Preface

Terpenoids are a group of metabolites showing much functional diversity in the treatment of human disease. Over the last few decades, a huge volume of work has been reported in the medical literature, but no such book has been published with a complete compilation of all the recent important works in a single volume to date. A book such as *Terpenoids Against Human Disease* is highly required at this stage.

Interestingly, terpenoids have a role in treating some important human diseases—including liver disease, neurodegenerative disease, cancer, infectious diseases, cardiovascular disease, and inflammatory disease—that are addressed in detail in this book. This book is a valuable resource for its classification of terpenoids and their chemical properties and for its logical representation of the metabolic engineering approaches to terpenoid production, the toxicity of terpenoids in living systems, and terpenoid molecules as biological messengers leading to therapeutic efficacy against human disease. Moreover, applications of terpenoids in disease models are noted and thoroughly discussed in reference to *in vitro* studies as well as *in vivo* studies with clinical trials.

This book can be referred to as a knowledge resource for academic institutions and the pharmaceutical industry. In addition, it may be an interesting asset to researchers in the fields of medicinal chemistry, pharmaceutical chemistry, natural products, and remedial biotechnology of pathological disease.

This book is composed of chapters written by multiple authors—including myself—all of whom are experts in their respective fields and ultimately compiled and edited by me. I hope that the readers of this book will become aware of the enormous potential of terpenoids and will try to discover a few novel applications. I also hope this book will serve to stimulate multidisciplinary studies on terpenoids, resulting in an optimal utilization of this "green" chemical in the near future.

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