



## EDITORIAL by Dr ANIRBAN SUKUL

### NEGATIVE RESULTS IN EXPERIMENTAL HOMEOPATHY

Scientists conducting experiments using homeopathic potencies very often encounter negative results and impart blame on homeopathy itself. Those who are skeptical withdraw from homeopathic research and say that homeopathic potencies are ineffective. A number of factors are involved that may lead to negative results. First of all, the potentized drugs should be genuine and in good condition. It is the best to prepare the drugs in the laboratory using good raw materials. Potencies prepared in distilled water lose their efficacy over time. So they should be tested fresh, may be within one or two days after preparation. If potencies are prepared in aqueous ethanol they would last long. Since they contain ethanol, they should be diluted with sufficient water, may be 1:100 or more to minimize the effect of ethanol.

Testing of potencies on living organism is a big problem. Unlike crude drugs or allopathic medicines, body weight is not important in homeopathic potencies. Homeopathic potencies are not administered in the form of mg or ml/kg body weight of the test animals. In fact, the efficacy of the potencies is not dependent on their doses. One cannot find here any dose response curve which is one of fundamental principles of allopathic pharmacology. Repetition of a potency is important in homeopathy. Route of administration is very important in homeopathy. For animals oral route is best. Intraperitoneal, intramuscular, intravenous or subcutaneous routes are unsuitable in homeopathy. For plants, application of drugs by foliar spray is good. For microorganism, tissues and cell cultures, potencies freshly prepared in water can be applied on culture media.

Ingredients in culture media very often interfere with the activity of homeopathic potencies leading to negative results. It is best to take the tissues or cells from the culture media to water then treat with a potency. The condition of the test organisms or cells is most important. Homeopathic potencies are effective on patients only when the symptoms agree. So the test organism, tissues or cells should be tuned to respond to a potency. Otherwise, the results would be negative. As for example, the test animals should be allowed to drink alcohol for sometime so that they are tuned to respond to antialcoholic drug such as potentized *Nux vomica*. One must conduct a series of preliminary experiments in order to standardise the experimental conditions.