

## Obituary of Dr. Upma Bagai

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### Brief

Dr. Upma Bagai left for her heavenly abode on 8 September 2018. At the time of her untimely demise, she was serving as Professor and Chairperson, Department of Zoology, Panjab University, Chandigarh.



Dr. (Mrs) Upma Bagai,  
(July 31, 1967 – September 8, 2018).

She graduated from MCM DAV College for Women, Chandigarh, in 1985 and did her M.Sc. in Zoology in 1987 from Kurukshetra University where she stood first and was awarded Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial fellowship. Her association with the Department of Zoology, Panjab University, began in 1988 when after clearing UGC-CSIR NET in her first attempt she joined the Department for her Ph.D. programme in the field of Parasitology. She completed her doctoral research in 1992.

Dr. Upma Bagai joined the Department of Zoology as a regular faculty member in 1998 when she was appointed to the post of Curator cum Lecturer. She took the charge of Chairperson of the Department on 31 April 2018 and remained in chair for a brief tenure of 4 months. She worked with full zeal and energy, concealing behind her infectious smile and witty humour, the pain of her illness which she

did not in any way allow to interfere with the sincerity of her work. She had teaching experience of 20 years and research experience of 25 years. She supervised 11 Ph.D., 5 M.Phil. and 45 M.Sc. students and published 70 research papers in well-reputed international and national journals. She was Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator in many research projects funded by the UGC, DST, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH).

Her research work was focused on the immunology and chemotherapy of the malaria parasite *Plasmodium*. In view of the problem of resistance to the currently available antimalarial drugs, she was working on alternative strategies to combat the disease. Some homoeopathic drugs such as China, *Chelidonium majus*, *Malaria Co Nosode* and *Eucalyptus* were evaluated by her team for their *in vitro* and *in vivo* antimalarial efficacy against *Plasmodium berghei*. The activity of these drugs was also compared to the standard antimalarials such as chloroquine and artemisinin. Another homoeopathic drug *Eucalyptus* mother tincture ( $\Phi$ ) in combination with artesunate (100 mg/kg) was reported to provide mutual protection against the blood stage infection of *P. berghei*. These drugs were also assessed for their *in vitro* antiplasmodial activity against *Plasmodium falciparum*. Because of her work emphasising homoeopathic approach against malaria, she was invited by the CCRH, New Delhi, for a collaborative

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research project on malaria to elucidate the mechanism of homoeopathic remedies.

She was deeply engrossed in her indefatigable efforts to achieve the aims and objectives of a research dream to develop an alternative therapy to fight malaria when nature intervened with alternative plans and cut short her journey of life. May her team take the lead from where she left

and take her dream project to completion. May her soul rest in peace.

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**Conflicts of interest**

None declared.