

## Narayan Singh Parmar

N. S. Parmar (born 1 October 1940) passed away on 25 February 2004 while delivering the Presidential Address at K.B. Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (KBIPER), at Gandhinagar, on the occasion of Prof. M. L. Shroff Oration. He breathed his last when he was expressing his fulfillment and pride in having established one of the finest pharmacy colleges in Gujarat, covering excellent infrastructure, faculty, student-performance, organization of outstanding national conferences, etc. Parmar was Director, Institute of Pharmacy, and Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy, Nirma University of Technology, Ahmedabad. Earlier, he was Director at K.B. Institute and a senior faculty at PERD Centre.

Parmar did his pharmacy graduation from Sagar University and postgraduation in two faculties – medicine and pharmacy – from Rajasthan University, Jaipur. He did his doctoral research at JIPMER, Pondicherry. He served in diverse capacities on the teaching faculty and on research projects at JIPMER, College of Pharmacy in Saudi Arabia, Pharmacy College, Udaipur, PERD and KBIPER, etc. Parmar had received several awards and he cherished being honoured as the Best Principal, an award from the Association of Pharmacy Teachers of India. He served on several national councils and scientific advisory boards. His contributions at the Pharmacy Council of India and All India Council of Technical Education were sizeable and lasting. Parmar had to his credit more than 110 publications, mostly in international journals.

Several leads identified by Parmar and his team, particularly with flavonoids, deserve an appropriate follow-through by his junior faculty and students in pharmacology. In a recent paper (*Phytother. Res.*, 2003, 1092–1097), with Shah he showed a significant dose-dependent inhibition of rat peritoneal mast cell degranulation, comparable to disodium



chromoglycate. The antiallergic and antihistaminic potential of the compound needs further team effort. Similarly, his team's contributions on the role of dopamine D1, and D2 receptors in gastric acid secretion (*J. Pharm. Pharmacol.*, 1999, **51**, 187–192), have opened up a potential path for drug development in acid-peptic disorders. His review on anti-ulcer potential of flavonoids (*Indian J. Physiol. Pharmacol.*, 1998, **42**, 343–351) is an all-time classic that is read by all research workers who study the role of

medicinal plants in Amla-pitta. Though anti-emetic and anti-motion sickness properties of ginger were known, Parmar was first to show, from Saudi Arabia, its gastroprotective activity in rats, against gastric ulcers by diverse agents. This needs urgent clinical follow-up. From Saudi Arabia, he had a series of interesting research papers: (1) The role of cholecystokinin receptor antagonist in alloxan-induced diabetes, (2) post-coital antifertility activity of the seeds of coriander, (3) chromosomal aberrations produced by Khat (*Catha edulis*), (4) gastric cytoprotective effects of selenium, etc. It is desirable that his faculty and students prepare and publish an annotated bibliography of all his papers and also indicate the leads to be followed up for further research. That would be a fitting tribute to an outstanding pharmacologist of our country, who had shunned publicity and political farmers.

Parmar was an active member of the India Pharmacology Society and its immediate past president. He contributed actively to build the *Indian Journal of Pharmacology* to its present status. He had been elected recently as Vice-President of the Society of Pharmacovigilance (India).

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