Obituary

It is with a heavy heart that I have to write these words in the memory of one who was an integral part of the pharmacological fraternity of this country. Prasun Kumar Das left us for his heavenly abode on November 1, 2003. Born in a middle class family of western Uttar Pradesh, this brilliant person had an MBBS (1949), and MD, Medicine (1952), from the Agra University and an MSc, Med. (1955) from the Rajasthan University. After spending a few years as a teacher in the S.M.S. Medical College in Jaipur and at the Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi he moved to the Banaras Hindu University and established the Department of Pharmacology at the newly established Institute of Medical Sciences where he guided more than two dozen MD and PhD students in the subject. His areas of research were many but the central nervous system and herbal drugs were his favorites. At the Banaras Hindu University he rose to become the Dean of the Institute and published more than 300 papers and half a dozen books. He also served as a Professor of Pharmacology at the Al-Fateh University, Libya. A gifted teacher, a very able research guide, an admired administrator, Dr Das had a positive approach in life and was loved by his students and associates. A charmer of both men and women he cultivated innumerable friends and admirers. His contribution to the development of pharmacological research in India was significant and he received a number of prizes and awards. He was Secretary (1975-76) and President (1980) of the Indian Pharmacological Society, was a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Medical Sciences, delivered the B. N. Ghosh Oration in 1983 and 1984, and was a visiting professor at the University of Winnipeg, Canada.

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A charming pharmacologist left us