

Guest Editorial**Pharmacology Research in India during 2012-2017**

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The Indian National Science Academy (INSA) has decided that each ICSU National Committee of INSA should prepare a status report of the work done in their respective domains during the last 5 years and publish the same in *Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy* (PINSAs) so that the status of research carried out in the respective disciplines during the last 5 years gets known widely. Accordingly, the INSA-IUPS-IUPHAR National Committee decided to review research work done in various branches of Pharmacology in India between 2012 and 2017. This responsibility was bestowed on the undersigned three National Committee INSA-IUPS-IUPHAR members.

The first report of pharmacological research covering the period upto 1983 was published by Professor (late) B N Dhawan. Subsequently 4 volumes, supported by INSA, have been published so far, with the last one in 2000 (Adithan, 2000).

Aim of the present publication is to compile various aspects of pharmacological research carried out in India during 2012-2017. Nineteen senior pharmacologists of India and their colleagues have written the 19 articles included here. Among them, Dr. N A Kshirsagar (Mumbai), Dr. R K Goyal (Delhi), Dr. Madhu Dixit (Lucknow) and Dr. N N Rege (Mumbai) had also contributed to the earlier publication in 2000.

There has been a paradigm shift in priority areas of pharmacological research during the 2012-2017 period compared to 1994-1998. Twenty years ago, most of the research was mostly basic research and focused on medicinal plants, autonomic and central nervous system. While compiling the present review,

we observed that pharmacologists have expanded their research interest. Some new areas of research, like nano-pharmacology, marine pharmacology, cancer research, pharmacovigilance, tropical diseases, immunopharmacology, nitric-oxide research, respiratory pharmacology and research in pharmacology education, have emerged in the country and are included in the present report. A unique feature of this publication is the inclusion of pharmacological research work done in North Eastern states of India. It highlights the need for special support and encouragement for pharmacological research in these states.

Each article provides a concise overview of research work done by pharmacologists in their specialty. Details of the work are not elaborated due to space constraints. All authors tried their best to collect available information from major biomedical databases as well as by directly writing to research workers. In spite of this we might have unintentionally missed some research works.

We thank all the authors for their excellent writeup and for sparing valuable time. We also thank Professor S C Lakhota, Editor-in-Chief, *Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy* and his Editorial team for their commendable work in bringing out this thematic issue of the journal. We sincerely hope that fellow pharmacologists and scientists of allied disciplines will find the information provided in this publication useful for their research work.

Reference

Adithan C (2000) Status Report on Pharmacological Research in India, 1994-1998. Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi.