



IAPM

News Bulletin

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF PATHOLOGISTS & MICROBIOLOGISTS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I sit penning down the last message of my tenure before passing on the baton, I begin to introspect my association with IAPM for the past nearly three decades. Pathology as a branch of medical science has evolved greatly from the H & E stained sections to the current era of Lab on a Chip. Every sub-specialty of Pathology have grown beyond the curriculum of MD course in Pathology. The students of Pathology are at the cross-roads, as to ; what to read and what not to. The basic Pathologist, who does mostly clinical pathology work is not given his / her due recognition. Super duper specialists in other clinical disciplines have trampled over them; looking for sub-specialty trained Pathologists. Simple tests like looking for ova / cysts in stool and casts in urine are a dying art now. The agrarian rural India do not have the luxury of pathological diagnosis by trained pathologists. The less trained laboratory technologists have taken over by opening diagnostic centres, compromising on the quality of patient care. Some of our own friends have lend them supporting hands , thereby denigrating our ethics and undermining patient care. This has to stop some time, some day; only with our collective resolve.

The high profile post of President has much less active work to do and the tenure of President for one year is too short to accomplish much! Nonetheless, in this short period of one year, the energetic and enthusiastic Executive Committee of IAPM has achieved some major milestones this year. Needless to say that the Hon Secretary has been quite active in regular communications with members through newsletters and mails. The festival season, starting with the Navratri, Dusshera, Diwali and ending with Christmas and New Year must have brought everyone good health and happiness and prosperity. Our major annual professional festival of APCON 2018 came to an end in early December and it was a great scientific success due to the painstaking efforts of Prof Ranjan Agarwal and his able team. Even though travel to Bareilly was difficult it saw a 1000+ registrations. The academic fervor of a medical college venue was visible and it was over-all a very good annual conference. The Executive Committee and the General Body took some path-breaking decisions, putting behind some archaic rules / regulations of the past. The meeting was socially exciting and exposed the delegates to eco-tourism of the surrounding sactuaries.

It is my honour and privilege to thank all the office bearers of my executive team of 2018, all the members of IAPM and the ever vibrant associate members of our national body. Our associate members are the future of Pathology in this country. My tenure has been extremely fulfilling and I now pass on the baton to my able successor Prof Pradeep Vaideeswar. I am sure he will take this august body to greater heights. Our current Hony Secretary, Dr. Sharada Rane has been an embodiment of motivation and drive; she will be the harbinger of change for good in IAPM in the future years.

I wish IAPM a great future.

God Speed IAPM !

Jai Hind.

Dr. (Col) Deepak K Mishra



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

The Dear Members

APCON 2018 at Bareilly will be remembered forever for its good scientific deliberations, excellent arrangements, hospitality and yummy food. The memories are quite fresh in your minds and by now you must have already started planning for next APCON at PGI, Chandigarh.

I take this opportunity to thank our past presidents, Hon'ble members of IAPM, Executive members & Faculty of Indian college of pathologists and well wishers for their active support and constructive suggestions. All the members are requested to check the IAPM website at regular intervals for any updates as news letter in print form will not be sent henceforth.

I also appeal all the Life members of IAPM to update their addresses with email ID and mobile numbers latest by 31st March 2019 as we will be having electronic voting for 2019 elections. Also I thank the organisers of APCON-2018 particularly Dr Ranjan Agarwal and Dr Nitesh Agarwal, Organising secretary for organising this memorable conference at Bareilly.

I wish to thank President Dr D.K.Mishra for his encouragement and continuous support. I welcome our new president Dr Pradeep Vaideshwar and Vice president Dr Vatsala Misra

I wish all of you and your families Happy and Healthy 2019.



Dr Sharada Rane

Photo Gallery of APCON 2018, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh





Minutes of the 67th Annual General Body Meeting of IAPM at APCON 2018, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

Agenda No. 1: Condolences: The house was informed regarding the sad demise of the following honorable members of the association:
Dr R.K Gadgil, Lt. Gen. A. K. Banerjee

Resolution: Agenda No. 01/2018: The general body observed silence in memory of the departed soul. Secretary IAPM will send a suitably worded condolence message to the bereaved family members

Agenda No. 2: Apologies: The following members of the Executive Committee informed their inability to attend Executive Committee and General body Meeting: Dr. Chella Sundaram ,Lt. Gen. J.R Bharadwaj, Dr HarshMohan, Dr Kusum Joshi ,Dr Siddarth Dattagupta

Resolution: Agenda No.02/2018: The Executive and General Body was informed about the apologies

Agenda No.3: Confirmation of minutes of 66th GBM at APCON 2017

Resolution: Agenda No.03/2018: After explanation from following points, General body approved minutes of 66th GBM at APCON 2017

- a. As per **Agenda No.21a/2017**, Organisers of APCON 2016 and 2017 submitted audited accounts in month of October 2018
Resolution: As per general body, conference organisers have to give an undertaking in writing at the time of proposing for the conference, to the Hon. Secretary IAPM, that organisers will submit audited accounts of the APCON conference along with TDS within six months of thr completion of the APCONIt has been decided in the EC that for all future APCON conference, strict guidelines are to be framed and documented which the organisers will have to follow after tendering written undertakings
- b. As per **Agenda No.21b/2017**,Dr C.J.Jhala Oration will happen in 2019 APCON. Dr Nirag Jhala suggested Dr D.N.Lanjewar as Speaker for the first Jhala Oration.
Resolution: General body has accepted Dr. D.N. Lanjewar as the speaker for Jhala Oration for APCON 2019.
- c. As per **Agenda No.21h/2017**, Regarding Smt. Kunti Devi Mehrotra award. Secretary contacted Dr Raj Mehrotra and conveyed GB opinion to donate Rs.5 lakhs for continuation of award. He said he will discuss this matter with other family members and get back to IAPM.
Resolution: General body was informed about Dr. Mehrotra's opinion.

Agenda No. 4: Report of Honorary Secretary, IAPM

Resolution: Agenda No.04/2018 The general body accepted the report of Hon. Secretary IAPM for the year 2018 with few suggestions such as post facto sanction of donation to Kerala relief fund and proper procedure to be followed for the formation of new chapters. The General body also approved electronic voting (online elections) in year 2019, even if 75% life members data is updated. GB also felt Deadline for data update should be given on IAPM website and newsletter. Deadline decided is 31st March 2019.

Agenda No. 5: Report of Joint Secretary, IAPM

Resolution: Agenda No. 05/2018: The general body accepted the report of joint secretary IAPM for the year 2018. The reports of the chapter meetings are collected and published in the newsletter of the association. The general body also urged that office bearers of state chapters should correspond with the joint secretary with their names and contact details. The tenure of the office bearer should also be restricted to a limited period as per by laws. If there is any discrepancy, letter would be written by the secretary/ joint secretary to the concerned persons.

Regarding formation of new state chapters, EC and GB recommended the following:

- a. Chapters to form a committee as per norms, b .Request letter is to be sent to the IAPM for grant of permission, c. All office bearers should be life members of IAPM, d. A minimum majority of the office members should approve and sign the letter e. All chapter members signatures are to be attached who were present for meeting.

Agenda No.6: Report of Treasurer

Resolution: Agenda No. 06/2018: The general body accepted the report of treasurer IAPM for the year 2018. The following points are suggested regarding treasurer's report:

- a. Since treasurer Dr. Ramrakhiani has not taken official charge of treasurer, EC and GB recommended the treasurer IAPM to go immediately(Within 15 days) to the IAPM HQ to take official charge of the treasurer office and his expenses will be reimbursed.
- b. Regarding the submission of audited accounts to IAPM by Kerala chapter: Audited accounts of APCON 2015 held at Kochi Kerala not submitted to IAPM till date in spite of using IAPM pan card. So IAPM has to bear the taxes on income by APCON 2015. GB has asked treasurer to write a letter to organizing secretary APCON 2015 with time limit.
- c. Organising secretary of APCON 2017 DR. Rini Malik transferred Rs. 2 lakhs by NEFT in IAPM account. EC has also asked treasurer to write a letter to APCON 2016, Jaipur and APCON 2017 Bhopal for matter regarding TDS for sponsor money.
- d. EC and GB has asked organizing secretary 2016 to contribute 50% of profit to IAPM account, in addition to Rs. 12 lakh contributed as TDS to IAPM. Dr. Ramrakhiani, organizing secretary APCON 2016 refused as per GB minutes of APCON 2010 Hyderabad. EC and GB has asked Dr. Ramrakhiani to produce and verify concerned document. Till that time Org. secretary cannot use the deposited money in respect of the APCON 2016 account. Account is frozen till the finance committee's decision.
- e. **EC and GB made mandatory for every organizing secretary of APCON will use IAPM PANCARD so that money collected is reflected in IAPM account.** AND 50% profit to be shared in addition of TDS. And Organising secretary of APCON should give undertaking that they will submit audited statement to IAPM within six month of conference.
- f. To avoid problems related to accounts, EC and GB form 3 member finance committee comprising of DR. Vatsala Misra, Dr. D.K. Mishra and Dr. A.M. Phatak. The committee will look after issues related to past and future conference.
- g. The GB approved midterm meeting at IAPM HQ suggested by treasurer to avoid delay and levies heavy taxes with penalty on IAPM. EC and GB has suggested following members to attend midterm meeting(preferably in June): president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and two immediate past presidents as invitee.
- h. Treasurer has also suggested **Travel grants for postgraduates to reduce income tax liabilities.** EC and GB agreed on this and asked to form



guidelines & it should be circulated in NEWS BULLETIN.

- i. There was accusations from treasurer for withdrawal of Rupees one lakh in cash by Mr Avijit Jena from Cuttack. EC has asked Joint secretary, HQ to find out and clarify the matter.

Agenda No. 7: Report of Editor, Indian Journal of Pathology & Microbiology

Resolution: Agenda No. 07/2018: EC and GB congratulated Editor, IJPM for reducing turnover time in first phase of article process and timely publishing the journal with impact factor of 0.529. GB felt need of good review articles from senior members and original articles based on genuine research work are the need of the hour to further improve the quality and status of IJPM. Hon. Editor has stated that a new column of "Pictorial Quiz has been started under the name of "CATECHISM" and asked members to submit Gross or microphotos of classic cases. EC and GB approved Publisher Wolters and Kluwer and asked Editor new MOU has to be signed with publisher. Editor also felt need of GST no. as income is reflected in IJPM account. EC advised to take opinion from tax consultant before applying for GST no.

Hon. Editor, Dr Ranjan Agarwal proposed to start an IJPM best paper Award from surplus money to encourage the quality articles by Indian Authors. EC approved this suggestion and recommended that the formed scientific committee will decide the best published paper for every year.

Agenda No. 8: Report of Joint Secretary, IAPM Headquarter

Resolution: Agenda No.08/2018: The General body accepted the report of joint secretary, HQ IAPM for the year 2018. The EC and GB approved expenses towards installation of lift and electricity transformer. But maintenance will be done from Head quarter budget.

Agenda No. 9: Report of Secretary, Indian College of Pathologists

Resolution: Agenda No.09/2018: The General body accepted the report of the secretary, ICP for the year 2018. Secretary, Dr Couto stated that new PDCC courses will start soon and information related to courses will be available on ICP website www.icpatho.org. The secretary also declared that 24th AIPNA ICP International CME will be held in AIIMS, Bhopal by Dr Neelkamal Kapoor from 1st to 3rd February 2019.

Agenda No. 10: Admission of new members to IAPM

Resolution: Agenda No.10/2018: The GB accepted the proposal of conferring membership to 426 applicants, who had applied for membership till 30th October 2018. Out of which 93 were for life members.

Agenda No. 11: Election 2018

Agenda No.11 a: Declaration of results for the post of President 2018 – Only one valid nomination of

Dr Pradeep Vaideshwar, Professor, Seth G S Medical College, Mumbai was received for the post of President, IAPM.

Resolution: Agenda No.11a/2018: The General body accepted the election of Dr Pradeep Vaideshwar to the post of president IAPM 2019, Unopposed

Agenda No.11b: Declaration of results for the post of Vice-President 2018 – Only one valid nomination of Dr Vatsala Mishra, MLN Medical college, Allahabad was received for the post of Vice-president IAPM

Resolution: Agenda No.11b/2018: The General Body accepted the election of Dr Vatsala Mishra. Allahabad to the post of Vice-president IAPM 2019, unopposed

Agenda No. 12: Nomination of two members for scrutiny & counting of ballot papers

Resolution: Agenda No.12/2018: For any reason, if electronic voting process does not happen, Dr Wagholikar, Past President and Dr Anuradha Phatak, Past President were nominated to count the votes of the elections for the post of office bearers of IAPM to be held in 2019

Agenda No. 13: Declaration of Papers for Awards:

Agenda no. 13a/2018 for the Dr. V. R. Khanolkar and Smt. Kunti Devi Mehrotra prizes for published papers, there were two and one entries respectively. The judges recommended Dr. Prasenjit Das (AIIMS New Delhi) for the V.R. Khanolkar award 2018 for his publication "Selective M1 Macrophage polarization in Granuloma positive and Granuloma Negative Crohn's Disease, in comparison to Intestinal Tuberculosis" in Intestinal Research Journal, 2018. The panel of judges did not find the paper worth for Smt. Kunti Devi Mehrotra award.

Resolution: Agenda No. 13a/2018: The paper of Dr. Prasenjit Das was approved for the Dr. V.R. Khanolkar award 2018.

Agenda No. 13b/2018 for the Prof. K.C. Basu Mallik award and the Best paper award there were thirteen and five entries respectively. Among these, five for the Prof. K.C. Basu Malik award and three for the Best Paper award were selected for presentation after perusal by the referees. Among these the judges of APCON 2018 selected Dr. V. Saranya (TMC, Kolkata) for the Prof. K.C. Basu Malik award 2018 for her paper entitled "Ki67 Scoring Using a Proposed Mobile Application Based Scoring Algorithm and Impact on Patient Outcome- Can we standardize ki67 scoring." The Best paper award 2018 awarded to two candidates

- 1) Dr. Kalaha Ragini (NEIGRIHMS, Shillong) for her paper entitled " Epithelial Mesenchymal Transition In Assessment Of Oral Cavity Sq. Cell Ca"
- 2) Dr. Rohit Tapadiya (TMC, Kolkata) for his paper entitled "Histopathological Prognostic Factors In Peri Ampullary And Pancreatic Ductal Adeno Ca And Their Molecular Correlation".The prize money will be divided among two candidates.

Resolution: Agenda No. 13b/2018: The paper of Dr. V. Saranya was approved for the Prof. K.C. Basu Malik award 2018 and the paper of Dr. Kalaha Ragini and Dr. Rohit Tapadiya was approved for the Best paper Award 2018.

Agenda No. 14: Dates for APCON 2019: The dates proposed by the Organizing Secretary Dr. Ashim Das for the APCON at Chandigarh are 12th to 15th Dec 2019, but many members asked them to change the dates to first week of December due to delay in flights because of cold weather. So **Organizing Secretary proposed following dates 5th Dec – IAP-ID session and 6th,7th and 8th Dec 2019 –APCON Conference.**

Resolution: Agenda No. 14/2018: The general Body approved the dates.



Agenda No. 15: Proposals for Orations Symposia, Slide Seminars and CMEs APCON 2019.

Agenda No. 15a: Tamil Nadu-Puducherry Oration: State body has sent name of Dr. A.V. Shanti, Former Director and Head of Pathology Madras Medical College with topic "Practice of Pathology- a Vanishing Past?? An Emerging Future?"

Resolution: Agenda No. 15a/2018: The General Body approved the name of Dr. A.V. Shanti as a speaker. However, GB has asked TN Chapter to send two names for oration to short list from next year onwards.

Agenda No. 15b: Dr. Gaya Prasad Memorial Pathology Symposium: Only one proposal from Dr. Ranjan Agarwal on Approach to Scientific Medical Writing was received.

Resolution: Agenda No. 15b/2018: The GB did not approve and asked Hon. President and Hon. Secretary to ask for the topic from members.

Agenda No. 15c: Proposals in other Categories: In 2017 GB, Dr. Dattagupta was given the important task of finalizing the scientific program of APCON 2018.

Resolution: Agenda No. 15c/2018: As decided in 2017 GB, GB accepted Dr. Dattagupta to finalize the scientific program of APCON 2018 with the help academic committee members; however office bearers pointed out many problems for finalizing moderators of CMEs and symposium. So GB felt from next year onwards previous system i.e. inviting proposals from members to be implemented again and to increase participation from young pathologists' criteria of 10 yrs life membership to be reduced to 5yrs.

Agenda No. 16: Proposed Venue for APCON 2020: Govt. Medical College Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Resolution: Agenda No.16/2018: The EC and GB approved to conduct APCON 2020 at Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Agenda No. 17: Website update and approval of contract renewal 2019-20: New appraisal proposal submitted by web master for the year 2019 which states- Increase the membership price from Rs. 75 to Rs. 200 or fix the minimum to Rs. 1lakh for IAPM Annual Development, maintenance and trouble free operation.

Resolution: Agenda No. 17/2018: The GB accepted the proposal from webmaster of Rs 1 lakh as annual charges.

Agenda no. 18: UG Quiz letter by Dr. Neelkamal Kapoor: Annual IAPM national Pathology quiz for medical students held at AIIMs Bhopal on 29th Sept 2018. Eight state teams participated and team Maharashtra emerged as the national winner and it was co-ordinated by Dr. Neelkamal Kapoor from AIIMs Bhopal and Dr. Barnik Chaudhary from West Bengal.

Resolution: Agenda No. 18/2018: EC and GB congratulated Dr. Neelkamal Kapoor for successfully conducting UG quiz at national level in spite of many hurdles. The GB also asked Dr. Kapoor to continue for next year. EC recommended that for the participants of UG quiz, the organizers will bear the registration fees and accommodation of the participants whereas the IAPM will bear Rs. 2000 prize money per person for the winning team.

Agenda No. 19: Points raised by past President, Secretary and Editor IAPM:

Agenda No. 19a: Points raised by past President: There was a letter from Dr. Parija and Dr. Phatak, past presidents of IAPM regarding hard copy of newsletter to senior members. Dr. Parija has suggested bringing out a booklet on Brief Biodata of Past Presidents of IAPM.

Resolution: Agenda No. 19/a2018: GB did not accept their proposal, as it is the era of online newsletters. GB has accepted and approved proposal from Dr Parija regarding booklet on brief biodata of Past Presidents of IAPM. The GB accepted his suggestion but stated, IAPM will not give financial assistance for the same.

Agenda No. 19b: Points from Hon. President, IAPM: 1) There was an issue of name of SAARC body. Dr. D.K. Mishra, President IAPM had done lot of communication to secretary and patron of SAARC to remove the name. Dr. Kaushal, secretary has accepted and removed the name.

2) Co-operation with SAARC countries: Faculties from SAARC countries are interested to associate with IAPM and expressed the need of exchange of ideas amongst SAARC countries.3) Issue of Plagiarism. Dr. Vinay Kumar, author of Robins had written a letter to the President and Secretary regarding plagiarism. 4) Attendance of delegates in APCON Conferences/ Scientific sessions.

Resolution: Agenda No. 19/b2018: 1) GB has congratulated Dr. Mishra doing good job. 2) **EC recommended that a formal interaction can be started with SAARC countries and decided to invite them for CME/ Conferences as guest speakers and Chairpersons.** 3) GB felt that IAPM is not a statutory body but it's a scientific body and this matter to be sorted out by publisher. EC has asked Dr Mishra to write to Dr Vinaykumar. In this context, **EC decided to take undertaking from authors who want to release their books in inauguration function of APCON. The Undertaking will be as follows- IAPM will not be responsible for any plagiarism.** 4) GB suggested attendance to be taken for scientific sessions and certificates to be issued only after 75% attendance.

Agenda No. 19c: Points from Hon. Secretary, IAPM: 1) Proposal from Mediknit regarding webinars and E-learning platform through IAPM.

2) Issue of affiliation letter to Telangana state from IAPM.

Resolution: Agenda No. 19c/2018: 1) EC felt that the Mediknit proposal to be studied in detail so proposals to be circulated to all EC members.

2) EC asked secretary to write letter to Telangana chapter and get explanation regarding last election held.

Agenda No. 20: Any other matter with permission of chair.

Agenda No. 20a: Letter from Dr. Purohit, Senior Member IAPM from Maharashtra State regarding waving of registration fee for life members for more than 50 years and 50% discount for life members more than 25 years.

Resolution: Agenda No. 20a/2018: EC and GB did not approve Dr. Purohit's suggestions.

Agenda No. 20b: Letter by Dr. Vijay Shankar, Secretary Karnataka Chapter: Dr. Shankar suggested to celebrate one day in a year as a National Pathology Day, on this day both academic and public awareness program can be planned. He suggested 13th April to be celebrated, as it is the birthday of Dr. V.R. Khanolkar who is the Father of Pathology.

Resolution: Agenda No. 20b/2018: EC and GB did not approve Dr. Shankar's suggestion as it needs proper planning.



Agenda No.20c: Letter from Dr Jayaram,APCON online Quiz convener: Dr Jayaram has given his feedback regarding very poor response to online quiz. And asked GB, is it worth to continue?

Resolution: Agenda No.20c/2018: Matter is discussed, but no specific conclusion derived.

Agenda No.20 d: Any other matter: Hon.Secretary,IAC had sent mail to joint secretary,HQ requesting to keep Journal of Cytology in HQ for archival purposes It was put by Dr Asaranti kar, Joint secretary, IAPM

Resolution:Agenda No.20 d/2018: GB has approved to keep copy of JOC in HQ.

Agenda No. 21: Thanking the host of APCON 2018: The GB congratulated organizing committee of APCON 2018, Dr. Ranjan Agarwal and Dr. Nitesh Mohan for putting up a successful scientific event, excellent hospitality and arrangements and setting a very high standard. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and to all the office-bearers of IAPM. The members also thanked the outgoing office-bearers and welcomed the new team. The Chair thanked all the honorable members of IAPM for attending the conference and the GBM.

Announcement

Electronic voting (online voting) for year 2019 has been approved by 67th Annual General body, APCON 2018, held at Bareilly. So All life members of IAPM, please update your address, email id and mobile number latest by 31st March 2019.

OBITUARY

In year 2018, IAPM has lost two esteemed members.

1. Dr R.K. Gadgil, 2. Lt.Gen.Banerjee

Dr U.V Wagholikar, Ex-president of IAPM has written his memories as colleague of Dr Gadgil and Brig (Mrs) Ketoki Kapila, expressed her memories as student of Lt.Gen.Banerjee

RAMCHANDRA KRISHNAJI GADGIL

(13.01.1922 to 18.04.2018)



Dr. R. K. Gadgil (RKG) was born in and a resident of taluka and city Guhagar, district Ratnagiri, Konkan, Maharashtra. After local preliminary education, he got admitted to the Grant Medical College (GMC), Mumbai, graduated (MBBS) in 1946 and post-graduated (MD) in 1949. In that era, young medicos from GMC, conscious of their social obligations, used to organize health check-up and treatment camps in Konkan under the leadership of RKG.

In May 1952, one such camp, in a school at village Gimvi, taluka Guhagar proved to be a landmark. The teacher narrated: Many boys and girls had mild painless hematuria without any other health hazard, from which they auto-cured by the age of 20 and had subsequent healthy life. Villagers had learnt to live with it. No such cases existed in nearby villages or in the district. RKG found eggs of *Schistosoma hematobium* (Sh) in urine samples of all hematuric students.

In July he documented the "Endemic Focus of Human Schistosomiasis". The scientific community did not accept RKG's claim. They pointed out: (1) the intermediate hosts (snail species: *Bullinosis* / *Physopsis*), required for completion of life cycle of human Sh, did not exist in India and (2) 10 cases of schistosomiasis, reported from scattered places in India were, in fact, sporadic accidental human infections due to animal species of schistosomes. Pursuing the matter in depth, RKG discovered that the malady had existed in Gimvi for more than 100 years, in about 10 generations. The incidence was familial, but not always; it appeared related more to the 'location', more in families living along a shallow, seasonal stream crossing the village. RKG was convinced about endemic nature of the disease and decided to prove it.

In September, through ICMR, he got established: "Schistosomiasis Research Unit". The confidence, zeal and speed, with which he moved in those four months, were simply amazing. His work over the next six years was similar. He dissected snails from the banks of the village stream. Observing parasitic larval stages in tissues of local snails, *Ferritia tenuis* (Ft) was the first step towards his goal.

His next step was to have a laboratory grown strain of Ft, free from parasitic infection. Then he exposed them to the miracidia of the parasite obtained by incubating urine samples containing the eggs. Failures were many. He always overcame them by refinements of techniques. Notable feature was that in 1955, he was transferred, as Professor, to Pune. For next three years, every week end, he would travel to Mumbai, survey the previous week's work, plan the next week's work and give specific instructions to SRU staff.

In July 1956, the SRU team noticed a male and a female adult worm in a laboratory grown snail (Ft) infected in the laboratory with urine sample of a patient. It was proved that the local snail, Ft, could act as an intermediate host and sustain the endemic focus. The nature of his work was more of a biologist, to and for which a pathologist is hardly ever exposed and trained. The next two years were utilized for fine tuning the techniques and ensuring plentiful yield of adult parasites from all newly proven intermediate hosts. His published data and conclusions were acclaimed world-wide. Ph. D., W. H. O. fellowship, Gold Medal by Indian National Congress and Konkan Ratna Award of the Maharashtra Government were bestowed on him. Having fully achieved the goal, he got eradicated the endemic focus, through the efforts of the Government of Maharashtra. Thanks to him, Gimvi, now, is totally free from schistosomiasis. SRU was wound up in 1958.

His career, as Professor of Pathology, spanned from 1955 to 1973 and then as an administrator (Dean and in Directorate of Medical Education). During all these years, he was an active member of the Association of Teaching Pathologists of Mumbai, I.C.M.R. and Indian Association of Pathologists & Microbiologists (IAPM), of which he was the President in 1981.

Giants in Pathology (Raghavendra Rao, V. R. Khanolkar, P. V. Gharpure and H. I. Jhala) were the predecessors of Prof. RKG in the Pathology School, Grant Medical College and Sir J. J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai, where, on an average, 1500 clinical and 9000 medico-legal autopsies used to be conducted per year. RKG converted this rich experience into expertise and transmitted it to his students, through daily death conferences and weekly clinic-pathological conferences. Looking beyond his own department he got established the Indian Registry of Pathology, an ICMR unit, which would collect specimens and supply them to other medical colleges, where autopsies were scarce. Many medical colleges used to send their pathology residents to GMC for training and experience in autopsy pathology.

Most lovable feature of his personality, to us, his students (hundreds of them), was his caring, fatherly attitude. In the department, he was a strict disciplinarian and a task master. Outside, he was an elderly friend. "Saheb" was our fond unanimous designation for him. He taught us not only the intricacies of Pathology but also gave us a wider vision on many aspects of life. He mounted us on his shoulders and widened our horizons. On behalf of all his students and colleagues, I gratefully acknowledge the indelible impact, he left on us.

Post-retirement, he settled in Juhu, Mumbai. It was our pleasure to talk to him on his birth-days and pay respect to him on GURU-POURNIMA, every year. He had happy, healthy, contented life. He rose to his heavenly abode without discomfort, distress or pain. He is survived by a son and his family. OM SHANTI.

Dr. Ulhas L. Wagholkar.



Lt.Gen. A.K. BANERJEE

(1.9.1931 to 7.10.2018)

I have yet to come across an individual who commanded the kind of awe and respect in professional excellence as late Lt Gen (Dr) Adhir Kumar Banerjee, Visisht Seva Medal (VSM). His knowledge of the subject of Pathology was profound and passion for teaching supreme. I was one of those lucky ones who got to know him closely as a teacher when I was in "Command Phase" of training in Pathology at Army Hospital, Delhi Cantonment, way back in 1986. The laboratory (then known as Command Pathology Laboratory) was at one end of the sprawling premises of the present-day Base Hospital, Delhi. Lt Gen A K Banerjee (then a Brigadier) was posted in the Office of the Director General Armed Forces Medical Services, New Delhi and was also Senior Consultant in Pathology.

We were a bunch of budding Pathologists, still trying to fathom out the pathways and alleys of this vast arena of information. The subject was then taught as the major part of an expansive list of Pathology and "allied subjects" such as Microbiology, Biochemistry and Transfusion Pathology. This was deemed necessary to have us fulfil our role as General Pathologists in the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS). He often felt that I could, besides Medical Microbiology, study for MNAMS Pathology as I secretly adored the subject. That, he felt, would be a holistic approach to this group of subjects that I was training for. With the kind of experience and academic record that he had at Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) Pune and in one of the reputed Universities in the United Kingdom, we were in total awe of this great man. He handled Histopathology so deftly that it left us wide-eyed and academically fulfilled at the end of the day's class.

I remember that after so called "working hours" (there was nothing of finite hours, really), we waited expectantly for our revered "Guru" to arrive. His class was in addition to our already well-scheduled classes in the laboratory which were also extensive, exciting and informative. Finding time within his busy schedule, Brigadier Banerjee would be there at CPL late in the evening around 6 pm and, on reaching would first ask us whether we have had something to eat.



Some of us made sure to get some light refreshment for these evening classes. After a quick shared tiffin with our teacher, we would be ready to learn facts that were destined to enlighten us for years to come, both in-service and out of it. With strong academic achievement and almost thirty years of service in the AFMS behind him, he tried to groom us to be worthy workers within the Armed Forces. Today, such down-to-earth hermitic qualities are difficult to come by.

Every day, there would be a fresh much-used box of slides stained with the many hues of this subject; purple and pink of haematoxylin and eosin and exciting special stains with colours running riot, all arranged in the precious library, with him. A couple of those posted at CPL would wilfully join and hear his words of wisdom, as painstakingly he pointed out every significant cell, its contents, inclusions if any, cellular reaction and subtle features that would decide the final diagnosis. Discussing the diagnosis, he explained how this could direct choice of treatment. In slides of patients with suspected malignancy, this was specially stressed upon. A notable statement that he often made was to remind us that we must not treat the slide as an object but to be aware of the affected individual behind it. We were therefore taught to see each slide with diligence, concentration and care. Similarly, each of us was taught to stand in a moment of silence and prayer before beginning an autopsy. I can never erase some of his golden statements from my heart. They are a part of my being.

Time flew by at such classes. Each of us five trainees would take turns to look into the microscope to understand the “tell-tale” features. Sometimes one would need more prompting to understand what that special detective clue was. There were no Multi-head microscopes those days. Brigadier Banerjee would never tire of repeating the features over and over again.

The interactive sessions and discussions were interesting and fast and thus we often lost track of time. Around 9.30 pm Mrs Banerjee would ring me up (I was the only lady and was expected to understand the gravity of the situation). She was worried whether Brigadier Banerjee has had something to eat. It was dinner time and he had been away all day. Although his residence was just a stone's throw away from the laboratory, he preferred to come straight to CPL after finishing his office-work. Teaching was his passion. Everything else was secondary. At times there would be a couple of controversial slides that were specially reserved for him and he would then dwell on every aspect of these slides and discuss them with another expert at CPL, threadbare. Mrs Banerjee would ring again, this time a trifle annoyed. She wanted to know whether we have a clock in CPL and whether I had a family too. We had not realised that it was 10.45 pm! Mrs Banerjee was always extremely protective and it was obvious that she was a strong influence in his life. This time when the phone rang in the next room, I was given the responsibility of asking Brigadier Banerjee to wind up for the day. I was a young trainee and found it difficult to intervene such a senior officer. However, I have had the dubious distinction of interrupting his classes several times during such late-evening sessions, much to the chagrin of my course-mates!

Years passed and the time arrived when Lt Gen A K Banerjee, VSM took over AFMC as Director and Commandant in 1990. In spite of his hands full of administrative responsibilities, he still found time to spend on teaching Pathology. It seemed as though the wealth of information and knowledge that he had, needed an outlet. Sharing this with his students filled him with sincere, unadulterated joy. His time of retirement was nearing and he wanted to share all that he had to give to his profession.

Years later, after retirement, whenever he was in Pune to visit his son, he would pass a message to some of his “old students” so that he could meet us. I was then serving at Armed Forces Medical College, Pune in the Department of Medical Microbiology. He would ask me if I enjoyed teaching. If Mrs Banerjee accompanied him, she would enquire about all members of my family too. She was always concerned, caring and grounded. Later, after my premature retirement, whenever he came to Delhi, he would pass a message to his erstwhile students. Most of us were quite senior or in the last mile of our active AFMS journey. Some, such as I, had already retired. We would meet at a central point, usually the Army Club or the Mess. Mrs Banerjee would be there by his side, always the pillar of support and unconditional concern. It was this support that was the most significant in Gen Banerjee's life. Silently, she had an overbearing influence over him. With Mrs Banerjee by his side, he felt comfortable, complete and confident. Once he lost her, he was a broken man.

I remember a certain early December evening in 2011, when Brigadier Dr Vinay Kapila, my husband, and I met both Lt Gen and Mrs A K Banerjee. I had retired and was in NOIDA. We received a message that he was in Delhi for the evening and wanted to meet us. He had an early morning flight to Kolkata. They had returned from an IAPM conference in Punjab. Gen Banerjee seemed a trifle pre-occupied. Mrs Banerjee had not been well and was under investigations. The diagnosis was still posing a dilemma and he was unmistakably disturbed and uneasy about her health. She had lost considerable weight but was otherwise her usual self, though, I thought, a bit subdued. She told us how she could not hold him back from the microscope, even now. Gen Banerjee was then working for the well-known laboratory of Roy and Trivedi in Kolkata. We had an otherwise pleasant evening with a few other Pathologists, all his ex-students and recounted old happy times. Both Gen Banerjee and Mrs Banerjee seemed distressed at the end of it and, before long, it was time to bid adieu. That was the last time I had an opportunity to meet both of them together.

After that evening, I kept in touch with Gen Banerjee regularly until the day I learnt that he had lost Mrs Banerjee to complicated Dengue at Command Hospital, Kolkata. I could not fathom how he would take it. I spoke to him several times following that sad event and every time I noticed how he was losing himself, slowly but surely. I kept in touch with him till I was told one day that he was not in a position to speak to anyone. Something tore within me. His sombre face with knitted eyebrows during a moment of intense thought jumped before my eyes. His familiar voice rang in my ears. I was reminded of his carefully kept glass slides. I had never imagined any of them broken.

Brig (Mrs) Ketoki Kapila