



WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

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CRD13- MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

ROUND TABLE TITLE:

## TRIBAL HEALTH AND ETHNOMEDICINE: FUTURE CHALLENGES

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### ABSTRACT

To address health as a component of the human experience, medical anthropology has evolved a bio-socio-cultural approach. Each community has a unique medical system based on available natural resources and cultural norms. Tribal communities continue to practice ethnomedicine that they inherit and learn as a result of their cultural upbringing. Preservation of this traditional knowledge and ethnomedicinal practices can be maintained by conservation of natural resources, by documentation to make its wider reach. Research in ethnomedicine has made significant contributions to understand the traditional medicinal knowledge and practice since the disciplines' beginning. Recognising the need for a roadmap for tribal health, understanding the health situation and health care practices, health scientists and Anthropologists have long been working with the tribal people.

To address the health issues of the tribal population in various geographical and socioeconomic conditions, the core thematic domain on Tribal Health and Ethnomedicine (THEM) is subdivided into various sub-thematic domains as below:

- Ethnomedicine and future challenges
- Trends and Developments in Ethnomedicine
- Policies of tribal development in health care sector.
- Health communication (medico religious practices)
- Nutrition and diet and ethnomedicine
- Factors contribute towards ethnomedicinal practices (health seeking behaviour, socio-economic and demographic etc.) and Role of the traditional healers
- Ethnomedicine and migration (medical pluralism)
- Biocultural preservation and ethnopharmacology

**Keywords:** Ethnomedicine; medical anthropology; traditional knowledge, natural resources, health care.

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