Chapter 9
Futurology
Even though this exploratory study has brought out certain original observations which are hitherto unreported in literature on *Plectranthus amboinicus*, further in depth studies are essential to confirm that this plant can emerge as an alternative anti-HIV drug. The following may be the possible avenues for future research on *Plectranthus amboinicus*.

9.1 Virus growth inhibitory studies using the bioactive fractions of *Plectranthus amboinicus* shall be the most confirmatory procedure to prove the HIV specific inhibitory activity of *Plectranthus amboinicus*.

9.2 Thymidine uptake methodologies and/or fluorometric assays for T cell enumeration should also be performed to confirm immunomodulatory potential of *Plectranthus amboinicus*. Conversely animal model studies using immunosuppressent/immunostimulatory controls adopting molecular methods could also throw more light onto the mechanism of immunomodulatory properties exhibited by this plant.

9.3 Structural elucidation of the reproducible bioactive fraction shall be the only way by which large scale production of the identified molecule can be achieved.

9.4 On achieving all the above, the plans can also be initiated for preclinical toxicology and phased clinical trials in human subjects.