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### UM course includes optional Amazon trip

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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June 17, 1999

**Contact:** Rustem Medora, (406) 243-4943.

**UM COURSE INCLUDES OPTIONAL AMAZON TRIP**

**MISSOULA--**

A pharmacy course to be offered fall semester at The University of Montana will include an optional expedition to the Amazon rainforest Oct. 23-30 to study medicinal plants with world-renowned pharmacists and botanical medicine experts.

Students from the UM course who go on the trip will be taking advantage of an internationally accredited field workshop, Pharmacy from the Rainforest, organized by International Expeditions Inc. Topics will include medicine, herbs and complementary therapies as well as Neotropical birds and rainforest ecology.

Although the workshop is geared for pharmacists and health professionals, it is open to everyone, "even high school students," said UM pharmacognosy Professor Rustem Medora, whose UM course, Medicinal Plants, will be interrupted midsemester for the expedition. "The goal ... is to increase awareness of the vital importance of the vast medicinal resources present in the rainforest and in the knowledge of its indigenous peoples."

Varro E. Tyler, Lilly Distinguished Professor of Pharmacognosy at Purdue University, will keynote the workshop. Tyler has written 16 books including two popular volumes, "The Honest Herbal" and "Herbs of Choice: The Therapeutic Use of Phytomedicinals."

Other workshop leaders are James A. Duke, author of a new book titled "The Green

-more-



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Pharmacy” and leader of more than 15 expeditions to the rainforest since 1991; Mark Blumenthal, an associate professor of medicinal chemistry at the University of Texas who has led workshops on phytomedicinals in Belize, Costa Rica, Peru and Kenya; Dr. Mary Hardy of Cedars-Sinai Hospital, an addiction medicine specialist who incorporates alternative therapy options into her medical practice; Dr. Linnea Smith, a onetime group practitioner in Wisconsin who left there to become an independent physician treating native peoples in the Amazon; and local shaman Antonio Montero Pisco, whose ancestral knowledge has benefited U.S. scientists investigating the medicinal plants of the Amazon people.

The expedition costs \$2,598 all-inclusive from Miami and offers 15 continuing education credits through the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education. A five-day optional Andes/Machu Picchu extension costs \$1,398.

For more information, call Professor Rustem Medora at (406) 243-4943 or send e-mail to [medora@selway.umt.edu](mailto:medora@selway.umt.edu).

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