

Remembering Prof SS Parmar, a Doyen of Neuropharmacology



October 25, 1929 - December 30, 2025

The Indian Academy of Neurosciences (IAN), and entire scientific community deeply mourns the passing of **Professor Surendra S. Parmar**, an outstanding pharmacologist, visionary institution builder, and inspirational teacher, who left for heavenly abode on December 30, 2025 in USA. He was born in Shoor Village - Pithoragarh on October 25th 1929 in a humble setting and his father was from an administrative background. Professor Parmar was very sharp from the beginning and attained heights that brought immense pride to his family, friends and colleagues. His demise marks the loss of one of the most influential figures in neuropharmacology and biomedical sciences in India and abroad.

Professor Parmar held dual doctoral degrees—Ph.D. in Chemistry from Lucknow University and Ph.D. in Biochemistry from McGill University, Canada—reflecting the interdisciplinary foundation that characterized his lifelong scientific pursuits. He served with distinction as Professor at King George's Medical College (King George's Medical University now), Lucknow, where he played a transformative role in shaping modern pharmacology education and research in India. He was appointed Chester Fritz Endowed Professor at the University of North Dakota (UND), USA, one of the highest academic honours of the institution.

Over an illustrious career spanning continents, Professor Parmar trained over 35 Ph.D. students in India and the United States, many of whom have gone on to excel as leaders in academia, research, industry, and public service. His mentorship was marked by intellectual rigor, encouragement of independent thinking, and an uncompromising commitment to scientific integrity.

Professor Parmar's contributions were widely recognized through numerous prestigious awards and honours. These included the National Science Foundation Senior Foreign Scientists Award (1971), Sigma Xi Faculty Awards for Outstanding Research, and the Humanitarian Award of the Dakota State Aerie Fraternal Order of Eagles for his contributions to heart research. He received the Wellcome Research Travel Grant and later served as Wellcome Visiting Professor at the University of British Columbia. In 1989, he was conferred the Chester Fritz Distinguished Professor Award, the highest faculty honour at UND. His international standing was further affirmed through the Raven Press Lectureship of the International Society for Neurochemistry and selection as an expert under the United Nations Development Programme (TOKTEN). In India, he was honoured with the ISCA President's Gold Medal, the Professor B. K. Bachhawat Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Sardar Patel Ratna Award.

Among his enduring legacies, Professor Parmar established the School of Chemical and Biochemical Pharmacology and founded the Jawaharlal Nehru Laboratory of Molecular Biology at King George's Medical College (King George's Medical University now), Lucknow,

and was one of the founding members of the Indian Academy of Neurosciences, which is now the premier multidisciplinary body for neuroscientists in the country which has affiliations with several international neuroscience organizations around the globe. Recognizing Prof Parmar's contributions and commitment to neuropharmacology, his students instituted SS Parmar Oration at IAN in the year 2022.

Professor S. S. Parmar will be remembered not only for his exceptional scientific achievements but also for his humility, compassion, and dedication to building institutions and nurturing minds. His legacy lives on through his students, his institutions, and the scientific values he championed throughout his life.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, colleagues, students, and admirers. May his soul rest in peace.