Objective: To study the antiulcer and antisercretory activity of *Withania somnifera* (extract and crude drug) in stress (restraint ulcer) induced gastric ulcer rat model.

Methods: Albino rats of Wister strain of either sex weighing about 175 g were used. *Withania somnifera* (Ashwagandha) crude extract (50 mg/kg/day, p.o.) was given for six days to experimental animals subjected to stress. Drug treatment significantly reduced gastric lesions as compared to a standard antiulcer drug ranitidine (30 mg/kg/day, p.o.).

Results: *Withania somnifera* (Ashwagandha) significantly reduced the volume of gastric secretion, free acidity, total acidity and ulcer index. There was a significant increase in total carbohydrate and total protein ratio and pH of gastric juice.

Conclusion: *Withania somnifera* (Ashwagandha) has antiulcer activity comparable to that of ranitidine hydrochloride in rats.

Obituary

It is with a heavy heart that I have to write these words in memory of young budding Pharmacologist, Dr. Ranjana D. Hatwar, who was snatched away by the cruel hands of fate, even before she could rise on the horizon of Pharmacology. She came from a simple Maharashtrian family, now settled in Tarsa (Maharashtra). Born on 17th October, 1975 she spent her early days in Nashik, where she did her schooling and later on, MBBS. She joined the Department of Pharmacology, Govt. Medical College, Nagpur in February 2002 as a post graduate student. She was a life member of the Indian Pharmacological Society. Throughout her academic career, she impressed her teachers with her hard work, sincerity, enthusiasm and perseverance to seek knowledge. Her cheerful and bubbly disposition would bring sunshine into the gloomiest of atmosphere. It is indeed a tragedy that the promising career of such a bright and brilliant student was nipped in the bud. May Almighty grant her grieving parents and family members the strength to bear this irreparable loss. May her soul rest in peace.

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A budding pharmacologist left us