

OBITUARY

Professor A. Namasivayam (1941–2003)



Prof. A. NAMASIVAYAM was born in 1941 and obtained his M.B.B.S., M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from Madras Medical College. He was in Tamil Nadu Medical Service from 1965 to 1985 and became Professor of Physiology in 1978. Since his interest lay not only teaching physiology but also in research field, he migrated to Dr. ALM Post Graduate Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Madras in 1982. He served as Director of the same Institute from 1998 to 2001. He was also interested in Electrical Sciences, Electronics, Photography, Software Development and Computer Programming. His research field includes Liver regeneration, Methanol toxicity, Neuroimmunomodulation, Alternative medicine and Bio-signals. His keen interest in instrumentation made him to conduct several workshops in the maintenance of laboratory equipments, which includes the workshop sponsored by WHO in 2003. His extraordinary brilliance and versatile knowledge in various fields was proved by the multidisciplinary Ph.D. reports and publications. He guided 31 Ph.D. scholars, 32 M.Phil. candidates, and 8 M.D. students for their research studies. Funding agencies like DST, ICMR, CSIR, UGC, DRDO and private research centers supported his research projects. He had visited Germany and Japan to attend conferences and to deliver guest lecturers.

He has published more than a hundred scientific papers in peer reviewed national and international journals. He has written a few chapters in books namely "Advances in Physiological Fluid Dynamics" and in "Environment and Physiology". He has also published a book in Tamil, which covers the fundamentals of immunology.

He won the chancellors prize for the best Ph.D. thesis in Medicine in 1978. M.L. GUPTA prize was awarded to him by APPI in the year 1994 for outstanding contribution in Medical Education & Technology. He was the Editor in Chief of Biomedicine Journal, which belongs to Indian Association of Biomedical Scientists. He was an Associate Member of Acoustical Society of America, Member of The New York Academy of Sciences, Member of International Brain Research Organization. He was elected as a fellow in National Academy of Medical Sciences in 1995. He was also a Fellow of Indian Association of Biomedical Scientists.

He received the General S.L. BHATIA award in the year 2000. He retired in the year 2001 and continued his research as ICMR Emeritus Scientist till his death. Apart from the academic achievements, he is most regarded and liked by his students due to his simple and approachable nature. His sincerity, dedication, hard work and simplicity made most of the students to take him as their role model in the Department of Physiology, University of Madras where he was working till his demise on 28 November, 2003.