



Dr. Zainul Amiruddin Zakaria is an associate professor of pharmacology at Department of Biomedical Science, Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Malaysia (from 2009-present). His interest in the field of natural product drug discovery (NPDD), especially on the determination of their pharmacological properties, begins while pursuing his BSc. Hons. (Biomedical Sciences) when he was introduced in 1998 (final year) to research on medicinal properties of *Channa striatus*, a snakehead, carnivorous fish traditionally used to help heal wound and diminish post-operative pain, by the recently retired Prof. Abdul Manan Mat Jais. After graduation, he immediately continued his MSc. (Pharmacology) and graduated in 2001. He was then offered a scholarship by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), Malaysia to further his study at the PhD. level and successfully obtained his PhD. (Pharmacology) in 2006 for his study of “*Possible Antinociceptive Mechanism and Site of Activity of Haruan (Channa striatus) Crude Aqueous Extract in Mice*”. While Between 2003-2009, he also worked as a lecturer in several other institutions wherein he continued his research interest towards NPDD focusing on what he called ‘underutilized” medicinal plants (possess traditional claims but not fully explore scientifically (*Melastoma malabathricum* etc.)) or “neglected” plants (not pharmacologically studied due to lack of traditional claims (*Muntingia calabura* etc)). Through vast collaborations, Dr. Zakaria managed to further advance his research on NPPD toward the isolation and identification of bioactive compounds while working with several chemists to determine the pharmacological potentials of pure or synthetic compounds. He has published 184 original articles, 3 review articles and 2 chapters in book. He is also active as a i) member of the editorial board of several journals (i.e. *Pharmacopuncture*, *Dataset Papers in Science: Pharmacology* and *Tang (Humanitas Medicine)*) and ii) fellow researcher at the Integrative Pharmacogenomics Institute, UiTM, Malaysia.