methods in SA
- 5.) manage potential conflict arising from cultural differences and ownership issues for intellectual property
- 6.) build an informed, coherent, and sustainable team for collaboration across continents in concerted efforts to allay complications of HIV/AIDs and infectious disease. The communication core stresses proactive measures to forestall problems that could occur in the public arena regarding complex scientific questions couched in cross-cultural and cross-religion settings. This foundation drives strategic communication about the ultimate success of TICIPS specifically and NCCAM more generally in expanding the boundaries for effective and safe medical care.
- 7.) understand and report findings regarding the role of religiosity and spirituality in the context of traditional healers.

Summary

Like a set of rapids in the beautiful whitewater canyon of the Tugela River, the communication environment for TICIPS is fraught with danger, but also rife with exciting possibilities. Cultures, religions, traditions, medical methods, ways of knowing against the backdrop of unprecedented cooperation in exploring new methods and materials for healing creates a dynamism and tension that requires effort and vigilance to negotiate. For such a journey to succeed, TICIPS must recognize that all enterprises begin with public permission and succeed through public support. The communication core will seek that public permission and garner ongoing, sustainable public support by advising the center on appropriate behavior and then making the good work of TICIPS clear to all participants and all stakeholders struggling to address HIV/AIDs and infectious disease. For the community of healers, whether they be sangoma or biochemists, the rapids must be run safely to reach our goals.