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EDITORIAL

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in number of new chemical entities which possess poor aqueous solubility and low bioavailability. Various formulation strategies have been exploited to overcome these issues. Strategies employing lipid based formulations offer a variety of options like solutions, suspensions, solid dispersions and self-emulsifying drug delivery systems (SEDDS). SEDDS have been now widely explored as a promising approach for the formulation of drug compounds with poor aqueous solubility. The oral delivery of hydrophobic drugs can be made possible by SEDDS, which have been shown to substantially improve oral bioavailability. SEDDS have attracted considerable interest after commercial success of immunosuppressive agents and HIV protease inhibitors SEDDS formulation. In this issue review article entitled "Self-Emulsifying Drug Delivery Systems: A Strategy to Improve Oral Bioavailability" focuses on different types of self-emulsifying formulations and their characterization in addition to existing challenges and future aspects.

Ischemic stroke is a major health care problem worldwide. It is a third largest cause of death next to heart disease and cancer in the western world. Community based surveys from many regions of India have shown prevalence rate of around 200/100,000. Despite the enormity of the problem, no current approved therapy reduces stroke size or neurological disability. Therefore there is always need of neuroprotective agents, which can prevent neurological deficits in stroke patients. The pathophysiology of stroke involves a complex cascade of events that ultimately leads to neuronal cell death. Recently role of nitric oxide (NO) pathway has been elucidated in stroke. NO is considered to be a ubiquitous endogenous signalling agent, which is involved in both the pathological and neuroprotective processes following cerebral ischemia. There is an acute need to look into detail whether interventions targeting NO offer benefits to stroke patients in future. Review article on "Role of nitric oxide synthases in cerebral ischemia" discusses about both protective and detrimental actions of nitric oxide and effects of various pharmacological approaches in cerebral ischemia.

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