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Wrong patenting - A big global challenge

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Unani system of Medicine is based on holistic approach. Several assets of Unani medicine are available in different languages i.e. Urdu, Persian and Arabic. These literary ancient texts are easily accessible and thus have been susceptible to misappropriation. In other words, Unani System of Medicine is being exploited for bio-prospecting. So it is often misappropriated and wrongly patented, because it is assumed that since it is in public domain, communities have given up all claims over it.

Wrong patenting of classical Unani knowledge is not new thing but it is a matter of concern since last couple of decades. Although, this information exists in various languages like Arabic, Persian, and Urdu, The examiners of different national/international patent offices are unable to explore this information as prior art, before granting patents due to language barrier.

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