

Traditional medicine set to get a boost

U.S. institute to start 'Genoma Ayurveda'

Staff Reporter

TIRUPATI: Advanced research in Ayurveda and Unani medicine is set to get a boost with the American Genomics Research Institute announcing the launch of 'Genoma Ayurveda' project to bring the power of advanced genomics science to support the Indian traditional medicinal forms.

The idea is part of a global research initiative in herbal genomics by the St. Laurent Institute (SLI), a non-profit research institute founded by Georges S. Laurent Jr., one of the original directors of Celera Genomics, the American company that sequenced the human genome in 2001.

The announcement was made at the international seminar on 'Medicinal plants and herbal products 2008' conducted jointly by SV University's Department of Botany and Andhra Pradesh Medicinal Plants Board

recently.

The project uses genomics, proteomics, micro fluidics, nanotechnology and bioinformatics to scientifically validate the healing capabilities of Ayurveda and Unani.

Data generated by these high throughput techniques will be processed by systems biology tools to create a truly holistic view of the human cell at the molecular level.

"The goal includes providing molecular mechanisms and proof of the efficacy of these herbal medicines in sufficient detail to convince western scientists and doctors to positively evaluate Indian herbal medicine for incorporation into normal medical practice around the

- Project uses genomics to scientifically validate the healing capabilities of Ayurveda and Unani
- A panel to be formed to select projects and award financial support for excellent research

world", says G. Sudarsanam, a professor of botany at SVU, who coordinated the event.

Krishna K. Banaudha, the personal ambassador of the SLI's scientific director Georges St. Laurent III

V.S. Rama Das, formerly director, Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR), S.Kannaiyan, chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, B.S.Sajwan, CEO of National Medicinal Plants Board, and S.Vedavathy, IUCN also spoke.

The meet decided to form a committee with Prof. Sudarsanam as the chairman to choose projects and award financial support for excellent research.